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Busia District Gearsup for CHEWs Recruitment to Improve Overall Health Service Delivery

THE EDITORS NOTE

Welcome to the 12th edition of Bukedi Magazine, where we spotlight progress, accountability, and community transformation across our region.

This issue highlights unity and economic empowerment in Nekesa Rallies Bukedi Leaders to Drive Regional Growth, alongside institutional strengthening in Tororo Municipality's Recruitment of 24 Works Staff. We report on inclusive governance as Busia District Resumes Civil Marriages, expanding access to lawful union services.

Education and opportunity remain central, with Building Tomorrow's Partnership with Budaka District and newly renovated classrooms at Matakokore Primary School restoring hope for better performance. We also explore heritage preservation through Soroti University's proposed museum initiative and many more stories for your reading pleasure.

As always, we remain committed to accuracy, fairness, and stories that matter to Bukedi.

Enjoy your reading



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Busia District Gears up for CHEWs Recruitment to Improve Overall Health Service Delivery

By Moses Mangeni, Communication Officer, Busia -DLG

Busia District has launched preparations for the recruitment of Community Health Extension Workers (CHEWs) in a move aimed at strengthening preventive healthcare and improving overall health service delivery.

The development follows a pivotal entry meeting convened by the Ministry of Health on February 27, 2026, at Chango Macho Hall in Busia Town.

The meeting brought together district leaders, technical officers and community stakeholders to outline who qualifies for the new cadre and how the process will unfold. Speaking at the forum, Akoth Lydia, Health Promotion Technical Assistant, said the CHEWs programme will be implemented in phases using a multi-sectoral approach to enhance community health outcomes.

She emphasized that the criteria aim to ensure transparency,

merit and community trust in the selection process.

"To qualify, applicants must hold a Senior Four certificate, be aged between 22 and 24 years, have served as Village Health Team members for at least two years, and be fluent in the local language," Lydia explained.

Dr. Wabwire Mathias Panyako, District Health Officer, said the initiative aligns with the Ministry's preventive health agenda.

"Recruitment of CHEWs is a strategic method to strengthen this approach and improve overall health service delivery," he said, noting that the district seeks to close gaps in community based care.

Addressing concerns about the future of Village Health Teams (VHTs), Lydia clarified that CHEWs will not replace them. Instead, two CHEWs per parish will bridge the gap between VHTs at village level and Health Assistants at sub-county and town council levels,

feeding into the District Health Team and ultimately the national structure.

Jacquiline Masika, Assistant Resident District Commissioner representing the RDC, reaffirmed local government support.

“Busia is fully ready to support this vital program and will assist in the recruitment process to ensure the right candidates are selected for the job,” Masika said.

The selection process will begin soon, signaling a renewed push to empower grassroots health systems in Busia.



Members listening to a submission from District Planner, Wabwire Patrick (in Jacket) during the meeting at Chango Macho Hall

Nekesa Rallies Bukedi Leaders to Drive Unity and Economic Empowerment for Regional Growth

National Resistance Movement (NRM) National Treasurer Barbara Nekesa has called on leaders and communities in the Bukedi sub-region to shift focus from political mobilization to economic

empowerment, urging unity, productive land use, and active participation in government wealth-creation programmes as the pathway to sustainable development.

Nekesa made the remarks on February 26, 2026, during a meeting with leaders who spearheaded the parish-based grassroots mobilization strategy at the NRM headquarters on Kyadondo Road in Kampala. The engagement followed the recently concluded elections in which Nekesa served as Sub-regional Coordinator for Bukedi, a region comprising Busia, Butaleja, Tororo, Kibuku, Pallisa, Budaka, and Butebo districts.

Addressing the team, Nekesa commended leaders for improving the party's electoral

performance but emphasized that the next phase must prioritize economic transformation and household income generation.

"We have successfully mobilized politically, but now our responsibility is to mobilize economically," Nekesa said.

"Unity must remain our strongest asset as we guide our people toward wealth creation through productive land use and participation in programmes like the Parish Development Model and Emyooga. Development will only be meaningful when it improves livelihoods at the household level," she added.

She noted that Bukedi's social diversity and multiple cultural identities should strengthen cooperation rather than create



Leaders who spearheaded the parish-based grassroots mobilization strategy at the NRM headquarters on Kyadondo Road in Kampala

division, adding that existing infrastructure and education programmes provide a foundation for socio-economic progress. Nekesa also cautioned residents against land fragmentation and selling land for short-term financial gains, urging leaders to promote intensive and sustainable agricultural practices due to limited land holdings in the region.

According to party officials, the parish-based grassroots mobilization approach significantly boosted NRM performance, with the party reportedly securing more than 70 percent of the presidential vote in Bukedi an improvement from the 2021 elections.

NRM Director of Mobilization Rosemary Seninde, another key speaker at the meeting, praised grassroots leaders for their role in delivering the electoral results and urged them to sustain momentum through economic

empowerment initiatives.

"The elections demonstrated what coordinated grassroots leadership can achieve. Our focus now shifts to nation-building and ensuring communities translate political success into economic stability and improved livelihoods," Seninde said.

NRM Electoral Commission Commissioner James Kinobe and Sub-regional Coordinator Rogers Mulindwa also applauded the mobilization teams, describing the outcome as a result of organized structures from the village level to the national secretariat.

Leaders at the meeting agreed to prioritize unity, community sensitization, and participation in government development programmes as the Bukedi sub-region transitions from political campaigns to economic transformation aimed at improving household incomes and regional prosperity.



New Renovated Classrooms Bring Hope for Better Performance at Matakokore Primary School

By Tavuga Musa Communication Officer Butebo- DLG

The newly renovated three classroom block at Matakokore Primary School in Butebo District has sparked optimism among learners, teachers, and the local community, raising expectations for improved academic performance.

The facelift, which replaced a dilapidated structure, provides secure doors and windows, a new roof, improved flooring, and better ventilation, transforming the learning environment into a safe and conducive space for education.

Speaking during a visit to the site on February 25, 2026, Head Teacher Mr. Kagezi Samion Peter expressed gratitude to the Butebo District Local Government for prioritizing education infrastructure.

"On behalf of the school management, staff, learners, and the entire Matakokore community, I sincerely thank Butebo District Local Government for this great infrastructure boost.

This old classroom block was leaking on the roof, had no doors or windows, and was in a very sorry state because it was built a long time ago by missionaries. For the 12 years I have served as Head Teacher here, I have never witnessed such development. We thank the government for this support," Kagezi said.

Established in the 1930s on the foundation of the Catholic Church, Matakokore Primary School has served the community for nearly a century. Over time, the original missionary-built classrooms deteriorated, forcing learners to crowd into dry corners during rainy weather and endure damp, poorly ventilated spaces.

The renovated block now accommodates Primary Five, Six, and Seven classes, benefiting 640 learners out of the school's total enrollment of 1,722. Kagezi noted the importance of the upgrade for academic performance.

"With this new infrastructure,

we are assured of improved academic results. A good learning environment motivates both teachers and learners. When pupils are comfortable, they concentrate better and perform better," he emphasized.

Head Boy Kossima Rajabu highlighted the school's continued focus on co-curricular activities, which support holistic development. He revealed that the learners welcomed the change.

"The situation was bad. The old classrooms would smell, and when it rained, it was even worse for us. Sometimes lessons would be interrupted. Now we are happy and comfortable. The renovation has even attracted more learners to our school," Rajabu said.

District Education Officer Kaanyi Josephine described the renovation as a strategic investment in the future of learners.

"A well-renovated classroom keeps learners in school and creates a good impression about education. When children study in a clean, safe, and organized environment, they are motivated to attend regularly and take pride in their school," Kaanyi said.

District Chairperson Mr. Okurut James highlighted five years of infrastructure improvements across Butebo's 31 schools.

"We have carried out renovations, constructed new classroom blocks, built toilets, and staff houses. Infrastructure is key to better performance," he said,



***The renovated block of
Matakokore Primary School***

reaffirming the district's commitment to safe and conducive learning environments.

The renovated block at Matakokore Primary School symbolizes progress, hope, and renewed commitment to quality education. For its learners, teachers, and the wider community, it represents a tangible step toward improved academic results and a brighter educational future.



Staff of Matakokore Primary School outside the renovated block

Building Tomorrow Partners with Budaka District to Boost Literacy and Numeracy

By Iliotu Grace Opio Communication Officer Budaka District -LG

Building Tomorrow, a locally led National Government Organisation(NGO), is partnering with Budaka District to improve literacy and numeracy for all children, including those with disabilities, by deploying trained fellows and community education volunteers to support schools and communities, while

engaging local stakeholders to ensure sustainability and better educational outcomes.

The partnership was announced on February 19, 2026 during an inception meeting held at the District Council Chambers, which brought together Heads of Departments, sector heads, and other stakeholders.

Musiimire Grace, Director of Programs for Building Tomorrow, explained that the initiative focuses on ensuring education is accessible, effectively managed, and community supported.

“We have recruited five fresh graduates who will support

four schools across four to five villages, alongside two volunteers per village, recommended by Local Council leadership and trained on problem-solving and mobilization skills,” Musiimire said.

She added that teachers will undergo seven days of training and will make collaborations to develop programs that support all learners, including children with disabilities. They will also work closely with school leaders and Parents Teacher Associations (PTA) to empower teachers and enhance accountability.

The organization applies Universal Design for Learning (UDL)



Ms. Grace Musiimire, the Director of Programs Building Tomorrow making her presentation during the Inception meeting.

techniques, including partner reading, group learning, and structured breaks, to complement teaching and promote positive learning outcomes.

"We encourage stakeholders to ensure sustainability even after our usual two-year operation, leaving Community Education Volunteers to continue the work," Musiimire emphasized.

Mukamba George, representing the District Chairperson, welcomed the partnership, describing Building Tomorrow as a change agent in communities, specifically in education. He applauded the focus on children with disabilities and expressed

eagerness to sign a Memorandum of Understanding.

District Education Officer Waako Richard and Community Development Officer Mpindi Pheryster pledged to support the initiative and called on stakeholders to address absenteeism and poor performance as the program rolls out.

The partnership is expected to strengthen literacy and numeracy skills across Budaka District, fostering inclusive education and sustainable community engagement



District Stakeholders attending the Inception Meeting in the District Council Chambers.

Obutet Seed Secondary School Boosts Education Access as Government Delivers Modern Facilities

By Akello Priscilla Communication Officer Pallisa- DLG

Obutet Seed Secondary School is set to uplift educational standards, promote discipline and integrity, and provide a safe and inclusive learning environment following the successful technical handover of Phase I facilities in Obutet Sub-county, Pallisa District. The milestone marks a significant government investment aimed at expanding access to quality secondary education and improving learning outcomes in the area.

District officials, sub-county leaders, community members, and the project contractor witnessed the handover ceremony held on March 02nd, 2026 at the school site, where stakeholders formally received completed infrastructure constructed under the Ministry of Education and Sports' Uganda Intergovernmental Fiscal Transfers (UGIFT) Programme.

Speaking at the event, Chief Administrative Officer Alex Felix

Majeme emphasized the central role of education in personal and community transformation, urging continued community ownership of the institution.

"I have a strong attachment to education, and I would not be who I am if my parents didn't take me to school," Majeme said.

"The community's involvement will determine the school's performance and growth. This technical handover allows learners to begin using the facilities as we prepare for official commissioning," he added.

Majeme commended residents for embracing the school through positive enrolment and active participation, noting that collaboration between government and communities strengthens service delivery.

The District Education Officer, Omutujju Ronald, applauded the community and Agurur Catholic Church for

donating land for the project, describing the partnership as a model for education development. He encouraged pioneer learners to embrace the competencebased curriculum and uphold discipline.

“Our learners must take advantage of these improved facilities to excel academically. Wearing school uniforms and maintaining discipline will strengthen identity, order, and academic focus within the school,” Omutujju said.

Phase I construction, implemented by Mem Associates Ltd, began on February 24, 2026, at a contract sum of UGX 474,834,180. Works included two classroom blocks containing four classrooms, separate five-stance VIP latrines for boys and girls, a two-stance administration latrine, lightning arrestors, and furniture comprising 72 desks and four teachers’ tables. Despite challenges such as delayed payments and limited local materials, the contractor

completed the works according to approved standards.

Headteacher Okello Robert said the school has already enrolled 165 learners including 81 boys and 84 girls across Senior One to Senior Three, supported by 10 volunteer teachers.

“Our goal is to uplift educational standards, promote discipline and integrity, and provide a safe and inclusive learning environment for every learner,” Okello said.

Leaders also emphasized environmental protection measures, including tree planting and fencing the school to enhance safety.

The technical handover represents a major step toward improving equitable access to secondary education in Obutet Sub-county, reinforcing government efforts to bring quality education services closer to communities as preparations for the official commissioning continue



Staff and students of Obutet seed secondary school



The school's washrooms



The newly constructed classroom blocks

Centenary Bank Donates Motorcycle to Strengthen Monitoring and Service Delivery in Pallisa

By Akello Priscilla, Communication Officer – DLG

Pallisa District Local Government has received a motorcycle donation from Centenary Bank, Pallisa Branch, to enhance communication, field operations, and monitoring activities across the district, particularly in the implementation of government programmes.

Centenary Bank Pallisa Branch Manager Gabriel Oketch Akoli

officially handed over the motorcycle (Registration No. UDE 814F, Honda XL – White) to district officials on February 26, 2026, describing the donation as a reflection of the strong partnership between the bank and the district.

“This donation is intended to strengthen communication, field activities, and monitoring. Pallisa District is a valued partner, and we trust the leadership to allocate the motorcycle to the department where it will have the greatest impact. We appreciate the continued collaboration,” Akoli said.

District leaders welcomed the support, noting that improved mobility will facilitate supervision of development programmes and improve coordination between district and parish structures.

Resident District Commissioner Majid Dhikhusooka commended Centenary Bank for the timely intervention, emphasizing that the motorcycle will enhance monitoring and accountability under the Parish Development Model (PDM), a key government initiative aimed at improving household incomes.

“This support comes at the right time. Reliable transport will strengthen supervision, improve follow-up on government programmes, and ensure

effective implementation of the Parish Development Model at the grassroots level. Partnerships like this complement government efforts to deliver services efficiently to our people,” Dhikhusooka said.

District officials confirmed that the motorcycle will be allocated to Okike Martin, Assistant Commercial Officer, who oversees the financial inclusion pillar under the PDM programme. Leaders explained that limited access to reliable transport had previously constrained his ability to effectively monitor and support parish-level activities.

They expressed confidence that the additional mobility will improve coordination, monitoring, and community engagement, thereby strengthening financial inclusion efforts across the district.

The district leadership further commended Centenary Bank for its continued commitment to supporting local development initiatives and contributing to improved livelihoods in Pallisa District through public-private collaboration.

Officials who witnessed the handover included Okia John, Principal Chief Administrative Officer, the District Inventory Officer, and Okike Martin, Assistant Commercial Officer.

The donation advances growing cooperation between financial

institutions and local governments in advancing service delivery and accelerating socio-economic transformation at the community level.



RDC Dhiskusooka (middle) with centenary bank staff at the launch of the motorcycle

Tororo Municipality to Recruit 24 Staff on Contract Basis to Strengthen Works Department Capacity

By Okello Mathew Communication Officer Busia - DLG

Tororo Municipality has announced plans to recruit 24 staff on a contract basis to strengthen manpower within the works Department, a move aimed at improving service delivery,

infrastructure maintenance, and timely implementation of government development projects.

Tororo Municipality spokesperson Mathew Okello announced the move in a meeting held at the headquarters on March 02, 2026. The recruitment will address staffing gaps and enhance efficiency in executing public works across the municipality.

The exercise is expected to take place in the coming weeks at Tororo Municipal Headquarters, targeting qualified technical and support personnel to support road maintenance, drainage improvement, and urban infrastructure management. The initiative is a response to increasing urban demands and the government's commitment to improving living standards through effective local service delivery.

Okello emphasised that the additional workforce will enable the Works Department to respond more efficiently to community needs while accelerating implementation of ongoing development programmes.

"The municipality continues to experience rapid growth, which requires stronger technical capacity. Recruiting additional staff will improve supervision of projects, strengthen maintenance

of public infrastructure, and ensure residents receive better services in line with government development priorities," Okello said.

He added that the contract-based recruitment provides a flexible and cost-effective approach that allows the municipality to quickly address operational challenges while maintaining accountability and performance standards.

The Works Department plays a critical role in supporting urban development through road rehabilitation, waste management coordination, and drainage system maintenance, all of which contribute to safer and more organized communities.

The recruitment initiative aligns with broader government efforts to strengthen local governments by enhancing human resource capacity and improving public service delivery at the grassroots level. Authorities emphasized that transparent recruitment procedures will guide the process to ensure fairness and professionalism.

Okello encouraged qualified residents to apply once the vacancies are officially advertised, noting that the opportunity will not only improve municipal operations but also create employment opportunities for local professionals.

Leaders expressed confidence that the additional manpower will enhance efficiency, accountability, and sustainable urban development in Tororo Municipality



Tororo Municipality headquarters which will house the new recruits

Soroti University Moves to Establish Museum to Preserve Teso Heritage

By Akello Priscilla Communication Officer Pallisa- DLG

Soroti University has initiated formal steps to establish the Soroti University Museum, a project aimed at preserving and promoting the cultural, historical, scientific and archaeological heritage of the Teso sub region and Uganda.

Leading the university delegation, Professor Ikojo John Robert, Vice Chancellor of Soroti University proposal was presented on February 26, 2026, during an

engagement meeting that brought together university officials, technical staff and district leaders in Soroti.

Prof. Ikojo explained that the institution seeks formal permission and collaboration from the district to operationalize the museum.

“The purpose of this meeting is to seek permission and formal collaboration towards the establishment of the museum.

We need to own our cultures because cultural preservation begins with the community itself, we cannot do without it, "Ikojo said.

He explained that the university intends to document heritage through documentaries, books and other publications to ensure accuracy and long term preservation. The documentation will cover religion, churches and mosques, naming practices, marriage ceremonies, death rituals, traditional foods, poultry keeping, rock paintings, ornaments and other indigenous practices.

"We must safeguard our languages and habits so that future generations understand their history and identity," he added.

Deputy Chief Administrative

Officer Mr. Areu Simon Peter welcomed the initiative, describing it as a strategic partnership for community development.

"This is a flagship of partnership and it is for the good of our community. We are committed to ensuring that this collaboration achieves its intended goals in the right way," Areu said.

District Natural Resource Officer Mr. Samuka Muhammed noted that a museum would fill a long standing gap and boost tourism. He said the district has already profiled potential tourism sites and emphasized the need to domesticate medicinal plants.

Stakeholders agreed to strengthen collaboration to ensure transparency, inclusivity and community participation as plans for the museum advance.



Busia District Resumes Civil Marriages to Expand Access to Legal Union Services

By Moses Mangeni Communication Officer Busia- DLG

Busia District has officially resumed conducting civil marriages, marking a significant step toward expanding inclusive and affordable marriage services for residents.

The announcement was made on Monday, March 2, 2026, at the District Headquarters by Principal Assistant Secretary Mr. Kayira Muhamud on behalf of the Chief Administrative Officer.

"Busia is set to resume conducting civil marriages," Mr. Kayira declared while addressing heads of department.

He further noted that the district took the step after successfully opening a dedicated account with the National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA), a move that streamlines

registrations and eliminates previous bureaucratic bottlenecks.

District officials said the revival of civil marriages will benefit residents who prefer legally recognized unions without religious requirements. Civil marriages are conducted under the provisions of the Marriage Act Cap 251 and provide full legal protection to couples.

"These marriages offer choice, legality, and progress. We encourage those who feel uncomfortable with religious marriages to opt for civil ones," Kayira said.

He explained that civil weddings are considerably more affordable than many traditional or religious ceremonies, often costing under UGX 200,000, including statutory fees. Beyond affordability, he noted that couples gain immediate legal recognition, inheritance security, spousal rights, and structured divorce procedures under the law.

The move is expected to ease access to national identification documents for spouses and children, improving mobility and administrative efficiency for Busia's diverse population, including interfaith couples and cross-border families near Kenya.

Kayira urged department heads to

widely publicize the development through local radio stations, community notice boards, and social media platforms to ensure residents are fully informed.

District authorities confirmed they will strictly follow established civil marriage procedures to guarantee transparency, accountability, and compliance with national regulations as services resume.



Kayira Muhamud, Principal Assistant Secretary

A poster with a yellow background. At the top left is a red circle with a diagonal slash over a black silhouette of a bush on fire. To its right, the text "STOP BUSH BURNING" is written in bold, black, sans-serif capital letters, with "BUSH" in a larger, red, flame-like font. Below this is a photograph of a landscape with a large, dark, charred log lying on the ground. To the right of the photo, a text box contains the message: "Bush burning disrupts essential services, affecting hospitals, schools, water supply systems, and communication networks that rely on stable electricity." At the bottom center is the UEDCL logo, which features a circular emblem with a bird and the text "UNITED ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED" around it, with "UEDCL" in large red letters below. At the very bottom, a red banner contains the text "UEDCL Light App now!" and various contact details including phone numbers, email addresses, and social media icons.



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