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Stakeholders Back Climate-Smart Water Project to Improve Access in Busime

THE EDITORS NOTE

This edition highlights government and partner efforts to drive grassroots transformation across the Bukedi sub-region through practical, people-centered initiatives. From the distribution of protective gear to Village Health Teams in Tororo, to intensified sensitisation on the Parish Development Model (PDM), there is clear commitment to strengthening service delivery and empowering communities.

We also report on leadership renewal among Pallisa headteachers, signalling a fresh push for improved education standards, while Busia District advances economic growth through PDM innovations and promotes human rights awareness to protect vulnerable populations. In Busime, a climate-smart water project promises to expand access to safe water and improve public health outcomes.

These stories reflect a shared vision of inclusive development—where informed communities, strong institutions, and strategic partnerships work together to improve livelihoods and build resilience for a sustainable future.

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Stakeholders Back Climate-Smart Water Project to Improve Access in Busime

By Moses Mangeni, Communication Officer, Busia- DLG

Leaders and development partners in Busime Sub County have endorsed a six-and-a-half-year climate-smart water project aimed at improving access to safe and clean water for rural communities.

The project, unveiled during a consultative meeting held on March 23, 2026, will be implemented through a partnership between Get Water Uganda, Busia District, and My Climate. It targets communities affected by water contamination from Lake Victoria.

The initiative will install 30 water kiosks equipped with gravity-driven membrane (GDM) filtration technology across Busia, Namayingo, and Mayuge districts, benefiting an estimated 20,000 households. The technology uses gravity to purify highly contaminated surface water without electricity, ensuring sustainable and reliable supply.

Executive Director of Get Water Uganda, Ouma Henry, said the project adopts a holistic approach to water access and community

development.

"This innovation will provide safe water using simple, climate-smart technology while empowering communities through sanitation, financial literacy, and environmental conservation programmes," Ouma said.

The project also integrates hygiene promotion, WASH capacity building, and community sensitisation to ensure long-term impact and behavioural change.

Busia District Speaker Malowa Charles Kudedi urged residents to embrace the initiative, noting that the area has long struggled with access to safe water.

"This project will significantly reduce waterborne diseases and improve the health and livelihoods of our people," Kudedi said.

He emphasized the importance of community ownership and active participation to ensure sustainability of the infrastructure.

The engagement attracted key



RDC, Namagogwe Hajira giving remarks during the engagement

stakeholders, including Resident District Commissioner Hajira Namagogwe, District Internal Security Officer Kalo Godfrey, technical staff, and local leaders, reflecting strong government commitment to improving service delivery.

The initiative is expected to transform water access in Busime and surrounding areas while supporting national efforts to enhance public health, climate resilience, and socio-economic development.



Tororo VHTs Equipped with Protective Gear to Boost Community Health Services

By Okello Mathew Communication Officer Tororo Municipal Council

The Government, through the Ministry of Health, has equipped more than 32 Village Health Team (VHT) members in Tororo Municipality with personal protective equipment (PPEs) to

strengthen community health services and promote preventive healthcare.

The distribution, conducted at the Eastern Division headquarters, saw VHTs receive essential gear including gumboots and gloves to support their routine fieldwork. The initiative aims to enhance safety, efficiency, and outreach of frontline health workers who play a critical role in disease prevention at the grassroots level.

The support is part of ongoing government efforts to shift focus from curative to preventive healthcare, reduce disease burden, and improve overall public health outcomes.

Speaking during the exercise on March 23, 2026, Eastern Division Health Inspector Joseph Okello



commended the government for prioritizing the welfare of VHTs and strengthening service delivery.

“This support from government will greatly improve the efficiency of our VHTs and enable them to effectively promote preventive health practices at the community level,” Okello said.

He urged the VHTs to utilize the equipment responsibly and lead by example by maintaining high standards of hygiene in their homes and communities.

During the same engagement, the Eastern Division health team introduced updated tools and approaches to address emerging community health challenges, further equipping the VHTs with knowledge to better serve residents.

Eastern Division Senior Assistant Town Clerk Methuselah Oloka called on the VHTs to take a proactive role in addressing misinformation and promoting public health awareness.

“Use your positions to demystify misinformation about vaccines

and health programmes so that communities can make informed decisions and stay protected,” Oloka emphasized.

He also encouraged VHTs to mobilize communities to improve sanitation practices, particularly by discouraging the improper disposal of sewage into drainage systems, which poses significant health risks.

Tororo Municipal Health Inspector Esther Manjeri Nyasuna noted that limited access to protective gear has previously constrained VHT operations, but expressed optimism that the new equipment will enhance their effectiveness in combating community diseases.

Beneficiaries welcomed the government’s intervention, describing it as timely and essential for safeguarding their health while executing their duties.

The initiative underscores government’s commitment to strengthening primary healthcare systems and empowering community-based health workers as a cornerstone of sustainable development



Pallisa Headteachers Elect New Leaders to Strengthen Education Standards

By Akello Priscilla Communication Officer Pallisa -DLG

Primary school headteachers in Pallisa District have elected a new executive committee to lead their association, signaling renewed commitment to unity, collaboration, and improved education standards.

The elections, held at Kalaki Primary School in Pallisa Town Council on March 18, 2026, brought together headteachers from across the district as the sole voters in a process widely praised for being peaceful, transparent, and well-organized.

Michael Wamuseke was elected chairperson after a competitive race, while Peter Anguria secured the vice chairperson position with a strong lead. Magadeline Ariokorit was elected treasurer, and the positions of general secretary and assistant general secretary were filled unopposed, reflecting confidence in the candidates.

Election officials commended the credibility of the exercise, noting that it was conducted in line with established guidelines and without



District Education Officer, Omutujju Ronald addressing the teachers

disputes, demonstrating strong institutional governance within the education sector.

In his acceptance remarks, Chairperson Michael Wamuseke pledged to foster teamwork and drive improvements in school performance across the district.

"I thank fellow headteachers for the trust they have placed in me. I am committed to working together with all stakeholders to strengthen collaboration and improve learning outcomes in our schools," Wamuseke said.

He emphasized the need to address disparities in teacher deployment and promote specialization to enhance efficiency and academic performance.

Pallisa District Inspector of Schools, John Opedun, congratulated the new leadership and called for unity among members to advance the education agenda.

"Let us remain united beyond the elections and continue working together to improve education standards and support our learners to succeed," Opedun urged.

Opedun also revealed plans by the district to organize an induction programme to equip the newly elected leaders with leadership and management skills necessary for effective service delivery.

The newly elected executive is expected to serve as a unifying force among headteachers while supporting government efforts to strengthen education systems, improve teacher coordination, and enhance learning outcomes.

The development reflects ongoing commitment by stakeholders in Pallisa District to promote quality education through strong leadership, accountability, and collaboration at all levels.



Teachers' lining up to vote

Busia Human Rights Committee Steps Up Sensitisation on Hidden Child Rights Abuses

By Mangeni Moses Communication Officer Busia-DLG

The Busia District Human Rights Committee has intensified efforts to address

hidden human rights violations through community sensitisation campaigns aimed at protecting children and promoting a rights-based culture in Busia District.

The initiative, launched following a stakeholder dialogue held on March 20, 2026 at the Busia District Headquarters, seeks to educate communities on practices often perceived as normal such as parental neglect, early child labour, and corporal punishment that violate children's rights under national and international frameworks.

The dialogue, supported by Center for Health, Human Rights and Development, brought together justice, social welfare, and community leaders to review emerging human rights concerns,



Some of the stakeholders and members of the Human rights committee pose for a group photo with Her Worship Avaro Specioza (in black suit)

particularly the rising number of child-related cases before courts.

Her Worship Avaro Specioza revealed that many cases handled at the Busia Law Court involve children, often linked to underlying abuse within homes and communities.

“We handle numerous children’s cases, many of which stem from hidden abuses such as neglect and denial of education. Community sensitisation is critical to prevent these situations from escalating to court,” Avaro said.

She emphasized that early intervention and community awareness can help reform affected children and reduce reliance on judicial measures such as remand homes.

In response, CEHURD Advisory Officer Kitandwe Rhodine called for structured and continuous engagement to address the challenge.

“Regular dialogue and community engagement will empower citizens to identify and report hidden abuses early, helping to build a culture that respects and protects children’s rights,” Kitandwe noted.

The committee endorsed a

roadmap that includes community barazas, school outreaches, and radio programmes in local languages to increase awareness and promote behavioral change.

Senior Probation and Social Welfare Officer Oron Raphael Osacha described the intervention as timely, citing challenges such as cross-border child exploitation and poverty in border communities.

The initiative reflects government and partner commitment to safeguarding children’s rights, strengthening community systems, and promoting sustainable social development through prevention and awareness



Stakeholders listen in as Avaro shares what the courts have done about human rights

Tororo Municipality Intensifies PDM Sensitization to Expand Household Incomes

By Okello Mathew Communication Officer Tororo Municipal Council

The Production Department of Tororo Municipality has launched intensified community sensitization drives

on the Parish Development Model (PDM) to boost public understanding, improve participation, and accelerate socio-economic transformation at the grassroots.

The outreach, led by Municipal Production Officer Joel Ofufu, is targeting beneficiaries and prospective participants across divisions, with a focus on proper utilization and repayment of the Shs1 million revolving fund to ensure sustainability and wider community benefit.

Speaking during a sensitization session in Bison C village on March 23, 2026, Ofufu urged beneficiaries who received the funds over the past three years to begin repayment so that other eligible households can access the facility.



Bison C Community members being sensitised about PDM

“We call upon all beneficiaries to honour repayment obligations so that more community members can benefit from this government initiative aimed at lifting households out of poverty,” Ofufu said.

During the engagement, the production team trained residents on key components of the programme, including enterprise selection, group formation, access procedures for the revolving fund, and repayment mechanisms. Officials emphasized that strong group structures are essential for accountability and long-term success of the programme.

The initiative highlighted implementation challenges such as delays in fund disbursement, low participation in SACCO activities, and concerns over non-residents accessing funds ahead of locals.

Responding to the concerns, Ofufu reassured the community of government’s commitment to strengthening the programme and expanding funding. He noted that plans to increase allocations to parish SACCOs remain under consideration, in line with national priorities championed by Yoweri Museveni.

Tororo Municipal Communication Officer Mathew Okello urged residents to embrace collective action through organized groups to fully benefit from government programmes.

“Most government support today is channelled through organized groups, and I encourage all community members to actively participate in SACCOs to access these opportunities,” Okello said.

Local resident Yusuf Ombogi commended government efforts in rolling out the PDM, noting its potential to transform livelihoods if effectively implemented and adequately funded.

The ongoing sensitization campaign reflects government’s commitment to inclusive development by empowering communities with knowledge, strengthening accountability, and ensuring equitable access to financial resources under the Parish Development Model.

New Leadership Ushers in Renewed Focus for Primary Teachers in Pallisa

By Akello Priscilla Communication Officer, Pallisa -DLG

Primary school headteachers in Pallisa District have elected a new executive committee to lead their association, marking a renewed commitment to unity, collaboration, and improved education standards.

The elections, held at Kalaki Primary School in Pallisa Town Council, brought together headteachers from across the district on April 23, 2026 who served as the sole voters in a process widely described as peaceful, transparent, and well-organized.

Several positions attracted competitive races, Michael Wamuseke emerged as chairperson after a closely

contested vote. Peter Anguria secured the vice chairperson position with a strong lead, while Magadeline Ariokorit was elected treasurer. The positions of general secretary and assistant general secretary were filled unopposed, reflecting confidence in the candidates.

The process was credible as it was conducted transparently, and no complaints were raised by any of the candidates.

In his acceptance remarks, Wamuseke expressed gratitude to fellow primary headteachers and pledged to promote teamwork.

"I want to thank all the headteachers for the confidence they have shown in me. I am ready to serve with one heart and ensure that we work together for the good of the district and our learners," Wamuseke said.

He highlighted key priorities for his tenure, particularly addressing imbalances in teacher deployment and improving performance through specialization.

"Some schools have excess teachers while others remain understaffed. We must also ensure teachers are aligned with their subject specializations to improve performance," he added.

The Pallisa District Inspector of Schools, John Opedun, congratulated the newly elected leaders and called for unity among members beyond the elections.

"Let us avoid divisions after elections and continue working together as brothers and sisters," Opedun said.

Opedun also revealed plans to organize an induction programme aimed at equipping the new leadership with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively

carry out their responsibilities.

The newly elected team is expected to act as a unifying force among primary school headteachers while advocating for improved education standards across the district. The association is now positioned to strengthen collaboration within the education sector and address key challenges affecting schools in Pallisa District.



District Education Officer Omutujju Ronald addressing the teachers



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