



Feature Story | Pg. 03

Rev. Barnabas Muniala Sworn In As New Busia District Service Commission Chair, Vows To Store Legacy

THE EDITORS NOTE

This edition highlights government's continued commitment to strengthening service delivery, accountability, and socio-economic transformation across the region. From Pallisa District's verification of beneficiaries under social grant programmes to the stakeholder engagement on the National Oil Seed Project, it is evident that deliberate efforts are being made to ensure transparency, inclusiveness, and sustainable livelihoods.

We also spotlight leadership and governance, as Rev. Barnabas Muniala assumes office as Chair of the Busia District Service Commission, bringing renewed focus on integrity and institutional legacy. In Busia, the advancement of the Family and Child Protection Ordinance reflects a proactive response to safeguarding communities amid rising child abuse concerns.

Together, these stories underscore a shared vision of empowering citizens, strengthening systems, and promoting responsible stewardship of public resources. Bukedi Post remains committed to telling impactful, development-oriented stories that reflect progress and inspire collective action.

Enjoy your reading



Mangeni Moses
Chief Editor
Bukedi Post

Contributors

1. **Illiotu Grace**
Communication Officer
Budaka -DLG
2. **Akello Priscilla**
Communication Officer
Pallisa -DLG
3. **Mangeni Moses**
Communication Officer
Busia -DLG

Rev. Barnabas Muniala Sworn In As New Busia District Service Commission Chair, Vows to Store Legacy

By Moses Mangeni, Communication officer, Busia DLG

Busia District has sworn in Rev. Barnabas Muniala as the new Chairperson of the District Service Commission (DSC), restoring leadership to the key body responsible for recruitment and human resource oversight in the district.

Chief Magistrate Okoth Thomas Aquinas administered the oath of office, oath of allegiance, and oath of secrecy during a ceremony held at the Chief Magistrate's Court, marking the official assumption of duty. The position had remained vacant since November 2025 following the death of former chairperson Dr. Wafula Roc Zebulon Omwero.

In his inaugural remarks, Rev. Muniala pledged to strengthen the commission's integrity and efficiency in delivering its mandate.

"I commit to serving with fairness, transparency, and dedication to ensure that the commission delivers quality services to the people of Busia," he said.

District Chairperson Mugeni Stephen Wasike called on the new chairperson to uphold professionalism and accountability in executing his duties, noting the critical role of the commission in effective service delivery.

"You have been entrusted with a vital responsibility. Lead with integrity and ensure that the recruitment processes remain credible and people-centered," Wasike said.

Mr. Kayira Muhamud, representing the Chief Administrative Officer, formally ushered Rev. Muniala into office and assured him of full technical and administrative support to enable the commission function effectively.

Rev. Muniala joins Ms. Margret Shiwundu on the commission, which is expected to expand with the appointment of additional members to make it fully operational.

The reconstitution of the DSC

is expected to accelerate recruitment processes and strengthen human resource management, contributing to improved service delivery and governance across Busia District.



Rev. Muniala Barnabas being received in office, Right: Mr. Ebu Mike, Ag Secretary District Service Commission hands over stamp to Rev. Barnabas Muniala, incoming DSC Chairperson

Pallisa CAO Urges New Service Commission Leaders to Uphold Constitution, Professionalism, Integrity, and Confidentiality

By Akello Priscilla Communication officer Pallisa DLG

The Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) of Pallisa District Alex Felix Majeme has urged newlysworn-in District Service Commission (DSC) members to strictly adhere to the Constitution and laws governing their office, emphasizing professionalism, integrity, and confidentiality in executing duties.

This directive aims to fast-track recruitments, fill vacancies, and strengthen public service delivery in Pallisa District. This was during the swearing-in on March 23, 2026 at the Council Chambers when Legesi Stephen Mwanika assumed office as Chairperson after resigning as Council Speaker, while Sr. Otim Dorothy Kesiah, representing urban councils, took oath after vetting by Public Service Commission on March 5, 2026.

They were approved that morning, the appointments address long vacant positions amid the ongoing hiring processes.

Majeme welcomed attendees and stressed immediate action to enhance efficiency.

"In this new leadership we have toprioritize public good and collaboration," Majeme said.

District Chairperson Hon. Duchu Patrick congratulated them.

"It has not been a simple strugglebut I am happy that we have reached the final stage of swearing in the members of the DistrictService Commission," Duchu said.

Chairperson Mwanika embraced therolestatingthattheopportunity given to him is not a joke but a heavy responsibility for the entire District Service Commission. He further vowed transparency without fear or favor.

Sr. Otim pledged unity. "We thank you for standing with us on this important day. Where wemay have wronged anyone, we ask for forgiveness," Sr. Otim said.

Deputy CAO praised Majeme and Duchu for constituting the DSC, urging diligent service. Thisbolsters accountability, accelerates staffing in key sectors like health and education, and drivesPallisa's development.



Stephen, new Chairperson Dsc



Sr. Otim Dorothy



Alex Felix Majeme, Chief Administrative officer looks on as the new DSC swear in.

Busia District Council Advances Family And Child Protection Ordinance Amid Rising Child Abuse Concerns

By Moses Mangeni , Communication Officer, Busia DLG

In a step towards safeguarding vulnerable families and children, the Busia District Council is poised to enact a comprehensive Family and Child Protection Ordinance. This ordinance aims to establish clear guidelines and support systems that will empower families, ensuring their well-being and security.

The council hopes to create a safer environment for all community members by addressing issues like domestic violence. The momentum builds on a disco Matanga bill referred to the Social Services Committee during its first reading last year that fronted, with preparations now ongoing for the second reading on the council floor.

Disco Matanga, which is a popular “night disco” carried out during funerals with an aim of fundraising to support families to meet burial costs, has continued to pose a danger and general outcry due to associated child and domestic violence; hence, the need for a regulation. This led concerned stakeholders to request the district council to have a bill banning the popular night dance. However, on inception of the request, consultation was widely made to have a bill that would comprehensively protect family values, human rights, and children’s rights; hence, the Family and Child Protection Bill.

On March 25, 2026, the committee convened a pivotal sitting, partnering with the legal team from Women With A Vision (WWM). Members meticulously reviewed the bill clause by clause, refining its provisions to ensure robust legal protections. District Community Development Officer Okumu Semu addressed the gathering, highlighting the bill’s origins in Disco Matanga and the wake of COVID-19’s devastating impacts.

“The pandemic triggered a surge in child abuse cases, including alarmingly high rates of teenage pregnancies that demanded urgent district-level intervention,” Semu explained.

The ordinance's development has been a collaborative effort, featuring extensive consultations backed by key partners. Organizations such as the Eastern Africa Sub-regional Support Initiative for the Advancement of Women (EASSI), World Vision, ChildFund, Busia Area Communities Federation (BUACOF), and Somero Uganda provided critical funding and expertise. These activities underscore a shared commitment to enhancing child well-being across Busia District.

In an interaction with the Social Services Committee Chairperson, Auma Topy Aguba, she anticipates that the second reading will pave the way for swift enactment, marking a proactive response to community needs.



Members of Social Services Committee during a committee sitting to scrutinise the Family and Child protection Bill



Left: Members going through the clauses of the bill Right: Hon. Auma Topy, Chairperson of the Committee

Government Supports Pallisa With Vaccine Refrigerators To Strengthen Health Services

By Akello Priscilla Communication Officer Pallisa DLG

Government has boosted immunization services in Pallisa District with the delivery of two vaccine refrigerators aimed at strengthening cold chain systems and improving healthcare outcomes.

The Deputy Resident District Commissioner (RDC), Hajjati Nakussi Assa, commissioned the equipment at the District Medical Store during a handover ceremony attended by district officials and health workers on March 27, 2026. The refrigerators were provided by the Ministry of Health with support from GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance, as part of national efforts to enhance vaccine storage and distribution.

The new equipment will ensure that vaccines are stored at the required temperatures, preserving their potency, reducing wastage, and expanding access to safe immunization services, particularly in hard-to-reach areas.

Speaking at the event, Hajjati Nakussi commended the Government

for prioritizing health service delivery and called on health workers to utilize the equipment effectively.

“This support demonstrates government’s commitment to strengthening health care systems at the district level. I urge the health teams to ensure proper use and maintenance of the equipment to improve immunization coverage,” Nakussisaid.

The Principal Assistant Chief Administrative Officer, John Okia, appreciated the Ministry of Health for including Pallisa among the beneficiary districts, noting that the intervention would significantly enhance service delivery.

Health officials emphasized that the strengthened cold chain system will play a critical role in safeguarding public health by ensuring consistent availability of effective vaccines.

The handover ceremony was attended by members of the District Health Team, including Assistant District Health Officer Teddy Iyogil, Mr. Bernard Ikwara, and Cold Chain Technician Elijah Opaade.

The development marks another milestone in government’s ongoing efforts to improve healthcare infrastructure and deliver quality services to communities across Pallisa District.



Hajjati Nakussi Assa and staff at the commissioning of the refrigerators



Verification Exercise Launched to Ensure Transparency in Pallisa Social Grant Programmes

By Akello Priscilla Communication Officer Pallisa -DLG

Government has strengthened transparency and accountability in social protection programmes by conducting a verification exercise for beneficiaries in Pallisa District.

Officials from the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development led the exercise at the district headquarters on March 25, 2026, targeting groups under the Senior Citizens Enterprise Groups (SEGOP) and the National Special Grant for Persons with Disabilities (NSG-PWDs). The team verified group membership, validated proposed enterprises, and prepared beneficiaries for the disbursement of funds.

The programmes support older persons aged 60–79 and persons with disabilities through group-based income-generating activities, reinforcing government's commitment to inclusive development.

Speaking during the exercise,

Regional Coordinator Mabongi James urged beneficiaries to use the funds responsibly and invest in approved projects.

"This verification exercise demonstrates government's commitment to ensuring that public resources reach the rightful beneficiaries and are used to create sustainable livelihoods," Mabongi said.

District Focal Person Kisu Muhmood Aata commended government for prioritizing vulnerable communities through targeted interventions. He emphasized that the grants are not loans but strategic support intended to improve household incomes and promote self-reliance.

"These grants are a strategic investment in our vulnerable communities, aimed at empowering them to become self-reliant and actively participate in the local economy," Kisu noted.

Kisu encouraged beneficiaries to

engage in viable enterprises such as livestock rearing, carpentry, produce trading, and dairy farming, stressing the need for active group participation.

The district, through the Community-Based Services Department, will monitor and support beneficiary groups regularly to ensure proper utilization of funds and sustainability of projects.

The verification exercise marks a significant step toward efficient service delivery and reflects government's continued efforts to uplift vulnerable populations and drive socio-economic transformation



Some of the vulnerable people in attendance





District Focal Person Kisu Muhmood Aata speaking to the vulnerable people.

Pallisa Strengthens Fight Against Youth Alcohol Abuse Through Community-Led Initiative

By Akello Priscilla Communication Officer- Pallisa DLG

Pallisa District has intensified efforts to curb rising alcohol abuse among young people through a new prevention initiative led by the Uganda Girl Guides Association, with strong backing from district authorities and development partners.

District leaders, youth representatives, and partners met at the district headquarters on March 31, 2026 to align strategies and support the programme's rollout, which is already underway. The initiative targets both in-school and out-of-school youth, reflecting government's commitment to safeguarding the wellbeing and future of young people.

Project Coordinator Cathy Nakaziwe said the programme focuses on building a shared understanding among stakeholders to ensure effective implementation. She emphasized that the initiative

addresses alcohol abuse as a community-wide concern affecting both schools and households.

"This project is already in motion. We are engaging district leaders to ensure they support and actively participate in its implementation. Alcohol abuse affects the entire community, so our approach covers both schools and communities," Nakaziwe explained.

The programme adopts a comprehensive model that integrates awareness creation, leadership development, and practical skills training. It also prioritizes peer-to-peer engagement to promote positive behavior change among young people.

Young Leader Representative Helen Apio said peer education will play a central role in influencing attitudes and choices. She noted that informed youth are more likely to make responsible decisions.

"Once young people understand the dangers of alcohol, they become more mindful of their choices. Through peer engagement, the message becomes more relatable and impactful," Apio said.

The initiative will also establish clubs and community-based structures at district

and sub-county levels to strengthen outreach and ensure sustainability. In addition, it addresses underlying causes of substance abuse, including unemployment and idleness, by equipping youth with entrepreneurial and life skills.

"When young people engage in productive activities, they are less likely to turn to alcohol. We are empowering them with skills to build better futures," Apio added.

The programme benefits from international collaboration under the Youth Exchange South-to-South programme, bringing together participants from 12 countries to share experiences and best practices in youth development.

District Education Officer Ronald Omutujju welcomed the initiative, describing it as timely and aligned with government priorities to protect young people.

"Alcohol abuse among youth is a serious concern. This initiative supports our efforts to address the challenge. I encourage parents and communities to fully embrace it for the benefit of our children," he said.

Stakeholders expressed confidence that the combined approach of education, empowerment, and community participation will drive lasting change and promote a healthier,

more productive generation in Pallisa.



Girls scout posing for a group photo

EPSEDEC conducts a multi stakeholder platform engagement with Value Chain Actors under NOSP.

By Iliotu Grace Opio Communication Officer Budaka District -LG

The Eastern Private Sector Development Centre (EPSEDEC) has conducted a stakeholder's engagement with the Value Chain Actors under the National Oil Seed Project (NOSP) to foster private sector growth and agricultural development.

The engagement meeting that took place at Clover Woods on March 25, 2026 under EPSEDEC-card Uganda. The National Oil Seed Project (NOSP) brought

together different stakeholders comprising of all actors along the value chain which were representatives of LSBs, farmer groups, input dealers, aggregators, processors, technical staff from all implementing districts, Agro insurance providers, officials from Micro Finance Support Centre and opportunity Bank.

Mwirugazu Paul reminded members that the engagement was aimed at fostering dialogue

and as well as strengthen collaboration among stakeholders involved in production, processing, marketing and transport services within the oil seed value chain. He was representing the Pallisa Chief Administrative Officer.

He then called upon Micro Finance Support Centre to closely engage cooperatives to enable them access financial services that will boost the Oil seed value chain to enable the value chain actors co-fund for the tractors that the project is to aid farmers with soon.

“Engage cooperatives to access finance and co-fund tractors for growth,” Mwirugazu said.

Kwetege Irene the NOSP focal person, while giving her remarks informed members that 02 cooperatives of Mugiti and Nansanga are to receive tractors from the project. She added that

the cooperatives are expected to co-fund 10% of the cost of the tractor.

She said that EPSEDEC partners with government to implement projects in oil seeds, Agri-business and sustainable livelihood improvement.

She encouraged the farmer groups and cooperatives in NOSP to seek financial services from Micro Finance Support Centre and opportunity Bank.

Kwetege further urged the Agro insurance providers to insure their farms so to be compensated when they make losses.

Agri-Net encouraged farmers to bulk so that they can pick from them for processing.

A team from NASARI Resources Institute encouraged farmers to always contact them so as to access good quality seeds.



Mwirugazu Paul addressing the value Chain actors during the stakeholder's engagement meeting at Clover Woods



bukediregion1@gmail.com

