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Ministry of Trade Boosts Butebo's Commercial Service Delivery with Motorcycle Support

THE EDITORS NOTE

Dear Readers,

As we celebrate Christmas Week, we are delighted to present the 4th edition of Bukedi Post. Our mission remains clear: to deliver stories that inform and inspire action.

In this edition, we feature impactful stories highlighting efforts that drive progress in our communities—from cultural heritage and local development initiatives to the everyday heroes shaping lives around us. Our goal is to deepen understanding, spark dialogue, and encourage meaningful participation in the transformative work happening across the region.

Stories in this edition include:

- Government Strengthens Parish Development Model Implementation in Pallisa District
- Public Urged to Stay Vigilant as Leaders Promote Peace During Festive Season in Busia
- Busia District Leaders Urge Stakeholders to Strengthen Development and Service Delivery

Christmas is a season of reflection, giving, and hope. Through the pages of this edition, we invite you to explore the power of community, the spirit of collaboration, and the stories that show why progress matters.

Thank you for joining us on this journey.
Merry Christmas and Happy Reading!

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Ministry of Trade Boosts Butebo's Commercial Service Delivery with Motorcycle Support

By Tavuga Musa Communication Officer - Butebo DLG

The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives has delivered a motorcycle to Butebo District's Commercial Department to boost the monitoring and supervision of government livelihood programs.

The motorcycle is expected to strengthen field operations under initiatives such as the Parish Development Model (PDM), Emyooga, and other business development activities aimed at improving household incomes across the district.

The Resident District Commissioner (RDC), Mr. Kyeyune Ssenyonjo, described the motorcycle as timely and critical for effective service delivery as it must be used responsibly, strictly for official duties, and well maintained to ensure it adds value to the Commercial Department.

"This motorcycle will greatly enhance monitoring and supervision of government programs in the field. I thank the government for the continued support to Butebo District," Ssenyonjo said.

The RDC also commended the District Chairperson, the Chief Administrative Officer, and the Commercial Department staff for successfully securing the motorcycle, noting that improved mobility directly supports accountability and performance at the community level.

District Chairperson Mr. James Okurut echoed the RDC's remarks, thanking the Government of Uganda for prioritizing transport facilitation in local governments.

"This motorcycle should only be used by authorized staff and for official work. Its main purpose is to support monitoring of PDM



activities and other commercial operations that are meant to uplift household incomes in Butebo," Okurut cautioned said.

Awio Emmanuel the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer revealed that the Commercial Department had operated without any transport since the district's inception, a challenge that limited supervision and community outreach. He said the new motorcycle will now ease movement and improve efficiency.

District Commercial Officer Mr. Kalyabi Joseph said the motorcycle will support senior commercial officers, including Mr. Okodi, in field monitoring and business

support. Mr. Okodi, the beneficiary officer, pledged proper use and maintenance of the motorcycle.

Leaders also disclosed that two additional motorcycles were recently allocated to the Fisheries and Agricultural Officers under the Production Department, further strengthening service delivery.

The acquisition signals government commitment to inclusive economic development and improved implementation of poverty reduction programs in Butebo District.

Government Strengthens Parish Development Model Implementation in Pallisa District

By Akello Priscilla, Communication Officer – Pallisa DLG

The Government has stepped up efforts to deepen household transformation in Pallisa District by strengthening the implementation of the Parish Development Model (PDM) through a new Community Based Facilitators (CBFs) and Practical Training Centres (PTCs) approach.

Senior Assistant Chief Administrative Officers, Community Development Officers, Parish Chiefs, Town Agents, Extension Staff, and PDM Pillar Heads underwent a capacity-building training on the new approach on 19th December 2025 at Pallisa Secondary School.

The training focused on the identification and selection of Community Based Facilitators and Practical Training Centers, as well as the formulation of the State of the Parish Economy and the Parish Asset Register under PDM.

Speaking during the training, Mr. Kalyebi Moses, one of the facilitators, noted that the CBF/PTC approach is intended to strengthen the sustainability of PDM interventions. He explained that each parish will have two Community-Based Facilitators, selected from within the community and trained to work closely with extension staff in supporting PDM beneficiary households.

"CBFs will be recommended by the SAACO, must be residents of the parish, good mobilizers, and persons of high moral character and integrity. Their responsibilities include providing practical

livelihood skills training, offering continuous mentorship and follow-up," Kalyebi said.

They must support PDM enterprise groups, promote financial literacy and savings, link households to markets and extension services, and support monitoring of

enterprise performance at the community level," he added.

The Deputy RDC, Hajjati Nakusi Assa, urged participants to fight corruption at the community level and encouraged community development officers to continue championing mindset change, a key pillar of PDM.

The Resident District Commissioner (RDC), Mr. Dhikusooka Majid, thanked participants for the work they are doing in implementing PDM. He noted that his office has received complaints that some parish chiefs either lack adequate knowledge of PDM or are deliberately failing the program.

"Ensure that you have PDM information at their fingertips, take full responsibility of

the parishes and sub-counties, and actively mobilize communities to participate in the upcoming elections," Dhikusooka said .

The Chief Administrative Officer, Mr. Majeme Alex Felix, called upon participants to demonstrate integrity in the implementation of PDM, observe Public Service Standing Orders, and love their work. He further thanked the facilitators for equipping staff with relevant knowledge and skills and encouraged all participants to exercise their civic duty by voting in the forthcoming general elections.

The introduction of the CBF/PTC approach is expected to enhance community ownership, strengthen skills transfer, and accelerate socio-economic transformation from the parish level.



Mr kalyebi moses ,District Commercial Officer ,Butebo and one of the facilitators of the day



Participants during the training



Tororo Municipality Cracks Down on Unsafe Food Handling to Protect Public Health

By Okello Matthew Communication Officer Tororo

Tororo Municipality leadership has warned food vendors against unsafe food handling practices after authorities impounded unhealthy food from several restaurants for violating the Public Health Act (Amended 2022).

Speaking during an enforcement operation conducted on December 19, 2025, in Tororo town, Tororo Municipality Deputy Town Clerk Okoth Kitong revealed that the municipality acted to protect public health and prevent avoidable diseases linked to poor food safety standards. The operation was led by the municipal health team in collaboration with municipal law enforcement officers.

"We cannot compromise the health and lives of our people. Any food dealer found endangering the public through unsafe practices will face the law, because our responsibility is to protect lives within Tororo Municipality," Kitong said.

Food items including matooke, posho, and kalo from Jaja's Inn Restaurant, Happy Hours Restaurant, and several other food joints operating in Osuna Market were impounded. Inspectors found that the affected establishments used polythene papers to cover and handle cooked food, a practice prohibited under national health regulations.

Kitong said the enforcement followed repeated sensitization efforts targeting food handlers across the municipality. These operators are fully aware of the guidelines because they have been engaged through meetings and inspections, but some choose to ignore the advice. Enforcement became necessary to ensure compliance and accountability.

Tororo Municipal Health Educator Aisha Nakato supported the operation, explaining that polythene papers release toxic chemicals when exposed to heat. She said substances such as dioxins and phthalates increase the risk of cancer, infertility, and hormonal disorders.

"Practices like wrapping food in polythene papers before steaming or covering hot food accelerate contamination," Nakato said.

The authorities emphasized that enforcement actions also serve an educational purpose under the municipality's preventive health strategy. The food handlers and the public need to understand why laws exist. This is about behavior change, responsibility, and safeguarding community health.

The affected restaurant operators will be presented before courts of law to serve as a deterrent to others. The municipality will sustain routine inspections to promote safe food handling and hygiene standards.

The goal is not punishment alone but safe, healthy food in all food outlets and an informed community that participates in protecting its own well-being. Municipal authorities said continued operations will strengthen public awareness, improve compliance, and support healthier livelihoods across Tororo Municipality.



Tororo municipality deputy town clerk Okoth Kitong



Some of the dirty cooking ware recovered during the operation.

From Pdm Seed to Thriving Empire: Nangira Lillian's Poultry Success in Sikuda Sub County

By Moses Mangeni, communication officer, Busia DLG

Nangira Lillian, a resident of Mundaya Village, Buchicha Parish, Sikuda Sub-County, stands as a shining example of how Uganda's Parish Development Model (PDM) is transforming lives. She became one of the first beneficiaries of the initiative in 2023. She invested in 50 broiler chicks, raising them with care and dedication.

Nangira created a solid foundation for her growing empire when she sold the matured chicks at 20,000 shillings each, recovering her capital and gaining confidence to expand. She reinvested her earnings into 100 chicks, which sold for 2.5 million shillings.

She has scaled up poultry production, added 20 turkeys, and diversified into crops such as bananas intercropped with sukuma wiki, eggplants, and other local greens nourished naturally by chicken droppings. Her produce reaches neighbors directly, linking her business to the wider community.

"When asked what I have gained from the PDM support, the list is endless," Nangira shares with a warm smile. "I've transformed my livelihood, bought new furniture, and now pay school fees for my three children without worry."

Her success has made her a model farmer and one of Sikuda's most celebrated women, attracting visitors eager to learn her

sustainable farming techniques.

Sub-County Extension Officer Dr. Edwin Opio confirms the impact of her work as she achieves what she sets out to do. She consults frequently and receives technical advice to ensure her success.

"We monitor her progress closely because her farm sets a benchmark for the community," Dr. Opio said.

Timing could not be better for Nangira, as festive season sales allow her to sell stock at premium prices of 25,000 to 35,000 shillings per bird. She has already stocked over 200 chicks for the next cycle, confident that her business will continue to grow.

Nangira Lillian's journey demonstrates how the government, through PDM, empowers ordinary Ugandans to achieve lasting prosperity, turning small grants into sustainable, community-centered enterprises. Her story is not just about poultry, it's about hope, opportunity, and Uganda's commitment to inclusive development.



Some of the projects at Nangira's farm at Mundaya village: left turkeys, right poultry

Pupils Benefit as Government Secures Mawero Schools Against Hazards

*By Moses Mangeni, Communication Officer
Busia DLG*

Learners at Mawero Primary School and Mawero Islamic Primary School can now study in a safer, more focused environment following the commissioning of newly constructed wall fences that protect them from wandering animals, land encroachment, and external distractions that previously disrupted learning.

Minister of State for Regional Cooperation, Hon. Mulimba John, officially commissioned the fences on December 16, 2025. He commended the transformation of the once

open school grounds into secure learning spaces.

"This initiative gives back to the community and strengthens the relationship between investors and the people. When children learn in a safe environment, they concentrate better, perform well, and contribute meaningfully to national development," Hon. Mulimba said.

The infrastructure was donated by Wagagai Mining (U) Limited under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program, complementing government efforts to improve learning conditions in schools.

The ceremony was attended by parents, pupils, teachers, district leaders, cultural and religious authorities, and community members with hundreds of participants, including the District Khadi, Sheikh Juma Obando, local chiefs, and district technical officials. Pupils from both schools entertained guests with songs and cultural dances, reflecting community ownership of the project.

The District Education Officer, Mr. Wanyama Anthony, emphasized the educational



impact of the project, noting that improved infrastructure directly supports government education goals.

"With fences now in place, the major barriers to learner concentration are gone. Head teachers, it is time to focus on improving academic performance," Wanyama said.

District Chairperson Mugeni Stephen Wasike applauded Wagagai Mining for aligning with government development priorities and encouraged the company to fast-track the Community Development Agreement to further address community needs around the mining area.

Representing the Chief Administrative Officer, Deputy CAO Mr. Opolot Bernard Apollo said the fences had enhanced both safety and

aesthetics. The schools have received a major facelift, and better learning outcomes are expected with these improvements.

The Chairperson of the Mawero Primary School Management Committee, Mr. Osenda, revealed that the school had long faced land encroachment challenges but with this fence in place, securing a land title will now be much easier.

The event concluded with shared meals and renewed commitments to collaboration, underscoring how partnerships between government, the private sector, and communities can sustainably strengthen education and protect learners.



Hon. Mulimba John (in yellow) with stakeholders during the commissioning ceremony

Busia District Leaders Urge Stakeholders to Strengthen Development and Service Delivery

By Moses Mangeni, Communication officer, Busia DLG

Busia District leaders have called on stakeholders to step up efforts to drive development, create more jobs, strengthen working relationships, and implement initiatives that improve service delivery and transform the lives of residents across the district.

District Chairperson Mugeni Stephen Wasike was speaking during the annual end-of-year stakeholders' party on December 18, 2025, where staff, partners, and dignitaries gathered to celebrate achievements and collaboration. The district leadership organized the event aimed to recognize excellence, foster partnerships, motivate teams, promote essential services, and strengthen social and business networks. "We are hoping for more employment opportunities and better working relations," Wasike said.

The ceremony began with awards for the eight best-performing sub-counties based on the recent Lower Local Government Assessment by the Office of the Prime Minister. Masaba Sub-County led the rankings, while standout staff from the Production, Administration, Finance, Health, and Education departments received certificates and hearty applause for driving tangible results.

47 retirees were honored for their decades of service, which formed the backbone of the district's progress. Teacher Bwire Saul, speaking on behalf of the retirees, shared how deeply grateful they are for the recognition.

"I hope Busia continues to embrace unity, respect, and appreciation in the years ahead," Bwire said.

Chief Administrative Officer Lubuuka David rallied the crowd, urging stakeholders to remain focused and resilient to address challenges with the same uniqueness to thrive.

Financial institutions played a critical role in Busia's economic growth. Stanbic Bank, Equity Bank, Centenary Bank, and Finance Trust received recognition for innovative lending, digital banking, and community outreach, empowering businesses, farmers, and families.

Resident District Commissioner Namagogwe Hajira, serving as Guest of Honor, closed the event, urging all participants to reflect on the year and renew their commitment to Busia's development.

"This platform opens doors for reconciliation, reflection, and forward-looking action. Let's build on this momentum," Namagogwe declared.

Networking sessions sparked deals, strengthened partnerships, and reinforced the message that unity, recognition, and active collaboration will propel Busia District toward an even brighter 2026.



Staff at the end of year party



District speaker, Malowa Charles Kudedi



Lubuuka David, Chief Administrative Officer

Public Urged to Stay Vigilant as Leaders Promote Peace During Festive Season in Busia

By Moses Mangeni, Communication Officer- Busia DLG

Uganda Police has urged the public to remain vigilant, security conscious, and proactive in sharing timely information with authorities to safeguard

peace and security during and after the festive season.

The call was made by the District Police Commander, ASP Mugabi Peter, on December 19, 2025, during a Christmas charity event organized by Wagagai Mining (U) Limited to distribute Christmas gifts in Busia District. The event was attended by leaders, security officials, community members, and partners who gathered to promote unity, safety, and shared responsibility.

Mugabi emphasized that public cooperation plays a critical role in crime prevention and community safety. He reaffirmed the government's commitment to ensuring a peaceful festive period through collaboration between citizens and security agencies.

"Be security conscious and share every bit of information to maintain peace during and

after the festive season," ASP Mugabi said.

The initiative, held under the theme: "Sharing the Warmth of Christmas United as One," reached 900 elderly and vulnerable beneficiaries from Agoriat, Akipenet, Alupe, and Amogoro villages in a bid to promote social protection and inclusion, aligning with government efforts to support vulnerable populations.

Beneficiaries received essential food items, including cooking oil, wheat flour, sugar, soap, milk, and rice. Wagagai also donated 40 bicycles to local council leaders to improve service delivery and 10 tricycles to persons with disabilities, enhancing mobility and inclusion.

Wagagai General Manager Mr. Tan said the

company remains committed to growing with the community.

"We started this initiative in 2024, and we have made it annual. As we grow, the support will also increase," Tan said.

District Chairperson Mugeni Stephen Wasike applauded the partnership and called for sustained collaboration. He further made a commitment to continue supporting investors who give back to people while advocating for fair mineral royalties to drive district development.

Chief Administrative Officer Lubuuka David and RDC Namagogwe Hajira commended Wagagai and government leadership for fostering peace, accountability, and inclusive development.



Mugeni Stephen Wasike, RDC Namagogwe Hajira, Lubuuka David CAO, Tan Wagagai General Manger during the flagging off ceremony with some of the beneficiaries



Some of the assorted foot items lined up for distribution to the community members

Hidden Cultural Treasures of Pallisa:

Pallisa District, located in eastern Uganda, has strong community traditions and unique cultural heritage. Among its remarkable yet under explored attractions are Midodi and Okiruket rock, two culturally significant sites that hold immense potential for cultural and eco-tourism.

Midodi rock, found in Okunguro village, Agule

sub county, is a legendary treasure of Iteso culture ,steeped in history,mystery and awe inspiring beauty .locals tell a story of and old man who used to enter its caves during drought and drum calling upon the ancestors for rain ,miraculously showers would follow by evening .in times of hardship,elders climbed the rock to perform sacred rituals accompanied by rythmatic ankle bells of the iteso culture dance ,vibrant cultural attire ,prepared traditional meals to serve their gods as sacrifice .its summit hides network of caves ,once a refuge during insurgencies and a striking granary shaped rock believed to be a message from the ancestors to store food in preparation of drought.



Midodi rock in Agule subcounty

Equally captivating is Okiruket Rock Located in Kapuai parish, Opwateta sub county Pallisa district, this rock holds Cultural Heritage significance among the Iteso culture, it is believed that in the early days, cultural rituals were performed on the rock asking for spiritual powers for healing and celebrating the full moon during harvest, they made sacrifices which included slaughtering of animals such as goats, sheep and cows as a way of pleasing the ancestors, prepared cultural meals and performed cultural dances. The rock has got a crater lake on top that does not dry up throughout the year

and this water was believed to be holy as it attracted people from the Iteso community of different districts to collecting water for spiritual healing.

We call upon investors, cultural preservationists, and tourism developers to develop and transform Okiruket rock into a cultural and eco-tourism destination. With its rich Iteso heritage, traditional rituals, and the mystical year-round crater lake, the site offers great potential for spiritual tourism, cultural education, and community empowerment. Investment in facilities, access roads, guided

experiences, and conservation will preserve this heritage while generating Pallisa rocks are not just natural formations, they are living stories waiting to be discovered



okiruket in Opwateta subcounty,pallisa district



.some of the District leaders at okiruket rock in Opwateta sub county during the explore pallisa tour to promote local tourism organized by the department of trade ,industry and LED ,Tourism sector



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