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## **Sikuda SubCounty Welcomes Government Funded Seed Secondary School Boosting Local Education**

# THE EDITORS NOTE

**A**s we wind up the year and present our Fifth Edition, we pause to reflect on the power of storytelling to inform, inspire, and drive positive action in our communities. This edition captures the resilience, innovation, and collective spirit shaping development across our region.

Inside, we revisit the Legend of the Ademba Tree, a reminder of our deep cultural roots and the values that bind generations. We highlight government leaders joining forces to support an elderly resident, a story that underscores compassion, dignity, and responsive leadership in action.

Our development lens extends to the future, with features on a government-funded seed school in Sikuda, expanding access to education, and Butaleja youth harnessing digital skills to create new opportunities in a changing economy.

Together, these stories affirm our mission: to share impactful narratives that deepen understanding, encourage unity, and inspire meaningful action as we look ahead to a new year

Thank you for joining us on this journey  
Happy New Year, Enjoy your reading.

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Mangeni Moses**



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# Sikuda SubCounty Welcomes GovernmentFunded Seed Secondary School Boosting Local Education

*By Mangeni Moses- Communication Officer Busia LG*

The Government of Uganda has strengthened access to secondary education in Busia District with the establishment of Sikuda Seed Secondary School, a governmentfunded school under the Seed Secondary School Programme aimed at serving the subcounty.

Sikuda Sub-county residents celebrated this milestone as the 2025 school calendar closed. Learners who once trekked long distances to schools in neighboring areas such as Busia Secondary School in Busia Municipality, Riverside Secondary School in Busitema Sub-county, and Kayoro Secondary School in Buteba Sub-county.

The intervention has especially benefited girls, reducing risks of harassment and dropout.

Headteacher Mr. Ojiambo Godfrey Achoka revealed that the school addresses a longstanding education gap in Sikuda Sub-county, which previously had no secondary school.

"The establishment of Sikuda Seed Secondary School has greatly increased access to secondary education for our learners, and we are registering daily growth in enrollment because students can now study within their community," Ojiambo



**Mr. Ojiambo Godfrey Achoka, Headteacher, Sikuda seed Secondary School**

said.

The school is constructed and equipped by the government and features teachers' quarters and a modern computer laboratory with internet connectivity, aligning with Uganda's competency-based curriculum. The computer laboratory with internet connectivity has transformed teaching and learning by supporting the competency-based curriculum, practical ICT lessons, research, and online learning.

Estate Manager Mr. Wandera Charles thanked the Church of Uganda for providing prime land adjacent to the primary school and equally appreciated the government's investment in this school. He further appealed to the Ministry of Education and Sports to deploy additional staff to match the growing student population.

"The Church of Uganda's timely donation of land was a game-changer for education in Sikuda Sub-county, as it enabled the government to begin construction without delays related to land acquisition," said Wandera.

Given the limited resources available to the sub-county and competing development priorities, acquiring land would have taken much longer, but this partnership ensured learners accessed education on time.

The establishment of Sikuda Seed Secondary School demonstrates the government's commitment to equity, inclusiveness, and human capital development, while calling upon communities to fully utilize and safeguard public education investments for sustainable development.



### **Sikuda seed Secondary school Science Laboratory and Computer Laboratory block**



# Butaleja Youth Harness Digital Skills to Build Careers

**By Editorial team**

**G**overnmentled digital skills training are empowering youth in Butaleja District to pursue careers in content creation and the digital economy. The Uganda Communications Commission (UCC), through the Uganda Communications Universal Service and Access Fund (UCUSAF), in partnership with Prime Time Communications, trains young people in ICT and multimedia, equipping them with practical skills to create content, build online brands, and generate income.

The program targets over 500 youths in Butaleja and four other eastern districts including Kumi, Kapchorwa, Manafwa, and Kamuli. So far, more than 1,200 youths across central and eastern Uganda have gained hands-on skills to succeed in the digital economy.

During the Butaleja training, Dr. Solomon

Kimera, a medical doctor and popular TikTok content creator, shared his journey with participants.

"I started with a basic smartphone. I was my own camera operator. If I had waited for the perfect tools, I would never have built my online presence. Start now," Kimera said.

Dr. Kimera's story demonstrates that passion, creativity, and consistency matter more than expensive equipment. His TikTok videos attract millions of views, and he has built a following of nearly 2.5 million, proving that young people can succeed online with determination.

One participant, Siya Deo, explained that the training opened his eyes. He can now use his phone for basic tasks to create videos and share knowledge online.

Government partners emphasize that programs like this equip youth to earn income, develop entrepreneurial skills, and contribute to community growth. By investing in digital literacy, the government enables young Ugandans to actively participate in the country's digital economy and promotes inclusive development across districts like Butaleja.

Dr. Kimera concluded with a call to action: "Don't wait for perfect conditions. Start with what you have. Your journey begins today."



**Dr. Kimera addressing the youth**

# The Voice of Ademba: an Ancient Tree Positioned as Busia's Emerging Tourism Asset

**By Moses Mageni, Communication Officer – Busia**

The National Development Plan Four (NDP IV) prioritizes tourism as a driver of inclusive growth, and in response, the Busia District Local Government has intensified efforts to identify and promote unique sites with tourism potential, with the Ademba tree in Busime Sub-county emerging as a flagship cultural and ecological attraction.

During a field visit by Busia District technical leaders on December 26, 2025, the Ademba tree was earmarked as a site capable of boosting community-based tourism, local revenue generation, and conservation awareness. The tree, believed to be over a century old, is deeply rooted in local history, culture, and indigenous climate knowledge, making it a rare asset for sustainable tourism development.

According to the Senior Environment Officer, Ngolobe Jimmy, Ademba's story and age position it strongly as a tourism product. The tree derives its name from an oral narrative about a man punished for theft whose exposed intestines hung as he sat under the tree until his death. Onlookers would say "ademba," meaning "hanging," a name that endured across generations.

"The Ademba tree is one of the oldest trees in Busia, with a strong history that anyone would want to listen to and learn, therefore rich with potential for tourism," Ngolobe said.

The site holds particular significance for

the Abamanyi Clan, which regards the tree as a custodian of ancestral knowledge. Community elders maintain that Ademba signals seasonal changes, guiding farming decisions long before modern weather forecasting.

During the visit, Akinyi Anntte, the District Councillor for the Lunyo/Busime–Lumino/Majanji electoral area, guided the team and emphasized the tree's value to the community.

"The Ademba tree speaks to us. It tells the community when the seasons are changing. Farmers observe its leaves to know whether rains are coming early, late, or not at all," Akinyi said.

Busia District Tourism Officer Sumba Irene emphasizes its cultural role, and the district is now deliberately positioning Ademba for tourism development. The site offers a unique blend of culture, ecology, and indigenous knowledge that can attract visitors while empowering local communities.

"This tree has a story that cannot be replicated anywhere else. It combines culture, history, climate knowledge, and belief. If properly gazetted as a tourism site, Ademba can benefit the entire community," Sumba said.

Sumba revealed that the district has begun engaging local leaders, elders, and residents to promote conservation and ownership of the initiative.



The community needs to see that conservation does not mean loss. It means opportunity, jobs, local guides, crafts, cultural tourism, and pride in heritage. Collective leadership and awareness will secure Ademba's future. Ademba has survived for generations; Busia's responsibility is to ensure it survives for many more.



***The Ademba Tree***

# Busia CAO Calls for Unity as District Builds on 2025 Development Gains

**By MangeniMoses Communication Officer Busia-LG**

The Busia Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) has called on residents, public servants, and development partners to stick together for the common goal of elevating Busia, emphasizing collective action over division as the district transitions into 2026.

The CAO, Lubuka David (CAO), highlighted gains under major government programs and described the year as one of both challenges and progress in Busia's social and economic transformation in his end-of-year message relayed on December 30, 2025.

"Through PDM, we are seeing households engage in productive enterprises and take ownership of their economic future," read the statement in part.

"The year came with ups and downs, including administrative tensions and external pressures, but by God's grace, we navigated them without catastrophic damage," the CAO added, noting Busia's sensitive role as Uganda's key gateway to Kenya.

The district sustained stability, allowing government programs to reach communities uninterrupted. Maintaining stability is critical because Busia sits at the heart of cross border trade, and any disruption would have affected livelihoods far beyond our borders.

The Uganda Intergovernmental Fiscal Transfers (UGIFT) strengthened education, health, and water services, while the Parish Development Model (PDM) supported parish-level wealth creation.

The Emyooga program expanded access to finance and jobs for women, youth, and persons with disabilities, and the Senior Citizens Grant (SAGE) continued to support older persons. These interventions



**Lubuuka David, Chief Administrative Officer (centre) with some of the staff**



are changing lives by increasing incomes and restoring dignity, especially for the most vulnerable residents.

The CAO urged stakeholders to harness Busia's strengths, including vibrant cross border trade, agro processing potential, skilled labor, political stability, and reliable power supply. Everything about Busia positions it for growth, but progress demands unity and shared responsibility. The CAO expressed confidence that 2026 will build on 2025's foundations and wished residents a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

# Pallisa Councillors Unite to Drive Development and Approve Supplementary Budget

**By Akello Priscilla Communication Officer– Pallisa District LG**

**D**istrict Speaker Hon. Legesi Stephen Mwanika has called on councillors to unite in serving their communities and advancing development as they discuss key governance and service delivery issues affecting Pallisa District.

The call came during a council sitting held on December 23rd, 2025 at the District Council Chambers. During the session, councillors approved a Supplementary Budget for FY 2025/2026 totaling UGX 1,841,320,219, funding operationalisation of three Seed



***Hon legesi stephen mwanika District speaker***

Secondary Schools, micro-scale irrigation, Education UGIFT balances, VAT in lieu for seed school constructions, and water and environment projects. Priority roads and bridges under the upcoming World Bank-funded Rural Roads Improvement Project were also approved to improve connectivity and access to services.

Hon. Mwanika emphasized the importance of qualified personnel in public service appointments and addressed public complaints about misconduct by some medical staff, particularly in maternity wards. He said:

"Unity among councillors is key to delivering tangible development results. Timely payment of allowances will ensure smooth operations and enable us to focus on serving our people," Mwanika said.

District Chairperson Hon. Duchu Patrick commended councillors for their dedication and highlighted the need for peaceful and orderly elections, congratulating Hon. Mbabazi Veronica and Hon. AkelloKetty for winning party primaries unopposed.

"Our role is not only to approve budgets but also to ensure stability and fairness in all electoral processes. Collaboration is essential for the district's growth and citizen trust," Duchu said.

Council also appointed Mr. Acoroi Vincent Mudala to the Pallisa District Service Commission to represent Persons with Disabilities (PWDs).

Resident District Commissioner Mr. Dhikhusooka Majid reported that security in the district remains calm, thanked councillors for mobilizing during the recent presidential rally in Kameke Sub-county, and announced that Pallisa District will host the National NRM celebrations in Kibale Town Council on 26th January 2026.

The sitting reinforced the council's commitment to unity, accountability, and equitable service delivery, reflecting government's focus on inclusive development and improved livelihoods for all residents.



***Hon opakasi clement, District vice Chairperson reading the supplementary budget***



# Pallisa Red Cross Volunteers, Government Leaders Join Forces to Support Elderly Resident

Pallisa District witnessed a collaborative community effort as Local government leaders in partnership with Red Cross volunteers carried out a Boxing Day outreach to support an elderly resident whose health had been deteriorating.

The volunteers, working alongside government officials, implemented several practical interventions, including cleaning the compound, weeding the surrounding area, washing clothes, and setting up a temporary bathroom on December 26, 2025. They also repaired the house to make it safer and more comfortable, and provided food and essential non-food items to improve the resident's health and well-being.

Community members joined in the activities, reflecting strong local engagement and a shared commitment to social welfare.

Hon. Patrick Duchu, Pallisa District Chairperson, who actively supported and monitored the outreach, lauded the initiative.

"This outreach demonstrates how government, community members, and partners like the Red Cross can work together to support our vulnerable citizens. It is a model of compassion and solidarity," Duchu said.

The activity emphasises government's ongoing efforts to collaborate with civil society organizations in protecting and uplifting vulnerable populations. By partnering with the Red Cross, local authorities helped mobilize resources, coordinate community participation, and ensure the safety and effectiveness of the interventions.

This initiative not only improves living conditions for the elderly but also strengthens the culture of volunteerism and governmentcommunity partnerships across Pallisa District, demonstrating a practical approach to inclusive social support and civic responsibility.





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