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NRM Welcomes Pallisa Opposition Defectors as Campaign Period Nears End

THE EDITORS NOTE

Bukedi Volume Six remains firmly committed to its mission of inspiring, informing, and driving positive action across the sub-region through accurate, people-centered government communication. This edition captures a defining moment as communities, leaders, and institutions align around development, health, and inclusive governance.

Among the highlights is a story on NRM welcoming Pallisa opposition defectors as the campaign period nears its end, reflecting growing political dialogue, stability, and convergence around national development priorities ahead of the elections. The edition also features the Ministry of Health's launch of the LLIN campaign in Budaka, a timely government intervention aimed at curbing rising malaria deaths and protecting vulnerable populations through prevention and community engagement.

Environmental protection and livelihood transformation take center stage in Pallisa, where MWE and MAAIF are sensitizing communities on a fish pond project to restore the Limoto Wetland while improving incomes and food security.

Together with many other stories, this volume demonstrates how coordinated leadership and community participation continue to translate government policy into measurable impact across Bukedi.

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NRM Welcomes Pallisa Opposition Defectors as Campaign Period Nears End

By Editorial Team

The National Resistance Movement (NRM) has welcomed defectors of opposition parliamentary candidates from Pallisa District and other parts of the country, a move government leaders have described as a voluntary political realignment driven by dialogue, shared values, and a commitment to national development.

The Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Thomas Tayebwa, officially unveiled 15 parliamentary candidates from opposition parties who crossed to the ruling NRM during a press conference at the party headquarters at Plot 10, Kyadondo Road on December 31st, 2025. The defectors primarily came

from the National Unity Platform (NUP) and the Forum for Democratic Change (FDC).

From Pallisa District, Emmanuel Olebo (Kibale County) and Martin Owako (Pallisa County) joined the NRM, signaling growing confidence in the ruling party's development-oriented agenda as the country heads into the election campaign period.

"We have been engaging these leaders for several months through dialogue, not coercion. This is part of a broader realignment where leaders freely choose a platform they believe can better address the challenges facing



their communities,” Tayebwa said. “

He rejected claims that the defections were influenced by inducements, emphasizing that political persuasion and open engagement remain core values of the NRM. Tayebwa also urged political actors to respect freedom of association and avoid intimidation of those who change political positions.

NRM Deputy Secretary General Rose NamayanjaNsereko welcomed the new members, describing their decision as patriotic and development-driven.

“The guiding principle of NRM is inclusiveness,” Namayanja said.

“When leaders join us, they bring ideas and energy that strengthen service delivery and development in their constituencies, including Pallisa,” she added.

She noted that the party encourages unity and collective responsibility,

stressing that the defections will translate into stronger collaboration between elected leaders and government programs at the grassroots.

NRM Director of Information and Publicity Emmanuel Dombo reaffirmed the party’s commitment to political freedom.

“NRM allows free entry and exit. Once you join, you enjoy equal rights and the opportunity to contribute to national development,” Dombo said.

The defections showcase the growing engagement between government and political actors, reinforcing stability, dialogue, and shared responsibility for inclusive growth as Uganda advances toward the next electoral cycle.



Deputy Speaker Thomas Tayebwa and NRM deputy Secretary General Rose Namayanja pose with the defectors.

Busia Red Cross Unveils Income Generating Plan to Boost Youth Employment and Community Health

By Moses Mangeni, Communication Officer Busia LG.

The Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) Busia Branch has launched a comprehensive plan to introduce income-generating activities aimed at strengthening community health, youth employment, and humanitarian response in Busia District.

The initiative was unveiled during

a board meeting held on January 02, 2026, at the Busia Red Cross Branch offices along Tiira Road. Board Chairperson Alasa Simon Peter revealed that the program aligns with government priorities on job creation, skills development, and community resilience, while reinforcing Red Cross humanitarian interventions.



Busia Red Cross Board members pose with the Branch Board Chairperson, Alasa Simon Peter (in white T shirt)

"This plan is designed to keep the branch vibrant and self sustaining as we continue to support government efforts in health, emergency response, and protection of vulnerable people. By equipping young people with practical skills, we are investing in long-term community development," Alasa said.

The program will offer hands on training in liquid soap making, cookery, bakery, car wash services, and other vocational skills, targeting youth and women across the district.

Badru Zuhur, a board member, emphasized the program's social impact, particularly for girls and young women. This initiative will economically empower the girl child and help address persistent menstrual hygiene challenges through skills, income, and awareness.

The Busia Red Cross Branch has a strong track record of supporting district led interventions. During the recent rabies outbreak, the branch partnered with the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry, and Fisheries to mobilize communities for mass vaccination, resulting in more than 10,000 dogs and cats being vaccinated.

The Red Cross has also nurtured youth leaders who now serve in key political and civil roles with membership drawn from schools, community groups, and individuals. Youth leaders now serve in key political and civil roles. The new income generating plan is expected to enhance self reliance, complement government programs, and strengthen community resilience across Busia District.

Government-Backed Youth Outreach Supports Patient Care and Sanitation in Busia District

By Moses Mangeni, Communication Officer, Busia-LG

The Busia Miracle Centre Youth group engaged in a charity activity aimed at ministering agape love to the hurting world, embodying the biblical command to love your neighbor as yourself. This was part of their postChristmas activities engaging the young people in ministry as they prepared to usher in the New Year.

Led by Kazungu Kaleb, the team was warmly received by Hospital Administrator Kairo Onyango Godfrey and Senior Nursing Officer Nampwo Evarine Wabwire at Masafu General Hospital on December 27, 2025. They emphasised that the charity activity fostered community partnership and inspired ongoing support for healthcare in the district.

"This act added on the cleanliness of the hospital and highlights the practical impact of the youth's efforts," Nampwo said.

The youth split into small groups, each assigned to a ward, and began greeting patients one by one, listening carefully to stories of pain, delayed healing and financial struggle. More than 150 patients heard the same gentle message of them not being forgotten and that God sees them plus the church family stands with them too.

They handed out clothes, followed by food packages, bread, juice, shoes, sugar and other essentials. In the children's ward, the cartons of milk were opened and shared bringing smiles to the little ones.

The youth picked cleaned the compound, corridors, walkways, cleared rubbish and wiped window sills, wanting the environment to reflect the same care they were offering in words and prayer.

According to the District Health Officer, Dr. Wabwire Mathias Panyako such partnerships with healthcare facilities provide emotional, practical, and spiritual support that enhances patient care beyond medical treatment alone. These collaborations improve access to services, reduce costs, and foster community involvement, leading to better health outcomes.



Some of the youth of Miracle centre Church on arrival at Masafu General Hospital for the charity activity

MOH Launches LLIN Campaign in Budaka to Curb Rising Malaria Deaths

By Iliotu Grace Opio Communication Officer Budaka District –LG

The Ministry of Health (MOH) has launched a nationwide malaria prevention campaign in Budaka District following a malaria epidemic that has led to increased infections and high mortality rates across several communities.

The campaign was officially rolled out during a Trainers of Trainees (TOT) orientation held on Monday, January 5, 2026, at the Budaka District Council Chambers, bringing together district leaders, health workers, and security agencies. The intervention focuses on the mass distribution of Long-Lasting Insecticide-Treated Nets (LLINs) as a key government strategy to reduce malaria-related deaths, especially among vulnerable populations.

Addressing stakeholders, Ms. KobugabeFatiyah, the MOH team leader, said government prioritized Budaka District under the first wave of the fifth national net distribution campaign due to the ongoing malaria epidemic.

“This mass distribution of LLINs is intended to reduce malaria mortality across the country, with Budaka receiving urgent attention because of the current epidemic,” Kobugabe said.

She cautioned beneficiaries against misusing mosquito nets for activities such as animal rearing or nursery beds, emphasizing that proper use saves lives.

Kobugabe clarified that neighbouring districts of Butebo, Kibuku, and Butaleja will not receive nets under this phase because they already benefit from the Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS) program. She also urged Village Health Teams (VHTs) to use scorecards to capture details of children under five years and refer those who have not received the malaria vaccine to nearby health facilities. The nets will be distributed at village level to registered households and tracked through the LLIN mobile application to ensure transparency and accountability.

Opening the meeting, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer Anthony Egesa said government will distribute 166,500 mosquito nets over three days starting Friday, January 9, 2025, targeting vulnerable groups including pregnant women, older persons, and persons with disabilities. He called for heightened vigilance, security at storage facilities, and close supervision to ensure successful delivery.

District Health Officer Dr. MulwaniErisa reported that Budaka’s malaria test positivity rate stands at 43 percent, with the highest burden recorded in Kaderuna Sub-county, Kachomo Town Council, Kachomo, Katira, Kameruka, and Mugiti sub-counties.

“Malaria remains a serious public health concern, but government interventions

such as LLIN distribution and vaccination are effective if communities embrace them,” Dr. Mulwani said.

He urged parents to take children for the free and safe malaria vaccine and cautioned against politicizing health programs.

Representing the District Chairperson, Hon. Mukamba George thanked MOH for the timely intervention and pledged district leadership support to ensure nets reach intended beneficiaries.

The campaign emphasises government’s commitment to strengthening preventive healthcare, protecting vulnerable populations, and reducing malaria related deaths nationwide.



Stakeholders during the Trainers of Trainees orientation for LLINS in the District Council Chambers by a team from MOH.



DHO Budaka addressing the Trainers of Trainees during the LLIN orientation meeting.



Hon. Mukamba George addressing the TOTs during the orientation meeting.



DCAO giving his opening remarks during the orientation meeting.

MWE and MAAIF Sensitize Pallisa Communities on Fish Pond Project to Restore Limoto Wetland and Improve Livelihoods

By Akello Priscilla Communication Officer Pallisa District -LG

The Government of Uganda, through the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), has stepped up efforts to restore degraded wetlands by engaging communities on alternative livelihoods, beginning with a fish pond project in Pallisa District.

The two ministries held a community sensitization meeting at Kaitambiri Village in Pallisa Sub-county on December 30, 2025 focusing on the planned construction of fish ponds to support restoration of the Limoto Wetland while improving household incomes, food security, and livelihoods. The meeting attracted about 160 participants, including district technical staff, landowners, and community members.

The government-funded project, implemented through MWE and MAAIF, will establish 20 fish ponds as part of an integrated approach to wetland conservation and income generation.

District Natural Resources Officer Samuka Muhammed said the project combines infrastructure development with skills transfer to ensure sustainability.

"We shall excavate 20 fish ponds and provide continuous training in fish pond management to ensure productivity," Samuka said.

"We also urge the community to secure and protect the ponds and the fish to safeguard government investment," he added.

Deputy Chief Administrative Officer Areu Simon Peter described the initiative as part of President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni's vision to restore wetlands while promoting alternative livelihoods.

"Wetland degradation has affected rainfall patterns and livelihoods. This project brings together State House, MWE, MAAIF, the Ministry of Local Government, and communities to protect wetlands while enhancing food security," Areu said.

Areu further noted that government has so far disbursed UGX 32 billion to parishes in Pallisa District under the Parish Development Model (PDM) to improve household incomes and urged beneficiaries to take ownership of government programs.

Deputy Resident District Commissioner Hajjati Nakusi Assa encouraged residents to embrace fish farming as a pathway out of poverty, citing its strong market potential.

Project Engineer Omutuju Emma said the project will also include water abstraction, a reservoir, and solar-powered systems, and will later extend to Kibuku District, calling on communities to protect all project infrastructure.

The initiative demonstrates government's commitment to climate resilience, environmental protection, and inclusive economic development.



Digging of the fish ponds in progress



Hajjati Nakusi Assa, Deputy RDC giving her remarks



District Natural Resource Officer, Samuka Muhammed explaining to the community how the wetland restoration Project started



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