



FEATURE STORY | PG.9

KYENJOJO COUNCIL FALLS SILENT AS DISTRICT MOURNS HON KAKYOMYA ISIDORE ARAALI

HIGHLIGHTS

HON JOYCE KWEBIHA
“MAAMA MISSION”:
A LIFE OF SERVICE, A
LEGACY OF IMPACT TO
KYENJOJO DISTRICT...

PAGE 4

KYENJOJO COUNCIL
FALLS SILENT AS
DISTRICT MOURNS
HON KAKYOMYA
ISIDORE ARAALI...

PAGE 9

KYEGEGWA
OFFICIALS EQUIPPED
TO ENHANCE
COMMUNITY TRUST
THROUGH GRM
TRAINING...**PAGE 13**

BUNYANGABU
FARMERS LEARN
HANDS-ON MODERN
FARMING THROUGH
FIELD VISITS...**PAGE 16**

DISTRICT LEADERS
ENDORSE ROADMAP
FOR CLIMATE
RESILIENCE IN
KAMWENGE...**PAGE 18**

HIGHLY HAZARDOUS
PESTICIDES CIRCULATE
IN AFRICAN MARKETS,
EXPERTS WARN...**PAGE
20**

KASESE:
STAKEHOLDERS RALLY
BEHIND COMMUNITY-
LED RESILIENCE
STRATEGIES TO

REDUCE DISASTER
IMPACT...**PAGE 23**

NEW FINANCING
PARTNERSHIP BOOSTS
RURAL WATER
SUSTAINABILITY IN
KAMWENGE...**PAGE 25**

EXPERIENCE THE
RWENZORI THRILL OF
ADVENTURE...**PAGE 30**

**Rwenzori
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TUSIIME CHRISTOPHER

CHIEF EDITOR

Dear Reader.

As we present the 26th edition of the Rwenzori Times, we do so with hearts that carry both solemn reflection and renewed resolve.

This month, the Rwenzori sub-region has paused to honor towering figures whose leadership shaped our districts in profound ways. Chairperson of the District Service Commission (DSC) Joyce Kwebiha Abwooli, known as “Maama Mission,” and Kakyomya Isidore Araali, a respected legislator and elder, lost their lives. Their contributions remind us that true leadership is measured not only by office held, but by lives touched, and systems strengthened.

Beyond these moments of mourning, this edition highlights the region’s determined stride toward resilience and transformation.

Across our districts, climate change continues to test the foundations of agriculture and livelihoods. From rising pest outbreaks to concerns over the influx of imported agrochemicals, scientists and civil society actors are urging stronger regulatory vigilance and sustainable alternatives.

At the same time, farmers in Bunyangabu are gaining hands-on knowledge through practical field initiatives, demonstrating that innovation at the grassroots remains one of our strongest defenses against

uncertainty.

In Kamwenge, leaders have taken proactive steps to shape the future through a high-level review of the District Climate Change Action Plan (2026–2030).

Meanwhile, the call for stronger disaster preparedness grows louder following insights from the Building Partnerships for Resilience (PARES) project, reinforcing the value of research-informed community action. In Kyegegwa District, the Government of Uganda, through National Information Technology Authority-Uganda, continues to advance transparency and digital accountability under the World Bank-funded Uganda Digital Acceleration Project—equipping Grievance Redress Committee members with tools to serve citizens more effectively.

Together, these stories reflect a region navigating loss, confronting challenges, and embracing opportunity with courage and collaboration.

As always, the Rwenzori Times remains committed to amplifying the voices, achievements, and aspirations of our communities.

Best Regards.

KABUGHO SHARON

Editor



AINGANIZA STEPHEN

Editor



HON JOYCE KWEBIHA “MAAMA MISSION”: A LIFE OF SERVICE, A LEGACY OF IMPACT TO KYENJOJO DISTRICT



The Casket of Hon Kwebiha being lowered in the final resting place.

By Atuhair Johnson, Communication Officer- Kyenjojo

Kyenjojo District is grieving one of its most influential architects of leadership and service. Hon Joyce Kwebiha Abwooli, affectionately known as “Maama Mission,” passed away on 16th February 2026 while serving as Chairperson of the District Service Commission,

bringing to a close a lifetime devoted to strengthening institutions, mentoring leaders, and championing the voice of her community.

On 17th February 2026, an extraordinary Sitting of Council was convened at Kyenjojo District Headquarters, at Kasiina, in solemn



Hon Kwebiha Joyce lies in state in the district Council hall.

tribute to a woman whose life was defined by service, courage, and unwavering commitment to her people.

The Council chamber was heavy with grief yet filled with gratitude for a life that touched institutions, communities, and generations.

Speaking on behalf of the Council, the Speaker described her as “a seasoned leader whose political and civil service journey strengthened the foundations of Kyenjojo District.”

“On behalf of Council, we salute her immense contribution to the development of our district. Hon. Joyce Kwebiha served with dedication, integrity and courage, noting that her contribution to the development of Kyenjojo District will remain deeply etched in its history. We pray that the Almighty God grants her eternal rest,” the Speaker said.

Hon. Kwebiha rose to national prominence when she served as Woman Member of Parliament for Kyenjojo District from 2006 to 2011, earning a reputation as a grassroots mobilizer who remained closely connected to the people she represented. She actively participated in national debates while ensuring that district concerns were heard at the centre; her presence was felt at community gatherings, council sittings, and national engagements alike.

Even after her parliamentary term, she remained an influential voice in district political affairs, contributing thoughtfully to governance discourse and mentoring emerging



leaders.

Hon Grace Atuheire, the leader of government business, and Vice Chairperson Kyenjojo District, noted, “Maama Mission never stopped serving. Even outside elective office, she guided many of us. She believed leadership was a calling, not a position. Though subsequent attempts to return to elective politics did not yield victory, she remained influential in district political affairs. Her voice continued to shape discourse, and she became a quiet but powerful mentor to emerging leaders”.

Her public service career extended far beyond politics. She worked in teaching institutions, the President’s Office and the Kampala City Council, holding various portfolios with professionalism and diligence.

In 2022, she was approved by Council to serve as Chairperson of the District Service Commission, a responsibility she carried with integrity and firmness.

A colleague at the Commission noted, “She understood the weight of her office. Every decision she made was guided by fairness and the desire to strengthen public institutions. She was firm, but she was just.”

Beyond government service, Hon. Kwebiha was also remembered as a pioneer investor in Kyenjojo’s media industry. She became the first individual to establish and run a private media house in the district, a bold step that expanded local access to information and provided a platform for community



voices, opening doors for local voices and expanding access to information. Her entrepreneurial spirit complemented her public service career, demonstrating her multifaceted commitment to district growth.

Hon. Hamida Kahunde, the Deputy Speaker Kyenjojo, and a mentee of the late, noted “She believed our stories deserved to be told by us. She believed development starts with information. She wanted Kyenjojo to speak for itself, and she invested her own resources to make that happen. That is why she invested in media, and founded Kyenjojo Development Radio, for she wanted Kyenjojo to have its own voice.”

The District Chairperson Kyenjojo,

Hon Gilbert Rubaihayo, paid tribute to Hon. Joyce Kwebiha as a hardworking, upright and incorruptible leader who mastered her responsibilities as Chairperson of the District Service Commission, served among the very best in that role, stood firmly for truth and rightful decision-making, and whose exemplary service to Kyenjojo DLG will remain a lasting inspiration, and called for forgiveness where she may have erred. He also assured her family of the district’s unwavering support during this time of mourning.

To her family, she was more than a public figure. She was a pillar of strength, guidance and unconditional love. She was known for her discipline, clarity of thought and courage in decision-making, balanced by a warm and

approachable spirit.

A family representative emotionally expressed, that she was mother, grandmother, adviser and prayer warrior. “She carried her public responsibilities with honour, but at home she carried us with tenderness.”

Friends described her as disciplined yet warm, ambitious yet deeply rooted in community values. Many affectionately referred to her as Maama Mission — a name that captured both her nurturing spirit and her determined drive.

As Council convened to honour her life, members acknowledged that her journey leaves a visible imprint on Kyenjojo District’s political and administrative landscape. Her legacy is woven into the institutions she strengthened, the leaders she mentored, the policies she influenced and the community

platforms she helped build.

At a relatively quiet ceremony at her ancestral home in Kisojo, with hundreds of mourners including several leaders, cultural figures, politicians, MPs, Civil servants, former employees of Kyenjojo Development Radio, relatives and friends, Maama Mission was laid to rest, with a service led by Rt Rev Reuben Kitembo Amooti, the Bishop of Rwenzori Diocese.

Though her passing has left a void, her life stands as a testament to purposeful leadership.

Some leaders occupy office. Others build systems. Hon. Joyce Kwebiha built systems and she built people. Kyenjojo District mourns, but also celebrates a woman who gave her life to service. Her dedication will continue to inspire present and future generations.

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KYENJOJO COUNCIL FALLS SILENT AS DISTRICT MOURNS HON KAKYOMYA ISIDORE ARAALI



The Assistant RDC flanked by honorable councillors observe a moment of silence during the council session.

Johnson Atuhaire, Communications Officer- Kyenjojo

Kyenjojo District Council fell into solemn silence as leaders, family members, and residents gathered for a Special Extra-Ordinary Council Meeting to honor and mourn Hon Kakyomya Isidore Araali, a respected legislator, elder statesman, and unifying voice in district leadership.

The special sitting, convened at

Kyenjojo District Headquarters under emergency provisions of the Local Government Rules of Procedure on Thursday afternoon, was called following the passing of the Male District Councillor representing Elderly Persons on February 4th, 2026.

From the opening prayer to the laying of the wreath, the mood in council chambers was heavy with grief, reflection, and tribute.



Council In session to honor the late Hon Kakyomya

Hon. Kakyomya joined the District Council in 2021, representing Elderly Persons, and quickly distinguished himself as a leader of depth and discipline. Shortly after his swearing-in, he competitively won the chairmanship of the powerful Finance, Planning and Administration Standing Committee, the engine room of the council responsible for shaping work plans, budgets and final resolutions.

Colleagues described him as meticulous, principled, and firm, yet humble in character. As chairperson, he presided over one of the most technically demanding committees with calm authority, guiding members through complex financial and administrative decisions that shaped the district's development

trajectory.

Beyond procedure and policy, Hon Kakyomya was remembered as a counsellor and bridge-builder, a unifier in divided moments. Drawing from his strong religious grounding, he often helped calm heated debates and reminded fellow leaders of their shared responsibility to serve the people of Kyenjojo.

His mastery of both vernacular and English, combined with his eloquence and clarity of thought, made him a commanding presence on the floor of council. When he rose to speak, members listened.

Several of the motions and proposals he presented during his tenure were adopted as council resolutions, directly influencing governance and

socio-economic transformation in the district.

Tributes highlighted not only his legislative contributions but also his mentorship and human touch. Hon. Kakyomya believed leadership extended beyond the chamber. He fostered teamwork between the political and technical wings of the district and actively participated in social and development-oriented engagements that strengthened unity.

His colleagues spoke of a man who turned ordinary interactions into learning moments and whose presence inspired discipline and collaboration.

The special sitting brought together the District Chairperson, representatives of Members of Parliament, the Resident District Commissioner, the District Executive Committee, councillors, religious leaders, heads of departments, family members, and members of the public.

As wreaths were laid and tributes delivered, the message was unanimous: Kyenjojo has lost not just a councillor, but a pillar of stability and wisdom.

In an emotional address, the LC V Chairperson Hon Gilbert Rubaihayo described Hon. Kakyomya as a

stabilizing force within council and a leader whose counsel shaped major district decisions.

“Today, Kyenjojo has not just lost a councillor; we have lost a pillar of stability and wisdom. Hon Kakyomya’s leadership in the Finance Committee ensured that our plans and budgets reflected discipline, accountability and the needs of our people,” the Chairperson said.

The Chairperson further noted that many of the district’s adopted resolutions bore Hon. Kakyomya’s influence, particularly in strengthening financial oversight and aligning sector priorities with the district development agenda.

“His voice was calm but firm. When he spoke, members listened—not because he was loud, but because he was wise,” he added.

The Assistant Resident District Commissioner, Mr. Thaddeo Kasaija, while eulogizing the late, praised him for being such an important contributor to the development of the district, and promoting the ideologies of the government. “Even in his advanced age, Hon. Kakyomya remained active and deeply engaged in community affairs, recognizing the challenges faced by the elderly,

he accepted the responsibility of serving as the Representative of Older Persons in Kyenjojo District. In this role, he became a powerful voice for senior citizens, advocating for improved access to health services, social support, and inclusion in government programs”, he remarked.

The Chief Administrative Officer, Kyenjojo, Mr Masereka Amis Asuman, paid tribute to Hon Kakyomya’s ability to harmonize political oversight with technical execution.

“Hon. Kakyomya understood the delicate balance between policy direction and technical implementation. He worked closely with the technical team, always seeking clarity and ensuring that council decisions were practical and implementable,” the CAO said.

Who Was the Late Hon Kakyomya Isidore Araali?

The CAO described him as a leader who valued teamwork and professional engagement.

“He was not confrontational; he was consultative. He encouraged constructive dialogue and respected the role of the technical officers. His leadership strengthened

cooperation within the district,” Mr Masereka said.

For fellow councillors, the loss is both professional and deeply personal.

Hon Kayondo James Komwiiso, the Katooke Sub County Councillor, visibly emotional, described him as a mentor and mediator.

“Whenever debates became heated, he would lean forward and quietly say, ‘Let us remember why we are here.’ That alone would calm the room,” he said.

“He was our counselor, our unifier. He reminded us that leadership is service.” “He did not seek attention. He sought solutions. Many of the resolutions we proudly implement today carry his fingerprints.”

His eloquence in both vernacular and English made him a commanding yet humble presence on the council floor. His contributions were deliberate, thoughtful and rooted in the welfare of the people—especially the elderly whom he represented.

But beyond the chamber, Hon. Kakyomya was a father, a husband, a grandfather, a pillar within his family. Kakyomya Junior Gonzaga, the deceased’s son, speaking on behalf of family, described him as a man of quiet generosity.

“At home, he was our strength and

our guide. He believed in prayer, in unity and in hard work. He carried the responsibilities of family and community with the same seriousness. Even when he returned tired from council meetings, he would still ask about everyone. He never separated leadership from love.”

Those words brought visible emotion to many in attendance.

In his closing remarks, the Speaker of Council, Hon Ronald Karamagi, saluted Hon. Kakyomya Isidore Araali for his distinguished service and prayed that the Almighty God grant his soul eternal rest.

The council adjourned in silence, a powerful symbol of the void left behind by a leader whose term was set to end in May 2026, but whose legacy will endure far beyond it.

KYEGEGWA OFFICIALS EQUIPPED TO ENHANCE COMMUNITY TRUST THROUGH GRM TRAINING

By Baingana Samuel, Communication Officer- Kyegegwa

The Government of Uganda, through the National Information Technology Authority-Uganda (NITA-U), continues to advance transparency and accountability under the World Bank-funded Uganda Digital Acceleration Project (UDAP) by successfully training Grievance Redress Committee (GRC) members in Kyegegwa District.

Held on February 18th, 2026, at the District Headquarters, the training brought together

key local government officials responsible for ensuring effective grievance management at various administrative levels.

Participants included Senior Assistant Secretaries from the 13 sub-counties, Town Clerks from six town councils, and Community Development Officers from all 19 lower local governments. They selected the Heads of Department in the district.

The Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) is a vital safeguard requirement under UDAP. It



provides a structured framework for receiving, documenting, and resolving grievances arising from project implementation in a timely, fair, and transparent manner. By strengthening grievance management systems, the project reinforces community trust and enhances service delivery.

The training was officiated by the Assistant Resident District Commissioner, Mr Mumbere Benard, who commended the Government and NITA-U for prioritizing accountability mechanisms in development projects. He urged participants to utilize the knowledge and skills gained to effectively handle grievances within their respective areas of operation.

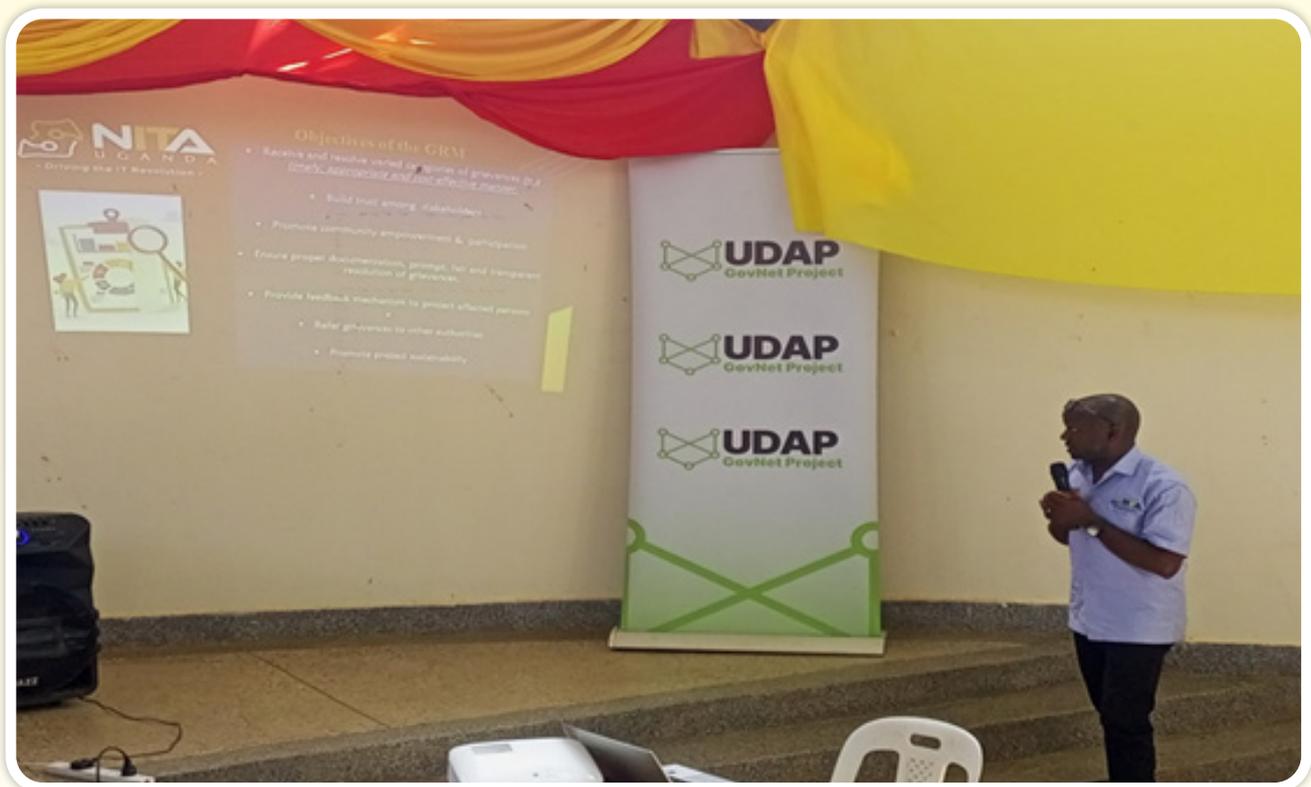
Representing the Chief

Administrative Officer, Mr Ategeka Deuson, Principal Assistant Secretary for Kyegegwa District, emphasized that Grievance Redress Committees will be operationalized across all projects to ensure concerns raised by citizens are addressed promptly and professionally. He noted that a functional GRM is essential for mitigating conflicts, promoting inclusiveness, and fostering community ownership of development initiatives.

Promoting Transparency and Community Trust

The key objectives of the GRM Committees include:

- Receiving and resolving verified grievances in a timely, appropriate, and cost-effective manner.
- Ensuring proper documentation



and record-keeping of all complaints.

- Providing prompt, fair, and transparent resolutions.
- Offering timely feedback to project-affected persons.
- Referring complex cases to relevant authorities where necessary.
- Strengthening accountability and building trust among

stakeholders.

The successful training of GRC members marks a significant milestone in enhancing governance systems within Kyegegwa District. It demonstrates the Government's commitment to ensuring that development projects are implemented responsibly, inclusively, and with the full participation and confidence of the communities they serve.

Mr Ategeka Deuson, Principal Assistant Secretary for Kyegegwa District, emphasized that Grievance Redress Committees will be operationalized across all projects to ensure concerns raised by citizens are addressed promptly and professionally.

BUNYANGABU FARMERS LEARN HANDS-ON MODERN FARMING THROUGH FIELD VISITS



Agricultural Officer demonstrating to farmers how take care of a coffee plant.

By Christopher Tusiime, Communication Officer, Bunyangabu District

Farmers in Bunyangabu District are gaining practical skills in farming through a new farmer field visit initiative spearheaded by the District Production Department.

The initiative takes farmers to well-performing gardens of those who have benefited from the Microscale irrigation programme within the district, where they observe best practices firsthand and interact

directly with experienced growers.

The goal is to strengthen farming and productivity by promoting peer-to-peer learning and practical exposure. On Tuesday, February 17th, 2026, a group of farmers visited the coffee plantation of Abel Ngomayondi in Rwimi Town Council.

Ngomayondi owns more than 2.5 acres of coffee intercropped with bananas. His household is also a beneficiary of the Micro-Scale

Irrigation Scheme, which supports farmers to maintain production during dry seasons.

The District Agricultural Officer, Brenda Oshaba, said the field visit was intended to give farmers hands-on training in proper coffee management.

“We want farmers to see what good coffee farming looks like in practice. When they observe how plantations are managed, how irrigation is set up, and how crops are maintained, it becomes easier for them to apply the same methods in their own gardens,” she said.

Oshaba added that the programme is also aimed at encouraging more farmers, especially those neighbouring irrigation beneficiaries, to apply for support in the upcoming second phase of the Micro-Scale Irrigation Scheme.

During the visit, Rwimi Town Council Agricultural Officer Amanyire Yasin guided farmers through key agronomic practices, including proper manure application and crop management.

He cautioned farmers against applying fresh animal waste directly to coffee gardens.

“Some farmers use fresh cow dung or goat droppings. That is not the correct practice. Manure should

first decompose until you can no longer identify the droppings. Well-decomposed manure improves soil fertility and supports healthy crop growth,” he explained.

Yasin also emphasised the importance of proper planning when intercropping coffee with bananas. While coffee requires shade, he advised farmers to balance the number of banana plants depending on their production goals.

“If your focus is coffee, then the banana lines should be fewer to allow coffee to thrive. But if bananas are your priority, then you adjust accordingly. Farmers must be clear about their objective before planting,” he said.

Farmers used the opportunity to ask questions about recommended coffee varieties, spacing, soil management, and general plantation care. They were also briefed on how the Micro-Scale Irrigation System operates and how to qualify for future support.

Ms Oshaba said the farmer field visits will continue as part of broader efforts to improve agricultural productivity and household incomes in Bunyangabu.

DISTRICT LEADERS ENDORSE ROADMAP FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE IN KAMWENGE



Ms Mbatuusa Christine, Lead consultant presenting the draft document.

By Kiiza Joy, Senior IT Officer- Kamwenge

Kamwenge District has taken a major step toward strengthening its climate resilience, convening a two-day high-level review workshop on 17th–18th February 2026 to validate its draft analytical climate report and refine the District Climate Change Action Plan (2026–2030).

The meeting brought together Heads of Departments, key development

partners, and technical experts to ensure that the document reflects the district's climate realities and strategic priorities.

Among the key participants were partners including Water for People, ADRA, Nsamiz, and SOS Children's Villages. The leading consultant, Christine Consultancy Firm, spearheaded the development and presentation of the draft analytical climate change report with technical and financial support from Water



Participants in a round-up discussion.

for People.

A key highlight of the workshop was the technical validation of the climate analysis report. Participants critically reviewed data findings, sectoral vulnerabilities, and proposed interventions to ensure the document is comprehensive, practical, and aligned with national climate policies and local development priorities.

The discussions focused on climate risks affecting agriculture, water resources, infrastructure, health, and livelihoods. Stakeholders emphasized the need for integrated, cross-sectoral approaches to enhance resilience and reduce vulnerability among communities.

Mr Kasim Aliganyira, the Senior Environmental Officer, appreciated Water for People for supporting the district in developing such a vital document. He noted that the Climate Change Action Plan will serve as a guiding framework for planning, budgeting, and implementing climate-responsive interventions across all departments.

He emphasized that the document is timely and critical in strengthening the district's capacity to combat climate change and safeguard the livelihoods of its people.

The workshop reaffirmed the draft vision for the Kamwenge District Climate Change Action Plan 2026–2030:

“A resilient and climate-smart Kamwenge District, where communities thrive in harmony with nature, leveraging sustainable practices and innovative solutions to build a prosperous and climate-resilient future for all,” Mr Aliganyira said.

This vision underscores the district's commitment to sustainable development and environmental stewardship.

Madam Grace Kanweri, Manager of Water for People Kamwenge, noted that the district is fortunate to have

the opportunity to develop such a comprehensive document. She reiterated that Water for People's mandate is to support Kamwenge in achieving universal access to water and sanitation services for communities, households, and public institutions.

She further highlighted that climate change is a key factor affecting the sustainability of the WASH sector, making the Climate Change Action Plan essential for long-term service delivery and resilience.

Mr Nkurunungyi Emanuel, Principal Assistant Officer, expressed gratitude to Water for People for supporting the development of the Climate Change Action Plan. He

affirmed that Kamwenge District is prepared and ready to receive the final document and work diligently to implement its recommendations.

The two-day review workshop marked a significant milestone in strengthening climate governance in Kamwenge District. Once finalized, the Climate Change Action Plan 2026–2030 will provide a strategic roadmap for coordinated action, resource mobilization, and sustainable development in the face of growing climate challenges.

The district remains committed to fostering partnerships and implementing innovative solutions to build a resilient and climate-smart future for all.

HIGHLY HAZARDOUS PESTICIDES CIRCULATE IN AFRICAN MARKETS, EXPERTS WARN

By Bwambale Benard, Guest Writer

As climate change intensifies pest outbreaks and crop diseases across Africa, the continent's agricultural sector is becoming increasingly dependent on imported pesticides and fertilizers. But

scientists and civil society groups are raising alarm over the types of chemicals entering African markets and the regulatory standards governing them.

Today, nearly 70% of the global agrochemical market is controlled

by four multinational corporations, including Germany-based Bayer, China's Syngenta Group, U.S.-based Corteva, and Germany's BASF. Critics say this market concentration gives corporations significant influence over product distribution, regulatory negotiations, and which chemicals circulate in global food systems, including in Africa.

Banned in Europe, Sold in Africa

Researchers and advocacy organizations report that some pesticides prohibited within the European Union due to health and environmental risks continue to be manufactured and exported to African countries. Many of these products are classified as Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) under criteria established by the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Health Organization.

HHPs include substances linked to cancer, genetic mutations, reproductive harm, endocrine disruption, and toxicity to pollinators and aquatic ecosystems. Some are persistent and bioaccumulative, remaining in soils and water systems for years.

Public health experts question the ethical and scientific basis for allowing chemicals deemed too dangerous for European populations



to be sold in African markets.

"This is not simply a question of misuse," "It is about whether structurally hazardous molecules should be approved for use at all," one environmental health researcher involved in pesticide biomonitoring studies across East and West Africa said.

Evidence of Widespread Exposure

Pesticides do not remain confined to the fields where they are sprayed. Environmental scientists note that many volatilize into the air, leach into groundwater, run off into rivers and lakes, and accumulate in soil ecosystems.

Multiple studies conducted in African agricultural regions have detected pesticide residues, including compounds classified as

HHPs, in human urine samples, farm soils, surface waters, and, in some cases, breast milk. Researchers say the detection of residues in breast milk indicates chronic exposure and bioaccumulation rather than isolated contamination events.

Smallholder farmers, who make up the majority of Africa's agricultural workforce, may face heightened risks due to limited access to protective equipment, high temperatures that make protective gear impractical, and pesticide labels often printed in foreign languages.

Industry representatives have historically attributed health and environmental harms to improper application, lack of personal protective equipment, or failure to follow label instructions. But risk governance specialists argue that reliance on "safe use" assumptions is insufficient when dealing with chemicals known to pose intrinsic hazards.

Regulatory Gaps and International Obligations

African governments are signatories to international agreements aimed at protecting human health and the environment, including the Bamako Convention, which prohibits the

import of hazardous waste and certain banned chemicals into Africa.

Advocates say the continued presence of banned or highly hazardous pesticides in African markets raises questions about regulatory alignment with precautionary principles and about policy coherence between trade and public health commitments.

Regional harmonization efforts are underway through the African Union and several Regional Economic Communities, but enforcement capacity varies widely among countries.

Calls for Reform

Civil society organizations are urging governments to phase out Highly Hazardous Pesticides, strengthen residue monitoring systems, and invest in agroecology and integrated pest management. They are also calling on European policymakers to align export policies with internal regulatory bans, preventing the externalization of chemical risks.

Academics are pushing for expanded biomonitoring and long-term studies to better understand chronic, low-dose exposure in African contexts. Meanwhile, advocates are pressing multinational pesticide manufacturers to invest

in safer chemistry and biological alternatives.

The debate comes at a time when climate-driven pest pressures are increasing across the continent, complicating efforts to balance food security goals with environmental and public health protections.

For policymakers, the question is no longer whether pesticides move beyond the point of application. Scientific evidence shows they travel through air, water, soils, and food systems. The central issue,

observers say, is whether Africa will continue to rely on hazardous imports — or pivot toward a more precautionary, sovereign model of agricultural production.

As governments weigh their options, the outcome could shape not only crop yields but also the long-term health of ecosystems and communities across the continent.

The Writer is a seasoned Public Health Nutritionist and Food Systems Specialist.

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KASESE: STAKEHOLDERS RALLY BEHIND COMMUNITY-LED RESILIENCE STRATEGIES TO REDUCE DISASTER IMPACT

By Kabugho Sharon, Communications Officer- Kasese

Leaders, researchers, and community representatives have renewed calls for stronger disaster preparedness following the release of findings from the Building Partnerships for Resilience (PARES) project, a decade-long study examining grassroots responses to public health crises.

The findings were presented during a high-level stakeholder dissemination and validation meeting convened by Makerere University College of Health Sciences through its Makerere University School of Public Health.

The PARES project examined how communities, local health systems, and informal networks have



Kasese District stakeholders in disaster Management.

responded to prolonged drought and recurrent cholera outbreaks over the past decade. Research was conducted in Katakwi and Kasese districts, with a specific focus on Kilembe Subcounty, Bwera Subcounty, and Nyamwamba Division in Kasese.

Findings revealed that communities that invest in preparedness including early warning systems, coordination structures, and community engagement, are better positioned to reduce the devastating impacts of disasters.

Gregory Kombi, LC III Chairperson of Bwera Subcounty, applauded the university for investing in research that directly benefits vulnerable communities and urged stakeholders to translate the findings into

practical preparedness strategies.

Safari Martin, LC III Chairperson of Central Division in Kasese Municipality, emphasized the importance of ensuring that research findings reach grassroots communities. He noted that preparedness begins with awareness and local involvement.

Kikusa Mustafa, Chairperson of the Kasese District Disaster Management Committee, highlighted efforts to strengthen early warning systems. The district now shares weather bulletins every five days based on information from the Ministry of Water and Environment's Meteorological Department. Support from FAO has upgraded weather stations, while Save the Children International



District stakeholders validating the research findings.

has strengthened district disaster coordination structures.

Addressing the media, Dr Justine Namakula from Makerere School of Public Health stressed that preparedness goes beyond infrastructure. She emphasized building trust between communities and stakeholders and ensuring that

local people are actively involved in disaster planning and response.

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment among stakeholders to prioritize preparedness at every level, from local communities to district leadership, recognizing that resilience is built long before disaster strikes.

NEW FINANCING PARTNERSHIP BOOSTS RURAL WATER SUSTAINABILITY IN KAMWENGE

By Joy Kiiza, Senior IT Officer- Kamwenge

Kamwenge District has marked a significant milestone in strengthening sustainable

water service delivery with the official launch of a strategic partnership between VisionFund International, World Vision, and



Guest of Honour signing on the commitment board.

Pearl Bank (formerly PostBank Uganda).

The partnership aims to unlock financing for hand pump maintenance through the Kamwenge District Water Maintenance Association (KADWAMA), ensuring reliable and sustainable water services for communities across the district.

Held on February 12th, 2025, the launch ceremony attracted a high-level delegation from the national level of Pearl Bank, the Ministry of Water and Environment, and World Vision. Also in attendance were sub-county chiefs, KADWAMA

members, sub-county water board members, LC III and Town Council Chairpersons, the district water board, and members of the media fraternity.

Mr Nkurunungyi Emmanuel, representing the Chief Administrative Officer, expressed heartfelt appreciation to World Vision for its tireless support across multiple sectors in the district. He also commended the District Technical Team, especially the Water Department, for positioning Kamwenge among the best-performing districts in water service management, as recognized



Mr Nkurunungyi Emmanuel for CAO delivering his speech.

in the recent OPM performance assessment.

Mr Leonard Opetto, the Western Regional WASH Coordinator, applauded VisionFund for its technical support in designing how the financing partnership with Pearl Bank would operate. He noted that World Vision has been working in Kamwenge since 2009, implementing interventions under five strategic focus areas. This new partnership, he emphasized, reflects a commitment to productive and impactful collaboration.

Mr Komakech Wilfred, WASH Program Manager under the USWIFI

initiative, described the project as a pilot in Kamwenge. Over the years, the district has faced challenges related to the maintenance of water systems and revenue collection to sustain operations. He highlighted that Kamwenge provides a conducive environment for piloting innovative projects and that the initiative will strengthen and support the District Local Government Water Supply Board to effectively operationalize operation and maintenance systems. Recognizing access to safe water as a fundamental human right, the project will also support comprehensive mapping of water points to enhance planning and



Chief Guest Mr Tusiime Samuel Addressing the media.

service delivery.

The District Water Board awarded a tender to KADWAMA as the Area Service Provider responsible for overseeing water systems in the district. This formalized approach to operations and maintenance places accountability and sustainability at the forefront of service delivery.

The Deputy Resident District Commissioner, Madam Loy Batuuze, commended World Vision for the quality work delivered to the

people of Kamwenge. She described the district as well-organized, with coordinated leadership and strong collaboration among NGOs attributes that continue to attract development partners. She pledged her full support to ensure the success of the project.

The Chief Guest, Mr. Tusiime Samuel Tinkasimire from the Ministry of Water and Environment in Fort Portal, represented the Commissioner for Rural Water and Sanitation. He expressed gratitude to World Vision for promoting programs that strengthen water



Group Photo.

service sustainability and noted that the event marked an important milestone in ensuring well-maintained water services.

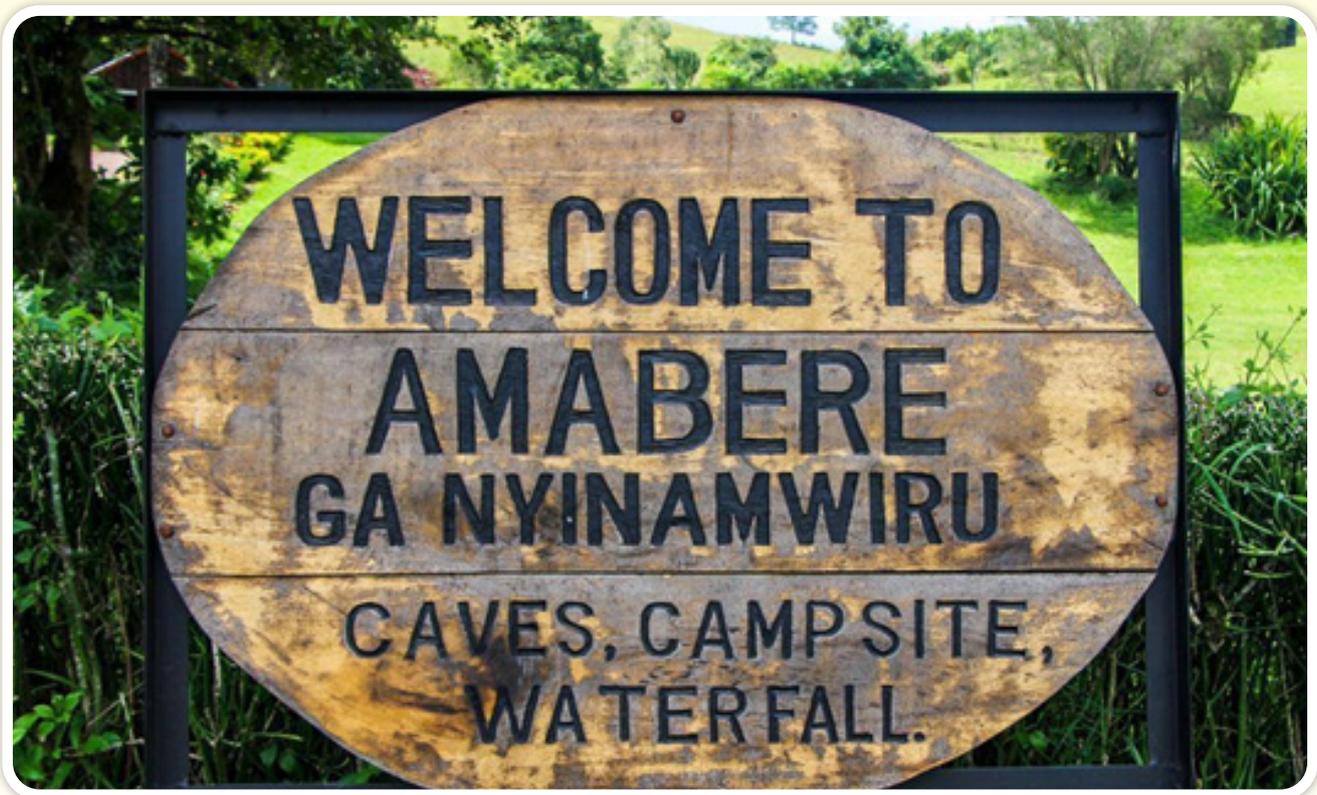
He congratulated KADWAMA upon winning the bid and applauded Kamwenge District for being the only district that has already procured a service provider for the operation and maintenance of WASH facilities. He further commended the district for attaining commendable standards

in water service management.

The launch of this financing partnership signals a transformative step in addressing long-standing challenges in the maintenance and sustainability of rural water systems. By linking financial institutions with local water governance structures, Kamwenge District is setting a precedent for innovative WASH financing in Uganda.

The partnership aims to unlock financing for hand pump maintenance through the Kamwenge District Water Maintenance Association (KADWAMA), ensuring reliable and sustainable water services for communities across the district.

EXPERIENCE THE RWENZORI THRILL OF ADVENTURE



An adventure destination with the Nyakasharu falls.



A mouthwatering 'empengyere' dish served together with the local pumpkin.



The Bakiga dance, "Ekizino"



The highest peak of Mount Rwenzori in Kasese, Uganda



KYEGEGWA DISTRICT SERVICE COMMISSION

JOB VACANCIES

EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT NO.1 OF 2025/2026

Applications are invited from suitably qualified Ugandans to fill the vacant posts that exist in the service of Kyegegwa District Local Government as listed below.

Applications must be submitted in triplicate on PUBLIC SERVICE FORM 3 (PSF 3) (Revised 2008) to the Secretary, Kyegegwa District Service Commission, P. o Box 99, Kyegegwa not later than Wednesday 18th March, 2026 at 5pm which is the closing date and time.

Application forms are obtainable from District Service Commissions Country wide, Public Service Commission offices 2nd Floor, Farmers House-Kampala and Ministry of Public Service website at www.psc.go.ug.

Applicants **MUST** attach to each form a set of **duly CERTIFIED photocopies of All Academic Certificates, Transcripts, Passlips, Employment Records, Annual Practicing Licenses, Registration Certificates** where applicable, recent passport photographs, a copy of a National Identity Card and copies of all identity cards from all former institutions of learning.

Applications should bear on top, the Advertisement No., Title of the post, day time phone contacts as well as the reference number of the post.

Serving officers are advised to route their applications through their Accounting Officers/ Responsible Officers who should be informed of the closing date to avoid delays.

Ref. No.	Post/Title	Salary Scale	Type of Employment	Department	No. of Positions
KGWA/DSC/01/2025/26	Medical Officer	U4(Med-1)	Probation	Health	01
KGWA/DSC/02/2025/26	Clinical Officer	U5 Med	Probation	Health	01
KGWA/DSC/03/2025/26	Assistant Anesthetic Officer	U5 Med	Probation	Health	01
KGWA/DSC/04/2025/26	Dispenser	U5 Med	Probation	Health	01
KGWA/DSC/05/2025/26	Theatre Assistant	U6 Med	Probation	Health	01
KGWA/DSC/06/2025/26	Road Inspector	U6 Upper	Probation	Works	01
KGWA/DSC/07/2025/26	Enrolled Midwife	U7 Med	Probation	Health	07
KGWA/DSC/08/2025/26	Enrolled Nurse	U7 Med	Probation	Health	08
KGWA/DSC/09/2025/26	Stores	U7 Upper	Probation	Health	01
KGWA/DSC/10/2025/26	Askari	U8 Lower	Probation	Health	02
KGWA/DSC/11/2025/26	Porter	U8 Lower	Probation	Health	03
KGWA/DSC/12/2025/26	Driver	U8 Upper	Probation	Works	01

Note:

1. Details of the Advert can be obtained from Kyegegwa District Service Commission office.
2. Details of the advert can also be viewed from all Notice Boards of Kyegegwa District Local Government.
3. Kyegegwa District Service Commission stands for Zero Tolerance to Corruption and does not charge money for recruitment. Jobs are on Merit, free from any form of corruption, so both men and women are encouraged to apply. Report cases of corruption to IGG, SHACU, SHHMU, RDC, DISO, CID, DPC etc.

**"ONLY SHORTLISTED CANDIDATES WILL BE CONTACTED".
SECRETARY DISTRICT SERVICE COMMISSION/ KYEGEGWA.**



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