

# Teso Post

WEEKLY ISSUE 01

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*From the Heart of Teso*



*Members of the works committee of the council inspecting the road equipment last week*

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*This is the first Weekly Teso Post edition.*

## *Editor's Note*

**Welcome to the 1st Edition of Teso Post!**

Welcome, readers, to the very first edition of the Teso Post! We're excited to launch this weekly bulletin as a platform to connect with and inform the vibrant Teso community.

This inaugural edition marks the beginning of a journey where we aim to become your trusted source for local news, events, and stories. We'll be bringing you a diverse mix of content, from local government projects and programs' updates, investment opportunities, tourism potential of the region, business features, community spotlights and cultural celebrations among others.



In this first edition, you'll find topics about the progress of government projects and programs, upcoming partnerships, passed district budgets, among other topics. But the Teso Post is much more than just news. We want to hear from you, our readers!

Do you have a story you'd like to share? An event you want to publicize? Let your voice be heard! We encourage submissions of articles, letters to the editor, and story ideas.

We believe in the power of community, and the Teso Post is here to foster that spirit. Together, let's create a platform that reflects the richness and dynamism of Teso.

Thank you for joining us on this journey. We look forward to growing with you!

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# Kapelebyong District Receives New Road Equipment



*Members of the works committee of council inspecting the road equipment last week*

Kapelebyong District is set to witness a significant improvement in its road network following the recent acquisition of brand new road equipment from the Ministry of Works and Transport. The district, which has long struggled with a poor road infrastructure, received a **Grader UG 2842 W** and a **Wheel loader UG 2852 W** on May 17, 2024.

Prior to the delivery of the equipment, two district drivers underwent a two-week training program to ensure their proficiency in operating the machinery. The equipment, manufactured by Komatsu, was ceremoniously flagged off by the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, Robbina Nabanjja, in the presence of Members of Parliament, District Engineers, District Chairpersons, and Chief Administrative Officers from the benefiting districts.

The arrival of the road equipment has generated immense excitement among the political figures, technical staff, and the general public in Kapelebyong. Local resident Margaret Akwi expressed her optimism, stating, “Acquisition

of these machines is a great relief to the district. We are hopeful our roads can easily be opened and maintained.” Akwi further emphasized that improved road access would benefit pregnant mothers seeking healthcare services.

Charles Oule, the Acting District Engineer for Kapelebyong, highlighted the cost-saving benefits of owning the road equipment. Previously, the district had to hire each machinery unit at a high cost from private contractors,

amounting to not less than UGX 1.2 million per day, excluding transportation expenses. Oule’s sentiments were echoed by Richard Okiru, who emphasized the significance of this achievement for the voters and the ruling regime.

The Works and Technical Committee of Council, led by Peter Jorem Okotum, conducted a thorough inspection of the equipment on May 22, 2024, expressing their satisfaction with the new assets. Finally, on June 5, 2024, the machines were put into operation, marking

the beginning of their vital contribution to improving Kapelebyong’s road infrastructure.

Kapelebyong District currently grapples with a considerable road network challenge, with 86 kilometers of district roads, 500 kilometers of community roads, 75 kilometers of truck roads, and a mere 0.75 kilometers of tarmac roads. Since its establishment in 2018, the lack of proper road equipment posed a significant obstacle to the district’s ability to open and maintain roads effectively.

The acquisition of these road machines presents a promising solution to Kapelebyong’s road network woes. As the district begins to witness the positive impact of this investment, it is hoped that more resources and initiatives will be directed towards improving the overall infrastructure, thus uplifting the lives of the local population.

**Emmanuel Opio**  
*Communication Officer*  
**Kapelebyong District**

# Deputy ISO Boss Urges District Communicators to Put Country First

*“When you are ideologically shallow, your outlook is narrow.”*



*Col Emmy Katabazi, Deputy Boss of the Internal Security Organization (ISO), addressing Government Communicators at Eneku Village Hotel in Soroti City*



*RCC Soroti City addressing District Communication Officers at Eneku Village Hotel*

In a recent two-day retreat, Col Emmy Katabazi, Deputy Director General (DDG) of the Internal Security Organization (ISO), called on government communication officers in Teso sub-region to emphasize the importance of national interests over individual interests. The retreat, held at the Eneku Village Hotel in Soroti City, provided an opportunity for officials to discuss challenges, collaborate on effective solutions, and enhance their communication skills.

Representatives from various government institutions, including the GCIC, Ministry of Information, Communication and Technology and National Guidance, and Ministry of Local Government, participated in the retreat aimed at promoting coordination and harmonization of information flow.

During his address, Col Katabazi stressed the need for communicators to stay well-informed by reading relevant materials and condemned those who neglect this crucial aspect of their role. He emphasized the significance of expanding one's knowledge to avoid ideological shallowness, which hinders understanding complex issues.

“When you are ideologically shallow, your outlook is narrow. If a DISO or a communication officer goes to bed without

reading something, he or she is being degraded. But also, what you read matters; you cannot just read anything,” remarked Col Katabazi

Col Katabazi called on communicators to simplify complicated matters for the local population, ensuring government programs are understood and appreciated.

The DDG underlined the collective responsibility to protect Uganda's interests and emphasized the necessity of being ideologically prepared to effectively defend the country. Col. Katabazi encouraged communicators to prioritize influencing public opinion over the role of journalists, emphasizing their responsibility to shape public perception of government initiatives.

Supporting effective communication and coordination, Soroti Resident City Commissioner (RCC), Peter Pex Paak, highlighted the importance of comprehensive information, staying updated on government projects, maintaining a district database, and providing support to department heads.

The retreat in Soroti City is part of regional training programs jointly conducted by ISO, the Ministry of ICT, the Ministry of Local Government, the Government Communicators Forum (GCOF), and

GCIC. These programs aim to equip district communicators with effective communication tools, techniques, and new trends while fostering information flow coordination.

Col. Katabazi assured the communication officers that the government is committed to ensuring citizens receive accurate information in a timely manner through them. He emphasized the need for communicators to produce tangible results, as they are paid using taxpayers' money.

The Soroti District Chairperson Mr Simon Peter Etoru Ekuu cautioned government communication officers against working for those who want to derail government programmes.

“Many times, I have a feeling that government communication officers have not been professionally trained to know their mandate as those who are supposed to churn the rightful message to the public. They instead work like they are also journalists,” he said.

**Julius Odeke**  
**Communication officer**  
**Kalaki District**

# Gov't Set to Install 21 Micro Scale Irrigation Sites In Amuria

*Drip irrigation technology at Ejeus farm in Akeriau subcounty*

Government officials have announced plans to install 21 micro scale irrigation sites in the Amuria district, as part of ongoing efforts to enhance agricultural productivity in the region. This comes after the successful installation of micro scale irrigation demonstration sites, which have proven to be transformative for local farmers.

The demonstration sites were established at Wera Seed Secondary School, Canaan Farm in Wera subcounty, and the farm of Mr. Tom Ejeu, a prominent farmer in Akeriau sub county. These sites have served as important platforms to showcase the benefits of micro scale irrigation and educate farmers on its implementation. According to Mr. Raymond Mutumba, the senior Agricultural engineer overseeing the project, the farmer field schools conducted at the demonstration sites played a pivotal role in generating interest among local farmers.

"We provided training on good agronomic practices and irrigation techniques through the farmer field schools. This motivated many farmers to contribute financially towards the installation of irrigation equipment on their own farms," Mutumba explained.

Remarkably, 21 farmers have already committed to co-funding the installation of irrigation sites on their own land. Mr. Mutumba

assured the community that these projects will be completed before the end of the current financial year.

One of the success stories is Jennifer Akilimet, the owner of Canaan demonstration farm. She has been able to boost her production throughout the year by utilizing irrigation techniques. Akilimet cultivates onions, tomatoes, eggplant, cabbage, and watermelon on her farm, and she has also ventured into fish farming by establishing a fish pond. Expressing her gratitude, Akilimet said,

"I thank the government of Uganda for setting up a micro scale irrigation demonstration site on my farm. I am now engaged in production throughout the year."

The Headteacher of Wera Seed Secondary School, Ms. Hellen Agadi, also praised the micro scale irrigation program, emphasizing its role in transferring technology to younger generations. "Our students learn from our irrigation site and actively participate in crop management. When the crops are ready, they even become part of the school diet," Agadi noted.

## About UGIFT micro scale irrigation programme

The Micro Scale Irrigation Program, known

as UGIFT, aims to promote cost-effective micro irrigation technology adoption among farmers in Uganda, thereby improving farm productivity and living standards. The program aligns with Uganda's National Irrigation Policy, which targets an expansion of irrigated land by the year 2040.

Under this initiative, the government offers financial support, covering between 25% and 75% of the total irrigation equipment costs, with a maximum contribution of 7.2 million shillings per acre. This means that farmers interested in irrigating one acre might contribute between 2 million and 8 million shillings, depending on their specific circumstances and equipment choice.

Farmers with a water source and available land are encouraged to express their interest and apply for support through the program. By facilitating access to micro scale irrigation, the government aims to drive agricultural development and improve the livelihoods of farmers in Amuria and beyond.

**Christopher Okiring,**  
Communication Officer  
Amuria District



*Farmers inspecting the onion garden at Canaan farm in Wera Subcounty*



*Members of the committee of production experimenting a drag horse technology at Ajeus farm*

# UPDF Engineering Brigade To Construct A new Staff House for Asuret HC III



*Handing over the construction of Asuret Staff house to UPDF*



*Launching the Construction of Staff House in Asuret Health Center by RDC Kumaketch Salim done on suits*

The Asuret health centre III in Soroti district, recently received a much-needed boost in infrastructure with the construction of a new staff house. This project was undertaken by the UPDF Engineers Brigade as part of the government's initiative to ensure cost-effective and efficient construction of Ministry of Health and Education infrastructure.

During the handover event ceremony held in Asuret last week, Mr. Kumakech Salim, the RDC Soroti district, expressed his confidence in the UPDF Engineering Brigade. He commended their commitment to carrying out capital projects and constructions, emphasizing their significant contribution to national development. The district officials, community leaders, and influential figures such as Mr. Olyet John, the District Internal Security Officer, and Mr. Etoru Simon Peter Ekuu, the district Chairperson, were present at the event.

The Ministry of Health allocated Uganda shillings 400,000 million to Soroti district's local government for the construction of a two-in-one staff house at Asuret Health Centre III for the current financial year of 2023/2024. This investment reflects the local government's dedication to improving healthcare services and supporting healthcare workers on the front lines.

In his speech, Mr. Etoru, the District Chairperson, emphasized the importance of this project. He stated that by providing safe and comfortable homes for health workers, the local government ensures their effective performance and unwavering commitment to serving the people of Soroti District. This initiative not only focuses on construction but also aims to invest in the future of the community's health.

Leading the project with precision and dedication is Lt Solomon Kagogwe, the in-charge Teso regional UPDF site commander. Lt Kagogwe expressed the brigade's commitment to utilizing allocated resources effectively for the staff house construction. He emphasized the significance of community development and the vital role of good health infrastructure for any society.

"We're not just building structures, we're building lives," said Lt Kagogwe, underlining the brigade's commitment to bringing hope and improving healthcare services in Asuret.

In addition to the Asuret Health Centre III staff house, the UPDF Engineering Brigade is also undertaking the construction of the Soroti District's new headquarters in Katine sub-county. The Ministry of Defence and Veteran Affairs awarded this project at a phased cost of Ugx 10 billion. The brigade's dedication to community development is evident in their involvement in multiple construction projects throughout the region.

**Abraham Ekwaru,**  
**Communication Officer**  
**Soroti District**



*Machine Test LCV Chairman for Kalaki District tests the two machines that Central Government has donated the district at Kibimo Primary School.*

# Kalaki District Receives New Road Equipment

**K**alaki District Chairperson, Mr. Samuel Okello, unveiled two newly-donated road machines in a ceremony held on Monday. The event took place at the Bululu-Kibimo-Lake Kyoga Road, with the aim of testing the effectiveness of the equipment on various roads across the district.

During the launch, Mr. Okello stressed the importance of protecting the newly graded roads from damage caused by individuals using ox-ploughs. He urged the people of Kalaki, specifically those in Bululu Sub-county, to be vigilant in safeguarding the roads to ensure easy access to important markets in Bululu, Otuboi, and Kalaki.

Addressing a gathering at Bululu Trading Centre, Mr. Okello reassured the community that efforts were underway to acquire additional road equipment, including water bowser machines. These machines would be used to further enhance the quality of road

grading in the district.

District councillor, Mr. Robin Hood Ekwau, representing Otuboi Sub-county, emphasized the need for collaboration between local leaders and the district administration to ensure proper road maintenance. He highlighted the significance of maintaining passable conditions on roads connecting neighboring sub-counties.

Bolstering Mr. Okello's statements, Ms. Edith Gift Areso, a district official, assured locals that the district officials were actively present at the headquarters. She encouraged community members to visit the district office to witness the progress firsthand, rather than relying on hearsay.

Mr. Okello reaffirmed the district's commitment to development and chastised the mistreatment of government officials, particularly Chief Administrative Officer Mr.

Christopher Okumu. He emphasized that the district's achievements spoke for themselves and did not require lengthy explanations. "What we are doing as a district is here to speak for itself. It does not need people to explain," Okello said.

Expressing gratitude to President Yoweri Museveni, Mr. Okello acknowledged the president's support in securing funds for constructing the district headquarters. He also cautioned the technical staff against misusing public funds, urging them to maintain transparent records of their activities to avoid any speculation or investigation.

**Julius Odeke**  
**Communication officer**  
**Kalaki District**



*District Chairman Samuel Okello launches the new machines that Kalaki District has received from Central Government grading Bululu-Kibimo-Lake Kyoga Road on 20th May 2024*



# Former Chief Whip Daudi Migereko Urges NRM Leaders in Eastern Uganda to Mentor Young Leaders

Former Government Chief Whip, Hon. Daudi Migereko, has called upon National Resistance Movement (NRM) leaders in Eastern Uganda to guide and mentor the next generation of leaders within the party. His impassioned plea was made

Sharing his personal journey, Migereko recounted how influential figures like Sam Ngude Odaka and Betty Sekitoleko identified his potential early on and provided the mentorship that propelled him to leadership positions. Reflecting on their selfless dedication to nurturing talent, Migereko urged current leaders to follow suit and support the growth of emerging leaders within the party.

“Let’s ensure that the youth are not only prepared but also empowered to lead tomorrow,” Migereko urged, highlighting the critical role of seasoned leaders in shaping the future political landscape. Drawing attention to recent developments in other African countries, Migereko cautioned against complacency, urging Ugandan leaders to uphold stability and progress to avoid pitfalls witnessed elsewhere on the continent. He referenced initiatives by opposition groups, such as the National Unity Platform’s leadership institute, as a call to action for NRM leaders to proactively engage in cultivating leadership skills among their ranks.

Acknowledging his own journey and the opportunities provided by President Yoweri Museveni, Migereko expressed gratitude for the chance to serve in leadership capacities and collaborate with diverse individuals towards national development.



during a workshop for regional whips in Parliament held at Wash and Wills Hotel in Mbale.

The workshop convened NRM leaders from various districts in Greater Eastern Uganda, including representatives from Karamoja and Sebei sub-regions, as well as delegates from Teso, Bukedi, Busoga, and Bugisu regions. Among the attendees were Members of Parliament from Eastern Uganda, Resident District Commissioners, District Chairpersons, DISOs, NRM Party Chairpersons, and Chief Administrative Officers.

In his address to the assembled leaders, Migereko emphasized the pivotal role of mentorship in nurturing upcoming leaders. He stressed the importance of preparing young individuals to step into leadership roles and continue the party’s legacy of addressing challenges like poverty and unemployment in the community.

In response to Migereko’s stirring call to action, Hon. Richard Wanda, representing Bungokho South, highlighted the importance of allocating resources to facilitate effective mentorship programs at all levels of leadership. Stressing the need for capacity-building, Wanda emphasized that empowering lower-level leaders is essential for fostering a culture of mentorship and growth within the party.

Echoing these sentiments, Hon. Joseph Okiror of Usuk County shared a personal anecdote about Migereko’s positive influence, underscoring the transformative impact of mentorship on aspiring leaders. He urged his fellow leaders to prioritize mentorship activities within their districts to guide and inspire the next generation of political leaders.

**Julius Odeke**  
Communication officer  
Kalaki District

***“Let’s ensure that the youth are not only prepared but also empowered to lead tomorrow,”***

# Gov't Allocates UGX 3 Bn to Upgrade Wera HCIII to Health Centre IV in Amuria District



The government has approved a budget of UGX 3 billion for the upgrade of Wera Health Centre Three (HCIII) to a Health Centre Four (HCIV). This significant development is part of the Uganda intergovernmental Fiscal Transfers Programme (UGIFT) and is scheduled to take place in the upcoming 2024/2025 financial year.

Godfrey Opolot, the Acting District Health Officer of Amuria, revealed that the allocated funds would be utilized to establish essential infrastructure necessary for the elevation of Wera Health Centre III to its new status as a health centre four. Additionally, an allocation of UGX 475 million has been set aside for the procurement of medical and laboratory equipment for the facility, ensuring the availability of modern healthcare tools.

“The upgrade of Wera Health Centre III to Health Centre IV will greatly facilitate the provision of healthcare services to our

community,” Opolot expressed with optimism.

The decision to upgrade Wera Health Centre III was greeted with enthusiasm by Mr. Jacob Aliu, the Secretary for Health and Education. He believes the upgrade is long overdue, considering the distance some patients have had to travel to reach Amuria General Hospital.

“As the political leadership of Amuria District, we are delighted to witness the upgrade of Wera Health Centre III to Health Centre IV. This development will significantly benefit our people, especially those residing in the sub-counties of Abarilela, Wera, and Amolo,” Aliu commented.

This investment in healthcare infrastructure follows the successful upgrade of Amuria Health Centre IV to a general hospital in the previous financial year (2019/2020). The now fully-fledged hospital serves residents from the districts of Amuria, Abim, Alebtong, Soroti,

and Kapelebyong.

Furthermore, in the forthcoming 2024/2025 financial year, Golokwara and Abeko Health Centre IIs are expected to commence operations as Health Centre IIIs. Thanks to funding from UGIFT, maternity wards have been constructed, and essential medical equipment has been provided to enable the transition.

To address the growing healthcare needs, the 2024/25 financial year budget for Amuria District has also set aside UGX 88,974,000 for the construction of a theatre at Orungo Health Centre III. This initiative is poised to further enhance healthcare services and provide specialized care to patients in the area.

### Other projects

Notably, the government has not only prioritized healthcare but also education in the district. As part of the school facilitation grant, a two-in-one classroom block with an office will be constructed at Oriebai Primary School and Olwaorungo Primary School. Each school has been allocated UGX 78,430,000, aiming to create conducive learning environments for the students.

In addition to these projects, the budget has earmarked UGX 20 Million shillings for the construction of a much-needed pit latrine at Ogolai Primary School, ensuring proper sanitation and hygiene practices among the students.

**Christopher Okiring,**  
**Communication Officer**  
**Amuria District**

# Kapelebyong District and Village Enterprise Join Forces to Alleviate Poverty

*A Game-Changing Partnership Worth sh350m*

Poverty eradication efforts in Kapelebyong District are set to receive a significant boost with the signing of a partnership between the district and Village Enterprise. The partnership, unveiled on Monday at the district headquarters, aims to address extreme poverty by empowering women, youth, and refugees living on less than \$2.51 a day.

Under the partnership agreement, Kapelebyong and Acowa sub-counties will receive a grant of shs350m (Ugandan shillings) by the end of June, with a second grant of shs180m scheduled after six months. This funding will benefit approximately 2,250 households in the target communities.

The grant will be distributed to groups of three individuals who have undergone training in group dynamics, financial literacy, and enterprise development. Each group will receive a grant of shs500,000, enabling them to start sustainable businesses of their choice with guidance from Village Enterprise.

The partnership has been lauded by Rhoda Oroma, the Chief Administrative Officer for Kapelebyong, who expressed gratitude and enthusiasm for the program.

“I’m extremely excited for this program. Its model is very organised and you have come to fill in the gap,” Madam Oroma said.

Asimwe Precious, an officer from the RDC’s office, also praised Village Enterprise for their poverty eradication efforts, emphasizing that the initiative is well-suited for Kapelebyong. The district, being hard to reach and economically challenged, stands to benefit greatly from the program. Precious highlighted the importance of financial literacy in uplifting the understanding and economic situation of the people in the district.

According to statistics from the Kapelebyong district planning unit, the poverty rate in the district currently stands at 49%, higher than the national rate of 39%. This partnership between Kapelebyong and Village Enterprise aims to address this disparity and create sustainable avenues for economic growth and poverty reduction.

Village Enterprise, a non-profit organization, has a track record of promoting entrepreneurship, innovation, and collective action to end extreme poverty in rural Africa. By providing training, funding, and ongoing support, they empower individuals to start and sustain small businesses, thereby building capacity and overcoming challenges.

**Emmanuel Opio**  
Communication Officer  
Kapelebyong District



*Gerald Kyalisima, the Regional Manager Village Enterprise explaining about the program to the participants*



*Ms. Oroma Rhoda, the Kapelebyong Chief Administrative Officer addressing the participants*

# Education Projects Worth Ugx 190M Commissioned in Kumi District

The Resident District Commissioner (RDC) of Kumi district, Mr. Ahamada Washaki, commissioned projects constructed under the Education department on Thursday, June 6, 2024, with financing from the Government of Uganda through the School Fund Grant (SFG). Mr. Washaki, accompanied by the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), District Chairperson, DISO, DEO, District Engineer, and other officers, commissioned the renovation of 12 classroom blocks: 8 classrooms at Omerein P/S with a project sum of Ugx 117,590,027, 2 classrooms at Ojie P/S at Ugx 27,200,239, and 2 classrooms at Ogoi P/S.

The officers also commissioned the construction of a 5-stance-lined VIP pit latrine at Ojie P/S at a project cost of Ugx27,947,238. These projects are some of the capital investments made by the Government of Uganda in the education sector in the financial year 2023-2024.

While commissioning the projects, Mr. Washaki reiterated the government's commitment to improve education services in Kumi and Uganda at large. He urged the school management committees to protect the investments and ensure that they are put to use. He further thanked the contractors for delivering quality work, cautioned those who comprise standards against it, and appealed to the office of the CAO to give contracts to only those who do good work.

According to Mr. Emorut Stephen, the senior education officer who represented the District Education Officer (DEO), the construction of these classrooms and latrines will improve grades and school attendance, as he attributed absenteeism and poor performance to poor sanitation and dilapidated classrooms.

"This achievement is remarkable as it is going to improve performance in the district as learners are going to study in a conducive environment," he said. He thanked the government for continuously sending resources to the district to provide education services to the people. He added that the education sector is one of the biggest beneficiaries of the resources allocated to the district.



*RDC Kumi, Mr Washaki Ahamada commissions one of the renovated 2 classroom blocks.*

According to Emorut, besides the SFG, the department also receives Universal Primary Education (UPE) and Universal Secondary Education (USE) Grants to support schools, and the department has been in a position to pay all teachers.

The School Fund Grant (SFG) focuses on the construction of classroom blocks, the construction of pit latrines, and the renovation of classroom blocks in primary schools.

Every financial year, the central government releases funds for the construction of new classroom blocks,

VIP pit latrines, staff houses, renovation of old classrooms, and the purchase of desks. RDC Kumi, Mr. Washaki Ahamada (C), Commissions the 5-Stance Pit Latrine at Ojie Ps.

RDC commissions one of the two renovated classroom blocks at Ojie P/S.

**Omoding Emmanuel Ichariat**  
**Communication Officer**  
**Kumi District**



*RDC Kumi, Mr Washaki Ahamada(C) Commissions 5 Stance Pit Latrine at Ojie Ps*

# Soroti District Passes 36 Bn Budget for the Next FY



Soroti District Local Government has passed a budget of UGX 36,377,426,000 in the District's council meeting held on 6th June, 2024.

The budget for the financial year 2024/2025 reflects a 17.4 percent increase from the previous year of UGX 30,976,449,000

Presiding over the council meeting was Hon. Olebe Stephen, the Council Speaker, who guided the proceedings alongside Mr. Ocen James Andrew, the Chief Administrative Officer, who had been pivotal in the budget's formulation.

Hon. Enangu outlined the budget, breaking it down into its major components:

**Education:** A significant portion was allocated to improving educational facilities, hiring more teachers, and providing learning materials. "Our goal is to ensure that every child in Soroti has access to quality education," Hon. Enangu emphasized.

**Healthcare:** Funds were earmarked for upgrading health centers, purchasing medical supplies, and constructing staff houses for health workers, continuing the commitment shown in previous projects.

**Infrastructure:** The budget included provisions for building and repairing roads, enhancing water supply systems, and expanding electricity coverage. "Improving infrastructure

is crucial for economic growth and community well-being," he noted.

**Production:** Investments were planned for supporting local farmers through training programs, providing seeds and tools, and enhancing market access for agricultural products.

**Social Services:** Allocations were made for social welfare programs aimed at supporting vulnerable populations, including orphans, the elderly, and people with disabilities.

## **The detailed budget allocation included:**

**Education:** UGX 5,443,400,000 for sector development.

**Administration:** UGX 21,595,517,000 for administrative and miscellaneous expenses.

**Health:** UGX 2,265,484,000 for healthcare infrastructure upgrades.

**Works and Technical Services:** UGX 2,465,792,000.

**Production:** UGX 969,700,000.

**Water and Sanitation Services:** UGX 1,203,235,000.

**Natural Resource Department:** UGX 486,846,000.

**Trade and Industry:** UGX 66,336,000.

**Internal Audit:** UGX 53,919,000.

**Statutory Bodies:** UGX 589,991,000.

**Finance Department:** UGX 435,911,000.

**Planning Unit:** UGX 394,897,000.

**Community-Based Services:** UGX 406,398,000.

The District Chairperson, Hon. Etoru Simon Peter Ekuu, expressed his gratitude to the councilors for their tireless efforts in crafting a budget that addresses the district's pressing needs.

"This budget is a testament to our commitment to transparency and accountability. We are determined to make a positive impact on our community."

The district leadership has assured the public that the budget will be executed with utmost transparency and accountability, ensuring that the district's resources are utilized efficiently to drive development and improve the well-being of residents.

**Abraham Ekwaru,**  
*Communication Officer,*  
*Soroti District*

# PILLARS OF PARISH DEVELOPMENT MODEL



# KABERAMAIDO: RDC Commends District Team for Overcoming Challenges and Achieving Success in PDM's First Phase



**K**aberamaido district has made significant progress in the first phase of the Parish Development Model (PDM) program, despite facing various challenges. The Resident District Commissioner (RDC) commended the district team for their achievements and emphasized the importance of utilizing challenges as opportunities for improvement.

During a PDM progress review meeting held by Kaberamaido district stakeholders, the RDC, Lotem Linos Tumkori highlighted the enduring value of PDM and urged continuous efforts in educating communities about its benefits. The RDC emphasized the selection of deserving beneficiaries, particularly subsistence households, and called on technocrats to prioritize this task.

One of the major challenges faced during the first phase was the payment method to beneficiaries. Many faced difficulties accessing funds, with extensive expenses incurred during the withdrawal process. To address this issue, a new system called WENDI was introduced,

aimed at alleviating hardships and system failures experienced previously.

The RDC expressed satisfaction with the introduction of WENDI, as it allows beneficiaries to spend money in their respective parishes, thereby enhancing the livelihoods of local communities. He emphasized the need for proper sensitization to prevent cases where people abandoned enterprises due to lack of awareness. Efforts are underway to ensure a smoother execution during the upcoming second phase of PDM.

At the review meeting, Mr. Agaja Joseph, the District Planning Officer (DPO), shared important statistics with stakeholders. Kaberamaido district is home to 29 Savings and Credit Cooperative Organizations (SACCOs) and 439 enterprises. In the first phase of PDM, a total of 2.9 billion shillings was disbursed to beneficiaries in the district. For the fiscal year 2023/2024, the district has received 50 million shillings for each SACCO, with the remaining funds yet to be disbursed after profiling all the

groups.

To streamline the distribution of PDM funds, all SACCOs have been enrolled with WENDI, which will reduce the cost and inconvenience of traveling to neighboring districts for cash withdrawal.

However, the DPO highlighted a persistent challenge of insufficient power supply and limited mobile network coverage in many sub-counties, hindering online work and remote access to PDM resources.

Despite these obstacles, stakeholders remain committed to making PDM a success in Kaberamaido district, with the local authorities and community members actively collaborating to overcome challenges and improve the lives of the beneficiaries.

**Ikelat Miriam Omal**  
Communication Officer  
Kaberamaido District

# Katakwi District at a Glance



*The council chambers.  
The front view currently accommodates 70 percent of the departments as the final stages of construction is on going.*

Curved out of Soroti district, Katakwi, through an Act of Parliament, became its own district in 1997. In July 2005, Amuria District was curved out of Katakwi District. Katakwi is bordered to the east by Nakapiripirit District, to the north and north-east by Napak, to the west by Amuria District, to the south-west by Soroti, and to the south by Katakwi and Kumi. Since its inception, the district has taken on different shapes in terms of infrastructure, with financing from the government. Below is some of the notable infrastructure in Katakwi district.

The old block that accommodated all the departments except health. Below are the RDC, DISO, and Deputy RDC's offices from inception.

Katakwi General Hospital, which was elevated from HC IV, has given birth to three HC IVs in the district, distributed in the three counties of Usuk, Toroma, and Ngariam. The general hospital serves as a referral with a 4-star laboratory, an X-ray unit, and a theatre. The District Headquarters has taken shape in phases with yearly allocations and special grants for its construction. In view is the main gate that offers magnificent beauty and welcome to the fast-growing and developing district. The council chambers. The front view currently accommodates 70 percent of the departments as the final stages of construction are ongoing. The aerial and ground views of the district compound.

Phase V (5) of council chamber construction will house the council and its activities. The other ongoing construction phase is phase IX, the final phase of construction.

Katakwi district is filled with a lot of features that harbour and offer a lot of tourism potential. The Abela Rock welcomes you from Soroti with a nice view of the town and is where the Joshua radio station is established. The rich market that provides cattle to buyers across the continent is named after the availability of cattle, Ocorimogin ("lake of bulls"), or, in other words, cattle. Katakwi is 50% covered by water bodies, but it is significantly connected to Lake Bisina and Kyoga, which connect it to Kumi by ferry. This



*Phase V of Council chambers construction which will house council itself and its activities. The other construction ongoing is phase IX the final phase of construction*



*Katakwi General hospital elevated from HC IV*

was a project of the government under the Ministry of Works to ease movement across the water to boost business as the government transforms from peasantry to a cash economy.

The district, with financing from the government, benefited from the upgrade of roads to Tarmac that were constructed from Soroti City to Moroto with tarmac running through the town council, giving

it a beautiful road network that is rated best in the Teso subregion. The road is adorned with street lights running along the major streets, with a plan to extend to other streets to provide light and security. Shoebills. Katakwi is the only district that harbours the shoebill bird along the Bisina Belt in Magoro Sub County.

A view of Soroti Road taken between the old admin

block and the hospital is below, as is a view of Karamoja from Katakwi.

**John Baptist Emukoki**  
**Communication Officer**  
**Katakwi District**



*The old block that accommodated all the departments*



*Shoebills*



*To the new outlook of the district headquarters that has taken shape in phases with yearly allocations and special grants for its construction*



# Tourism Hub Tisai Island Undergoing Infrastructural Development

Tisai Island, located approximately 25 kilometres from Kumi town in Tisai Subcounty, adjacent to Kapujan, is a destination that offers eco-tourism and other unique attractions. The island is known for its history of insecurity at the time of Karimojong raids, which prompted many inhabitants to abandon the place in search of more secure settlements.

However, recently, with the deployment of security forces, there have been fewer and fewer attacks in the area.

Mr. Washaki Ahamada, the Resident District Commissioner (RDC) of Kumi, while commissioning projects done by the government, assured the natives that insecurity was going to be a thing of the past on the island. The island has grown into a tourism and investment hub in Kumi,

with government policies ranging from tourism to infrastructure development.

#### Tourism in Tasai

The island is recognised as one of the designated bird sanctuaries in Uganda, making it a haven for birdwatchers and nature enthusiasts. It is an integral part of the Opeta-Bisina wetland system, which is known for its diverse and endangered bird species. Notably, Tisai Island is home to rare bird species such as the shoebill and the white-buckled duck.

On occasion, the elusive Fox's weaver bird can also be spotted here. Birdwatchers will be delighted by the opportunity to observe and photograph these unique and threatened avian species in their natural habitat.

According to Enoch Amodoi, District Tourism Officer, Tisai Island offers a chance to encounter several water birds that may not be easily spotted elsewhere. Some of the notable water birds include the iconic shoebill, the lesser jacana, the purple swamp hen, Allens gallinule, the common moorhen, and the lesser moorhen. The island's rich biodiversity and unspoiled natural beauty make it a truly enchanting and rewarding destination for birdwatching and nature appreciation.

He further says that Tisai Island presents an extraordinary opportunity for travellers to indulge in a memorable and authentic Ugandan experience, exploring its unique wildlife, connecting with locals, and enjoying the serenity of a less-visited paradise.

Primarily reached through a canoe ride, this adds to the adventure and charm of the visit.

#### Government investments.

The government has started various infrastructure and other developmental projects on the island.

Previously, not a lot of government funding was allocated to the island, which caused outcry with many stories written about the absence of government effort on the island.

However, the situation has since changed, with remarkable projects following one after the other, and they include;

Construction of the 3 km Kachelakwenye-Tisai Road Worth over Ugx 6 Billion

Under the Agriculture Cluster Development Project (ACDP), the government earmarked over Ugx 6,063,940,232 billion for the construction of the road to connect Tisai Island to the mainland. The road was launched by the Honourable Frank Tumwebaze, Minister for Agriculture, Animal Industry, and Fisheries, in April 2023.

According to Mr. Orone Justine, the District Engineer, major drainage activities have been completed, filling up to the design level is ongoing, and installation of the final layer is expected to be completed by the end of June 2024, when the road will be ready for commissioning. Photo: Construction works at Kachelakwenye-Tisai Road.

Construction of the Tisai Milk Collection Centre Tisai, with over 8,000 people, boasts a large number of cattle, making it key to milk production in the district and Teso region.

Dr. Omaido Edward, the Senior Veterinary Officer, Kumi, says that there are over 20,000 cattle on the



**Construction works at Kachelakwenye- Tisai road**



**Tisai Mini shared solar Project**



island alone. He adds that this alone makes milk production abundant on the island but also makes milk cheap due to a lack of storage.

Under the Local Economic Growth Support Project (LEGS), the government injected Ugx 703,549,967 for the construction and installation of a milk cooler at Tisai to support the storage and processing of milk. The milk cooler was completed and commissioned by Hon. Raphael Magyezi, Minister of Local Government.

During monitoring of the project, Geoffrey Kakuru, the chairperson of Tisai Dairy Farmers Cooperative, informed members that the cooperative now sells milk at 1,200 shillings, up from 500 shillings before the milk cooler was constructed. He thanked the government for transforming the lives of the cooperative members through the facility. Completed the building of the Tisai Milk Cooler.

Construction of Tisai Mini Shared Solar worth Ugx 453,240,923.

This is the third-largest government-supported infrastructure project in the whole Tisai subcounty. The project has provided street lighting to the community in Acera Trading Centre.

Furthermore, it has created employment in carpentry, salons, and entertainment and boosted sales in shops dealing in drinks. The consumers pay for power through Tisai Shared Solar Cooperative Society Limited, which is in charge of the functionality, operation, and maintenance of the system.

The residents also get the power at very subsidised prices, which enables them to operate their businesses easily and profitably.

Government's commitment to improving the area cannot be questioned, as the once-forgotten island becomes a paradise in Kumi district.

Tisai mini shared solar project.

**Emmanuel Omoding Ichariat**  
**Communication Officer,**  
**Kumi District**



*Tisai, the virgin tourist destination with no social amenities*



*Man fetching water in Tisai*

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**Contact:**  
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A group of people, likely from the Teso community, are captured in a traditional dance or ceremony. They are wearing traditional clothing, including beaded necklaces, headbands, and skirts. The background is a clear blue sky. The image has a light blue overlay.

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