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Tororo Municipality to Digitalize Street Parking Revenue Collection

THE EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome to this month's edition of Bukedi Post, where we spotlight the people, ideas and public initiatives shaping communities across the Bukedi sub-region.

This issue highlights encouraging progress in education, agriculture, healthcare and local governance. We feature how Melac Agri is transforming farm graduates into community trainers, the impact of the Building Tomorrow programme reaching more than 10,000 learners in Pallisa, and renewed efforts to strengthen HIV prevention and rights-based health services in Busia. We also examine innovative responses to agricultural challenges, including the use of biological control to combat the invasive parthenium weed, alongside stories that underscore the importance of accountability as newly elected local leaders assume office.

These stories reflect a shared commitment to improving livelihoods through effective service delivery, community participation and responsible leadership. They also remind us that sustainable development is driven by citizens and institutions working together to solve local challenges.

We thank our district communication officers, contributors and readers for continuing to make Bukedi Post a platform for authentic community storytelling. We hope this edition informs, inspires and celebrates the resilience of our people.



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Tororo Municipality to Digitalize Street Parking Revenue Collection

By Okello Mathew, Communication Officer – Tororo Municipality



Tororo municipality team listening to presentation from Kaparking company

Tororo Municipal Council is set to digitalize the collection of street parking fees to minimize existing revenue leakages.

The initiative is being pioneered by KaParking, a digital company that has developed an online system to manage street parking fee collection.

Under the arrangement, the company will deploy field officers to different streets in Tororo Town

and provide them with gadgets to monitor vehicles parking and exiting. The system instantly generates a receipt for the vehicle owner to pay a fee to be communicated by the council.

Speaking during an entry meeting on 15 August 2026 at the Mayor's Parlor, Brian Otim, a senior officer at KaParking, said the system was developed to solve challenges in street parking such as deliberate tax evasion, gross revenue

leakage, under-declaration of revenue, data loss, and ticket forgery.

The company has been given one month to pilot the system, after which further engagement will be held to discuss the future of its operations in the municipality.

Tororo Municipal Council Town Clerk, Alikwan Ayub Kisubi, said he is receiving positive feedback from fellow accounting officers across the country who have already adopted the system.

Kisubi noted that the system will help Tororo Municipality enhance revenue mobilization, especially in the parking sector where it has been collecting a disappointing

Shs 6 million per annum.

Christine Asinde, the Councilor representing PWDs in Tororo Municipal Council, said the municipality has been struggling with street revenue mobilization and noted that the system will be a relief.

Tororo Municipality Mayor, Benerd Ochieng, asked councilors, technical officers, and residents to collectively own the initiative for its success.

He reassured the people of Tororo Municipality that enhanced revenue from different sources will help improve service delivery, especially in security lights, roads, health, and general development.



BUSIA: District Counts Every Learner, Teacher and Classroom to Guide Education Planning

By Moses Mangeni, Communication Officer, Busia District



One of the enumerators, Apetai Geoffery taking count of the pupils at Habuleke Primary school in Busitema Sub County

Busia District has embarked on a physical headcount of learners and teachers in government-aided schools to establish accurate data that will guide planning, budgeting and the allocation of education resources.

The one-day exercise, conducted on August 3, 2026, covered government-aided primary and

secondary schools outside Busia Municipal Council. Education officials physically counted learners and teachers while also assessing classrooms, furniture and the academic and professional qualifications of teachers.

District Education Officer Anthony Wanyama said reliable education data is increasingly important as the district plans for growing pressure on classrooms, desks and teachers.

For years, some schools have relied on enrolment figures carried forward from previous years, creating a gap between official records and the number of learners actually attending school.

Principal Assistant Secretary Kayira Muhamud Waiswa said the exercise would provide a more accurate picture of the situation in schools.

"Some schools were relying on old enrolment figures, which gave

a false picture compared to the actual situation on the ground. The headcount is therefore very timely,” he said.

Beyond counting learners, the exercise captured the number of teachers physically present, their qualifications, the number and condition of classrooms, availability of furniture and the relationship between enrolment, classroom space and staffing.

District Planner Patrick Wabwire said the data would help the district identify schools requiring urgent intervention and support decisions on classroom construction, furniture procurement, teacher

deployment, recruitment, inspection and budgeting.

The information could also strengthen the district's case when seeking support from central government and development partners.

District officials said accurate school records will improve accountability and ensure public investments respond to actual needs rather than outdated figures.

The next step will be to analyse and validate the findings before incorporating them into the district's education plans and budgets.

Busia Local Leaders Warned Against Corruption as Over 500 Chairpersons Sworn In

By Moses Mangeni, Communication Officer, Busia DLG

Newly elected local council leaders in Busia District have been warned against corruption, improper land dealings and other practices that could deny vulnerable residents access to justice, public services and government programmes.

The warning was issued during the swearing-in of local council chairpersons at the district

headquarters on August 24, 2026, as the new leaders were inducted into their responsibilities, including the operation of Local Council Courts.

Chief Magistrate His Worship Thomas Okoth Aquinas urged the leaders to constitute Local Council Courts in accordance with the law and ensure that women participate as required



I-R front row: Chief Magistrate, HW. Thomas Okoth Aquinas, Principal Assistant secretary Kayira Muhamud, District chairperson Namayindi John Charles, RDC, Namagogwe Hajira



Some of the LC1 chairpersons taking oaths of office and allegiance at the District offices

under gender provisions. He said the courts should handle minor disputes at village and parish level and promote peaceful resolution of community conflicts.

The Chief Magistrate also emphasised proper record-keeping, directing leaders to appoint competent court secretaries who can read, write and accurately document proceedings and decisions. He highlighted the importance

of records in family disputes, succession matters and land disagreements.

For land cases where a party fails to comply with a Local Council Court judgment, he advised leaders to make a formal application to the Chief Magistrate's Court for execution of the judgment in accordance with the law.

Resident District Commissioner

BUSIA: Melac Agri Turns Farm Graduates into Community Trainers

By Moses Mangeni, Communication Officer, Busia DLG



Some of the trained farmers pose with their certificates for a group photo

Fifteen farmers in Busia District have graduated from an agricultural training programme with startup seed kits and a new responsibility—to take modern farming skills back to their communities and train other farmers.

The graduates completed the 10th training programme of the Melac Agri Project, which equips farmers with practical knowledge in agronomy and modern agricultural practices. The graduation ceremony was held on August 6, 2026, at the project's offices at Ndaiga Trading Centre in Busitema Sub-county.

Rather than ending with certification, the programme uses a “train, equip and multiply” model in which graduates establish demonstration plots and mentor neighbouring farmers.

Farmers from Busitema, Tiira and Buteba were among the beneficiaries, with training covering soil health, proper spacing, timely planting, pest management, record-keeping, group marketing and simple value addition.

The startup seed kits are intended to help graduates establish demonstration plots that can serve as practical learning centres within their communities.

District Production Officer Barasa Patrick urged farmers to embrace

group approaches, saying organised farmers can access better inputs, negotiate improved prices and share knowledge more effectively.

Busitema Sub-county Agricultural Officer Ologe Joseph emphasised the importance of household food security. He encouraged families to work together in agriculture and ensure they can provide at least one balanced meal each day.

He also called for greater participation of men and young people in farming, saying shared responsibility can strengthen household production and incomes.

Melac Agri Project Executive Director Louis Lakitari said the graduation marked a handover rather than an end to the programme, with trained farmers expected to continue informal extension work in their communities alongside periodic support from project staff and agricultural officers.

The initiative is being implemented alongside Uganda's Parish Development Model, using existing community structures to reach more households.

As the project expands, its success will be measured not only by the number of farmers trained, but by how many households adopt improved farming practices,

increase production and strengthen food security across Busitema, Tiira and Buteba.

Busia Steps Up HIV Prevention and Rights-Based Services for Key Populations

By Moses Mangeni, Communication Officer – Busia DLG



Assistant RDC, Masika Jackline (in blue) launching the ACT project at Royal Breeze Hotel

Busia District is set to strengthen access to sexual and reproductive health, mental health and legal support for key populations under a new 36-month intervention aimed at addressing barriers to essential health and protection services.

The Action to Advance Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and Human Rights to Key Populations in Uganda (ACT-Uganda) project was launched on August 19, 2026, by Assistant Resident District Commissioner (RDC) Masika Jackline at Royal Breeze Hotel.

The project will be implemented by a consortium comprising the Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum (HRAPF), Reproductive Health Uganda (RHU) and the Universal Coalition of Affirming Africans Uganda. It seeks to improve access to inclusive, rights-based sexual and reproductive health services, mental health support and legal aid for key populations.

Speaking at the launch, RHU Executive Director Jackson Chekwako said the intervention would strengthen sexual and reproductive health and human rights through coordinated service delivery, advocacy and capacity building.

He called for closer collaboration among stakeholders to address barriers that prevent key populations from accessing essential health and protection services.

Masika, speaking on behalf of the district leadership, welcomed the intervention and pledged to promote collaboration among local government departments,

health facilities, civil society organisations and other partners.

She said inclusive and rights-based programming was important in ensuring that no one was left behind in accessing health services.

The district's Principal Assistant Secretary, Kayira Muhamud, cited concern over a reported 26 per cent rate of new HIV infections attributed to Ministry of Health figures. He said the situation called for stronger prevention, testing, treatment and community outreach efforts.

Kayira expressed hope that ACT-Uganda would receive the necessary support to contribute to reducing new HIV infections in the district.

The launch brought together district leaders, health teams, representatives of key populations, civil society partners and members of the district council, highlighting the need for coordinated action as the project begins its three-year implementation period.

Busia's Woman MP Anyango Steps Up Health-Facility Monitoring

By Moses Mangeni, Communication Officer – Busia D LG

Busia District Woman Member of Parliament Anyango Janet Hopoe Weby has begun monitoring health-service delivery across the district's 33 health facilities, focusing on staff attendance, patient care, medicines and the management of public health infrastructure.

During a recent engagement with health-facility in-charges at Chango Macho Hall, the legislator warned health workers against absenteeism, extortion of patients and other practices that undermine public confidence in government health services.

"Health facilities exist to save lives. Every health worker must be present at their duty station and ensure that patients receive services without being asked for illegal payments," she said.

Weby also called on health-facility in-charges to take greater responsibility for the cleanliness, maintenance and protection of public facilities and medical equipment. She said health centres should be kept orderly and their buildings, equipment

and surrounding environments protected from misuse and neglect.

The MP asked the District Chairperson to undertake a similar monitoring exercise, arguing that joint political and technical oversight could help identify service-delivery gaps early and improve responses to community health needs.

She said regular supervision was necessary to ensure health workers are available, medicines are properly managed and patients receive timely care.

"The monitoring will not only focus on identifying challenges, but also on finding solutions that will enable our people to access quality health services and save lives," she said.

While commending health workers serving communities under difficult conditions, Weby raised concern over shortages of essential medical supplies in several facilities. She appealed to Government to increase support to lower-level health centres

so that patients are not only assessed and diagnosed but also receive the treatment they need.

She said medicine shortages can force patients to seek costly treatment from private clinics, placing additional financial pressure on vulnerable households.

The District Chairperson also cautioned health workers against poor timekeeping, particularly at Health Centre IIs, which serve as an important first point of contact for many rural communities.

He warned that absenteeism, late reporting and early closure can delay treatment and deny residents access to health care.

The monitoring comes amid a reported staffing level of 33 per cent in Busia, according to the new medical staff structure cited by the Ministry of Health.

The leaders' initiative is expected to strengthen accountability in the health sector while identifying gaps that require action from health managers, local leaders and Government.



District Woman Member of Parliament, Anyango Janet Hopoe Weby (in yellow) in a recent interface with Health Facility In charges at Chango Macho Hall

Mp Aisu Takes Govt Oversight to the Frontline

By Akello Priscilla, Communication Officer- Pallisa District



Hon Aisu Ibrahim interacting with patients at Palisa General Hospital

For Pallisa County MP Ibrahim Aisu, government oversight is not only about inspecting buildings and facilities. It also means listening to the people who depend on public services and identifying gaps that affect their daily lives.

Aisu, a member of Parliament's Public Accounts Committee, led an oversight monitoring exercise across selected health and education facilities in Pallisa County on August 17, 2026, focusing on service delivery, accountability and value for money.

At Pallisa General Hospital, Mpongi Health Centre III and Kasodo

Health Centre III, the MP interacted with health workers and patients to understand the challenges affecting service delivery.

At Mpongi Health Centre III, the team found a small but notable initiative by the facility in-charge, Mulira, who prepares tea for patients, particularly mothers. Local leaders appreciated the gesture as part of efforts to make patients feel cared for.

However, the monitoring also identified practical gaps. Mpongi and Kasodo health centres both require additional mattresses for patients.

Aisu said such interactions are

important because they enable leaders to understand whether government services are reaching intended beneficiaries.

"I want to ensure that services reach the last person in the village and that we get value for money," he said.

The oversight exercise also covered Pallisa Secondary School, Kamuge High School and Kasodo Secondary School.

At Kamuge High School, Head Teacher Nabulo Susan highlighted the school's need for improved ICT facilities, library seating, fencing, electrical wiring and laboratory facilities.

At Kasodo Secondary School,

Aisu said accountability should continue beyond the release of public funds, stressing the need to ensure that government resources are used for their intended purposes and deliver value to citizens.

The exercise was conducted alongside Pallisa District technical staff from the education and health departments.

The monitoring highlighted the importance of taking oversight beyond offices and into schools, health facilities and communities where government services are ultimately delivered.



Hon Aisu interacting with students at Pallisa SS

PALLISA: Climate-Resilient Water Project Targets Ajepet Parish

By Akello Priscilla, Communication Officer – Pallisa District

Pallisa District is set to benefit from an assessment of climate-resilient water infrastructure aimed at improving access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene services in communities affected by climate-related challenges.

The Ministry of Water and Environment, through the Eastern Umbrella of Water and Sanitation

(EUWS), in collaboration with WaterAid Uganda, launched the assessment during an inception meeting held at Pallisa District headquarters on August 5, 2026.

The initiative is being implemented under the Climate Resilient Flood Early Warning, Catchment Management and WASH Technologies in Mpologoma Catchment (CARFEWW) Project,



District and subcounty political leaders and technical staff and officials from pose for a group photo moment

which covers 11 districts in Eastern Uganda.

In Pallisa, the project will target Ajepet Parish in Gogonyo Sub-county, which falls within the Lower Mpologoma Catchment.

Team Leader Omoding Richard said the assessment will guide the next phase of the project, including evaluating and expanding the existing piped water supply system. The Rural Water Department will also assess rainwater harvesting infrastructure.

The project has two major components—development of climate-resilient water infrastructure and hygiene and behaviour change interventions aimed at improving sanitation and promoting better hygiene practices.

District Natural Resources Officer Samuka Muhammed said the Ministry of Water and Environment will fully fund and implement the project, while Pallisa District Local Government will mobilise communities and monitor implementation.

Deputy Chief Administrative

Officer Areu Simon Peter said access to safe water is essential for improving livelihoods and reducing water-borne diseases. He urged leaders and communities to support the project and safeguard the infrastructure once established.

He also encouraged communities to plant trees and protect the environment as part of efforts to strengthen resilience to climate change.

Representing the District Chairperson, Secretary for Finance, Planning and Administration Opio Didi pledged the district's support and urged communities to take ownership of the infrastructure.

Deputy Resident District Commissioner Hajjati Nakussi Assa called for continuous community sensitisation, saying local ownership would be critical to the project's sustainability.

The assessment is expected to guide future investment in climate-resilient water infrastructure and improve access to safe water and sanitation services in Ajepet Parish and the wider Lower Mpologoma Catchment.

PALLISA: District Mobilises Stakeholders to Protect Women Under GROW Project

By Akello Priscilla, Communication Officer – Pallisa District



DCAO Areu Simon Peter giving his remarks

Pallisa District has stepped up efforts to protect women from gender-based violence (GBV) as they take advantage of economic opportunities under the Government's Generating Growth Opportunities and Productivity for Women Enterprises (GROW) Project.

District leaders, technical officers, development partners, religious and cultural leaders, security agencies and community representatives met at the District Council Chambers on August 4, 2026, to strengthen coordination in preventing and responding to GBV.

Deputy Chief Administrative Officer Areu Simon Peter, who represented the Chief Administrative Officer, said the GROW Project presents an important opportunity to improve women's livelihoods but warned that its success also depends on creating a safe and supportive environment for beneficiaries.

He called for GBV prevention and response to be integrated into district planning, budgeting, reporting and monitoring, while urging stakeholders to develop practical solutions to challenges that could prevent women from participating in the project.

Areu also urged religious and cultural leaders to sensitise communities about GROW opportunities and encourage eligible women to participate.

Representing the District Chairperson, Secretary for Social and Community Based Services Atim Doreen reaffirmed the commitment of political leaders to mobilising communities and providing accurate information about the project during public and community meetings.

She also called for greater involvement of young people in GBV prevention campaigns, saying youth participation is important in challenging harmful social norms and building safer communities.

The meeting further focused

on strengthening coordination among institutions involved in GBV prevention and response, including improving referral pathways for survivors.

Participants reaffirmed their commitment to ensuring that women accessing GROW opportunities can do so in an environment that promotes safety, dignity, equality and protection of their rights.

Pallisa District Local Government said it will continue working with government agencies, development partners, civil society organisations, cultural and religious institutions and communities to advance gender equality and ensure women can fully benefit from economic empowerment programmes.

PALLISA: Over 10,000 Learners Benefit from Building Tomorrow Education Programme

By Akello Priscilla, Communication Officer – Pallisa District

More than 10,000 learners in Pallisa District have benefited from a community-based education programme aimed at improving literacy, numeracy and school attendance, while hundreds of children who had dropped out have returned to formal education.

The achievement is contained in a June-July 2026 programme report presented by Building Tomorrow during a review and coordination meeting with Pallisa District Education Department.

According to Building Tomorrow Fellow Elalu Boniface, 10,467 learners were enrolled and reached through school and community learning camps during the reporting period.

A further 240 out-of-school children were re-enrolled into formal education through community mobilisation and awareness campaigns led by teachers and Community Education Volunteers.

The programme, implemented in partnership with the district, schools, Community Education



Building Tomorrow regional coordinator Ms Nakafeero handing over laptops and tablets to the Deputy CAO, Mr Areu Simon Peter

Teams and Community Education Volunteers, uses learning camps, monitoring, mentorship and community engagement to strengthen foundational literacy and numeracy.

Baseline assessments were conducted to track learners' progress, while mentorship sessions for head teachers and deputy head teachers strengthened the capacity of focal teachers and improved lesson delivery.

The programme currently covers 40 government-aided primary schools in Pallisa District.

District Education Officer Omutujju Ronald said the initiative is helping teachers improve their instructional methods through continuous capacity building and supporting schools to adapt to the Competency-Based Curriculum.

Representing the Chief Administrative Officer, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer Areu Simon Peter commended Building Tomorrow for its partnership with the district, saying the programme is contributing to learner retention and teacher capacity.

During the meeting, Building Tomorrow also handed over two

laptops and two tablets to the District Education Department to support programme coordination, communication and data management.

However, implementers cited challenges including limited support from some school administrations, low teacher motivation, competing school activities and negative attitudes among some parents.

The programme will next focus on strengthening school and community learning camps, mentoring Community Education Volunteers and teachers, deepening engagement with parents and school management committees, and conducting end-line assessments.

District leaders said continued community mobilisation and collaboration will be essential to ensuring more children remain in school and benefit from quality education.



Pallisa Revives Grassroots Security Committee Meetings

By Akello Priscilla, Communication Officer – Pallisa District

Pallisa District has revived Security Committee meetings at the Lower Local Government level in a renewed effort to bring security coordination closer to communities and strengthen responses to local concerns.

The meetings, which resumed on August 18, 2026, are being conducted across the district and bring together political leaders, technical staff, security personnel and other stakeholders to discuss issues affecting their communities and agree on appropriate action.

At Chelekura Sub-county, the meeting was chaired by Principal Assistant Chief Administrative Officer Okia John, providing a platform for stakeholders to share information, raise concerns

and discuss measures to address challenges within the sub-county.

The revival follows a resolution by the District Security Committee to strengthen Security Committee structures at Lower Local Government level.

District officials said the meetings are intended to make local security discussions more responsive by enabling leaders and stakeholders to identify emerging concerns before they escalate and coordinate appropriate responses.

The forums will also address issues affecting the delivery of government services and the wellbeing of residents, providing political leaders, technical officers



and security personnel with an opportunity to share information and follow up on matters raised by communities.

As the meetings continue across Pallisa's Lower Local Governments, district authorities expect regular engagement to strengthen collaboration

between communities, local governments and district-level security structures.

The initiative is intended to make security coordination a continuous grassroots process, rather than an intervention limited to district-level meetings when challenges arise.

Pallisa Turns to Biological Control as Farmers Tackle Invasive Parthenium Weed

By Akello Priscilla, Communication Officer- Pallisa District

Pallisa District is strengthening its response to parthenium weed by taking biological-control knowledge and technology closer to farmers and agricultural extension workers.

The initiative was highlighted during a two-day training held from August 24–25 at Pallisa District Headquarters, where the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA), working with the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) and the National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO), trained participants in identifying, monitoring and managing the invasive plant.

Parthenium hystrophorus,

commonly known as parthenium or famine weed, can spread rapidly, competing with crops and other vegetation and creating challenges for agricultural productivity, biodiversity, livestock and farming communities.

Pallisa District Agriculture Officer Emmanuel Olebo said the district has already established a biological-control unit where beetles are being reared for use in areas affected by the weed.

He encouraged farmers and extension workers to work closely with researchers and technical teams to identify affected areas and support efforts to contain further spread.

"We need really to work together, sensitise our communities and



A farmer demonstrating how to use beetles to control weeds

solve this problem together,” Olebo said.

Research Senior Technician at the National Agricultural Research Laboratories (NARL) in Kawanda, Stella Adumo Aropet, explained that parthenium is difficult to control because it produces large quantities of seeds that can remain viable in the soil for years.

She said removing mature plants alone may therefore not eliminate the problem, as new plants can continue emerging from seeds already present in the soil. Sustained and integrated control measures, including biological-control technologies, are needed to suppress the weed.

The training also strengthened the capacity of agricultural extension workers, who are expected to help farmers identify invasive weeds early, understand appropriate control measures and report new infestations.

For farmers, the engagement provided an opportunity to better understand a plant that some had previously regarded as ordinary vegetation. Sam Omoding, a farmer from Pallisa Town Council, said he had seen parthenium growing in his garden but had not fully understood the threat it posed.

He said the training had improved his ability to identify and manage the weed and highlighted the importance of acting before it spreads further.

Pallisa District Chairperson Okiria Ben welcomed the initiative and called for similar engagements to reach more communities. He said taking research and innovation directly to farmers can help communities understand their value and adopt practical solutions to agricultural challenges.

The activity was conducted under

the CAADPXP4 programme, funded by the European Union and managed by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), as part of efforts to strengthen the transfer of agricultural research and biological-control technologies to farming communities.

The training marks the beginning

of the next phase: applying the knowledge in farmers' fields and communities. With invasive weeds capable of spreading beyond individual farms, participants were urged to rely on collective action, early reporting and continued technical support to protect agricultural production and livelihoods.

Tororo Municipality LCs Warned Against Recommending Non-Residents for Gov't Programmes

By Okello Mathew, Communication Officer – Tororo Municipal Council



Tororo Municipality local council leaders have been warned against recommending non-residents for government programmes, with officials urging them to

verify applicants and give local residents a fair opportunity to benefit from public interventions.

The warning was issued by Tororo Municipality Deputy Town Clerk

Okoth Kitong while presiding over the swearing-in ceremony of newly elected LCI and LCII chairpersons in Western Division.

Kitong said some local council chairpersons were allegedly being bribed to write recommendation letters for people who do not qualify as local residents, including applicants seeking university education sponsorships. He warned that such practices could disadvantage eligible residents.

He urged the chairpersons to conduct proper background verification before issuing recommendation letters for government programmes.

Kitong also cautioned the local leaders against issuing animal movement permits without first establishing the history and ownership of animals. He said failure to verify the origin of animals could create opportunities for livestock thieves to exploit the system.

The deputy town clerk further asked LCI and LCII chairpersons to support the municipality's revenue mobilisation efforts by encouraging residents to pay taxes. He said increased local revenue would help the council finance development activities.

He also urged the leaders to report new developments in their areas



that are being undertaken without council approval, strengthening local oversight of construction and other activities.

As part of the induction, Kitong reminded the chairpersons that serious criminal offences should not be handled at local council level, saying such cases should be referred to competent courts.

Western Division Chairperson Al-Jamal Mayandi encouraged LCI chairpersons to hold regular village meetings to discuss issues affecting their communities and improve local participation in decision-making.

He also asked local leaders to avoid unnecessarily referring minor disputes to higher authorities, arguing that doing so weakens dialogue and the use of alternative dispute-resolution mechanisms at community level.

Western Division Assistant Town Clerk Martha Apimo urged the newly sworn-in leaders to activate village and parish courts so residents can access local mechanisms for resolving disputes and seeking redress.

A total of 13 LCI and four LCII chairpersons were sworn in and received instruments of power to begin their duties.

Tororo Municipality Prioritises Roads in Shs14Bn UCMID Investment

By Okello Mathew, Communication Officer – Tororo Municipality

Tororo Municipality is set to invest more than Shs14 billion under the new Uganda Cities and Municipalities Infrastructure Development (UCMID) project, with roads and urban connectivity among the key priorities.

The UCMID project, initiated by the Government of Uganda with funding from the World Bank, is intended to improve infrastructure in cities and municipalities across the country.

The project focuses on five areas:

transport and mobility; nature-based solutions and green infrastructure; urban drainage and flood mitigation; economic development and job creation; and sustainable solid waste management.

Tororo Municipality has submitted the required documentation, secured the right of way for most of the proposed roads and acquired land titles for sites earmarked for the planned developments.

The municipal technical team,



RDC Aidah Kigeni inspects a newly built 5 stance Pit Latrine at Rock View school

led by Deputy Town Clerk Okoth R. Kitong, has also reprioritised projects to be implemented during the five-year UCMID period.

Among the proposed investments is the tarmacking of Hillary Road (0.28km), Tensing Road (0.34km) and School Road (0.58km). The municipality also plans to modernise the abattoir and beautify the Mayor's Garden to create a space that can host social functions for hire.

The proposals, however, remain subject to approval by the municipal council and executive.

The municipality has reduced its initial road coverage following budget cuts under the project. Deputy Town Clerk Kitong said the

available funding would first be directed towards roads within the central business district before extending investment to other parts of the municipality.

"Development should spill from the town centre outwards, not the other way round," Kitong said.

Tororo Municipality UCMID Coordinator Emmanuel Odongo said the proposed projects, particularly the roads, have only minor encumbrances, potentially easing implementation once the projects receive the necessary approvals.

Municipal Engineer Francis Okema said the selected roads would improve connectivity within Tororo Town.

The planned investments are expected to shape Tororo Municipality's urban infrastructure over the five-year UCMID period, although the scale of implementation will depend on final approvals and the funding available after the project's budget adjustments.



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