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Ndagano Faridah

Editor's Note

Editor-in-Chief

Bunyoro Post Magazine

Tel: +256 777410031

Email: bunyoropost@gmail.com

Welcome to the 10th Edition of the Bunyoro Post Magazine. This milestone issue brings you a rich mix of stories shaping our region's present and future. We highlight the renewed cooperation between Uganda and Tanzania, from ambitious railway expansions to the confirmed July 2026 launch of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline—significant developments set to open new economic doors for our landlocked nation.

We also turn our focus to Hoima City, capturing what residents expect from their newly elected leaders. Across the region, reactions to the recent PLE results reveal both celebration and reflection, as we

showcase outstanding schools and explore pathways for improvement where performance fell short.

In addition, we examine NITA-U's ongoing internet expansion efforts and take a closer look at the persistent power outages affecting communities in Bunyoro.

As always, we welcome your thoughts, story ideas, and contributions. Your voices continue to shape this magazine and the conversations that matter most to our region.

KEY CONTRIBUTORS

Faridah Ndagano

Communication Officer, Kikuube District

Alex Tumuhimbise

Communication officer, Hoima district

Brian Atuhura

Communication Officer, Masindi District

Hannington Tibaijuka

Communications Officer, Buliisa District

Emmanuel Murungi,

Communication Officer, Kiryandongo District

George Gulyetonda

Communication Officer, Kagadi District

Thank you for your unwavering support. Together, let's continue to chronicle the rise of Bunyoro

Uganda and Tanzania Announce Major Infrastructure Deals to Boost Regional Trade and Energy Exports

By Hannington Tibaijuka, Communication Officer- Buliisa



President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda and Samia Suluhu Hassan of Tanzania have agreed on ambitious railway extensions and confirmed the July 2026 operational launch of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP), paving the way for Uganda's landlocked economy to gain smoother access to global markets.

The agreements, reached during bilateral talks in Dar es Salaam over the weekend, focus on expanding Tanzania's standard gauge railway (SGR) network to the Ugandan border and accelerating a new rail line from Tanga to Musoma on Lake Victoria.

This move aims to diversify Uganda's logistics routes, reducing reliance on existing corridors and facilitating easier

cargo transport to the Indian Ocean ports of Dar es Salaam and Tanga.

According to reports, the SGR will be extended from Tanzania's Isaka dry port—originally planned to connect Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo—to Lusahunga near the Ugandan border. Uganda has committed to continuing the line to its Murongo border point and further inland.

President Suluhu emphasized the project's potential, stating, "The SGR extension from the Isaka dry port to Burundi and the DRC will now include another extension to Lusahunga, from where we have asked our Ugandan colleagues to help with another extension to the Murongo border and

further into their own country."

Additionally, Tanzania pledged to fast-track the Tanga-Musoma railway, a priority in the ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi's 2025-2030 manifesto, which would enable seamless cargo transfers across Lake Victoria.

President Museveni described the discussions as "fruitful," highlighting deepened cooperation in energy, trade, infrastructure, and regional peace.

On the energy front, the leaders confirmed that the 1,443-kilometer EACOP—stretching from Hoima in western Uganda to Chongoleani near Tanga Port in Tanzania—will begin operations in July 2026, marking Uganda's entry into crude oil exports.

The pipeline, a \$5 billion project, is designed to transport up to 216,000 barrels per day and is currently over 70% complete, with construction

progressing steadily since 2021.

President Suluhu announced that the first shipment is expected to depart from Tanga in July, highlighting the pipeline's role in regional energy security and economic growth.

The EACOP, managed by EACOP Ltd. with partners including TotalEnergies, represents a milestone in East Africa's integration efforts, transforming the region into a potential energy hub.

It complements ongoing discussions for gas and refined oil pipelines, further solidifying Tanzania as a key export corridor for Uganda.

Both nations also committed to removing non-tariff barriers and improving port access to foster trade. These developments align with broader East African Community goals, building on historical railway collaborations among Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania.



President of Tanzania - Samia Suluhu Hassan

Masindi's PLE Pass Rate Declines to 88.7%, Prompting Calls for Educational Reforms

By Brian Atuhura, Communication Officer- Masindi

Masindi District has registered a notable decline in Primary Leaving Examination (PLE). The results, released on Friday, February 6, 2026, have sparked renewed calls for urgent reforms in the district's education system.

The Acting District Education Officer, Monica Kiiza, announced the results while addressing education stakeholders in the district council chambers. She revealed that 3,306 candidates from 75 examination centres were registered for the 2025 PLE. Of these, 156 candidates (4.72%) obtained Division One, 1,678 (50.8%) passed in Division Two, 774 (23.4%) in Division Three, and 325 (9.8%) in Division Four. A total of 349 candidates (10.6%) failed, while 24 pupils (0.7%) did not sit for the exams.

Despite the overall drop, several schools

delivered impressive results. Walyoba Brilliant Primary School led the district with an average score of 3.8 points, followed closely by Ebenezer Primary School and Marylyne Primary School, both scoring 3.7 points. Other strong performers included Lord Will Primary School (3.3 points), Walyoba C.O.U Primary School (3.2 points), Blessed Damian Primary School (3.2 points), God's Will Primary School, Kinyara Sugar Works Primary School, Bulima Valley Primary School, and Kinumi Primary School, all scoring between 3.1 and 3.0 points.

Among government-aided institutions, Walyoba C.O.U Primary School emerged the top performer with 3.2 points. It was followed by Kinyara Sugar Works Primary School at 3.1 points, with Nyabyeya and Kinumi primary schools tied at 3.0 points.



Ag. DEO Monica Kiiza addressing headteachers during the release of the PLE district results

Walyoba C.O.U was also ranked the best government-aided school in the entire Bunyoro Sub-Region.

At the individual level, three learners tied for the district's top position with 6 aggregates: Aijuka Mujuni Jonathan of Walyoba C.O.U Primary School, Mateeka Raymond of Walyoba Brilliant Primary School, and Atim Irene of Ebenezer Primary School. Close behind were nine candidates who scored 7 aggregates, including Ahumuza Ruth of Kayera Primary School, and Kyomugisa Brenda and Kusasira Victoria Judith of Kinyara Sugar Works Primary School, among others.

However, several schools recorded worrying performance levels. Karungi Primary School, Nyakarongo, Kihole, Kimanya Upper, Kisalizi, Kimanya, and Kyabaswa primary schools ranked

lowest, with average scores ranging from 1.3 to 0.8 points.

Kiiza attributed the district's declining performance to a combination of factors, including inadequate staffing, misinterpretation of education policies, industrial action, weak teacher commitment, limited syllabus coverage, and ineffective teaching methodologies.

In response, Chief Administrative Officer Samuel Ruhweza Kaija urged school leaders to adopt strategies used by high-performing institutions through benchmarking and stronger professional collaboration. He appealed to parents and community stakeholders to take a more active role in supporting learners, noting that reversing the downward trend requires collective responsibility.

Hoima City Residents Set Agenda for New Leaders: Service Delivery Top Priority

By Alex Tumuhimbise, Communication Officer- Hoima



Independent Hoima city Mayor-elect, Edward Isingoma (centre), with his wife on right, arrives at Nyakato's thanksgiving party

Newly elected leaders in Hoima City face a clear mandate from residents: deliver on essential services. From improved sanitation and infrastructure to better healthcare and educational opportunities, voters have voiced needs that they expect their representatives to address.

The calls for action were amplified during a thanksgiving ceremony held Monday evening at the PFF offices in Rusembe Cell, Hoima West Division, for Hoima City Woman Member of Parliament Asinansi Nyakato.

Residents across Hoima City are calling for more opportunities to improve their quality of life. Efforts are underway to address road conditions, particularly in outlying areas, to enhance transportation and boost economic activity. Initiatives to improve garbage collection are gaining momentum, especially with the upcoming African Cup of Nations (AFCON) inspiring a cleaner and healthier environment. Communities are working towards better access to clean water, with innovative solutions being explored to ensure sustainable resources. Additionally, plans to expand reliable electricity in villages are creating hope for increased development and progress.

"Hoima City is currently disorganized," stated Patrick Kajuma, a resident of Bujwahya. "There has been a problem of poor garbage management and roadside food vendors. With AFCON coming next year, the town needs to be clean and organized."

Wycliffe Tumusime of Buswekera urged leaders, particularly Members of Parliament, to prioritize the establishment of the long-promised Bunyoro Public University. "The President

came here for the groundbreaking, but no progress has been made," Tumusime said. "We want it operationalized and passed by Parliament."

Fred Ndabiraaho of Bujumbura West Cell echoed these concerns, highlighting poor roads and limited access to health services as urgent issues.

"We need a general hospital, clean water, and improvements in government-aided schools," he said.

MP Nyakato acknowledged these challenges, emphasizing the urgent need for an independent general hospital in Hoima City to alleviate pressure on the regional referral hospital and reduce maternal mortality rates. She pledged to continue advocating for the operationalization of Bunyoro Public University and called for collaborative efforts among all city leaders to drive positive change.

Hoima City Mayor-elect Edward Isingoma echoed Nyakato's commitment, vowing to prioritize service delivery and ensure residents receive the services they deserve upon assuming office. The pledges from newly elected leaders offer a glimmer of hope for Hoima City residents, who are eager to see tangible improvements in their daily lives. The coming months will be crucial in determining whether these promises translate into real progress.



Kiryandongo Launches Construction of a UGX 482 M Modern Staff Canteen

By Murungi Emmanuel, Communication Officer – Kiryandongo



Kiryandongo District leaders at the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of a staff canteen at the District Headquarters

Kiryandongo District leaders have officially launched the construction of a multi-million-shilling modern staff canteen, aimed at improving employee welfare and enhancing service delivery across the local government.

The project, valued at UGX 482 million, was unveiled during a launch event attended by senior district officials and stakeholders. The facility will be constructed in phased stages, with the first phase – covering the sub-structure, structure and roofing – funded at UGX 199 million. The phased approach allows for meticulous quality control while ensuring continued progress towards completion and resource mobilization.

Kiryandongo District leaders during the ground breaking ceremony of the construction of the staff canteen at the District Headquarters on Tuesday February 10,2026.

According to Anselm Kyaligonza, the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) of Kiryandongo, concerns about staff welfare and the loss of productive time during lunch breaks prompted the district council to prioritize the establishment of a dedicated canteen.

"We recognized that many staff were spending considerable time searching for food during lunch hours," Kyaligonza said. "This prompted the council to approve the canteen project as a way of saving time and ensuring efficient, effective public service delivery."

Kyaligonza explained that the new facility will be more than a lunch hall. In addition to serving district staff, the canteen will be made available to the public for meetings, functions and other community activities, further enhancing its value to residents.

Edith Aliguma Adyeri, the District Chairperson, praised the council for championing the initiative and approving the necessary budget.

“Once the welfare of staff is improved, their morale and performance will rise, which will in turn improve service delivery across the entire district,” Aliguma stated, underscoring the link between worker well-being and public sector performance.

Also speaking at the launch, Jonathan Akweteireho, the Deputy Resident District Commissioner (RDC), welcomed the project’s potential to reduce operational costs associated with external restaurants and related service provision within the district’s activities.

“This establishment will help cut down the cost of outsourcing meals and other services,” he said.

The canteen’s construction is being funded by the Discretionary Development Equalization Grant (DDEG) from the Ministry of Finance — a central government funding mechanism designed to support local government infrastructure development.

Once fully completed, the facility is expected to serve as a central hub not only for staff but also for community engagement, while boosting overall organizational efficiency and welfare in Kiryandongo District.



Edith Aliguma Adyeri, the District Chairperson, alongside Jonathan Akweteireho, hands over contract documents and designs to representatives

Hoima Education Stakeholders Push for Urgent Reforms to Boost Performance

By Brian Atuhura, Communication Officer - Masindi

Hoima District leaders and education stakeholders have called for immediate reforms to reverse the stagnating academic performance in the region, despite increased government investment in

infrastructure and staffing.

During a stakeholders’ meeting held on Friday at Hoima Youth Center in Kasingo, head teachers from 64 government primary schools, representatives

from private institutions, and district authorities reviewed the 2025 Primary Leaving Examination (PLE) results and strategized ahead of the opening of the new school term next week.

Speaking on behalf of District Chairperson Uthuman Mugisha, the Secretary for Social Services, Hon. Hillary Tumusiime, said that while the district has made notable progress in constructing classrooms and deploying teachers, learning outcomes remain below expectation. He emphasized that 2024 must be a year of "deliberate and coordinated reforms" to uplift performance.

"We have invested heavily in infrastructure, but the results are still wanting. As district leadership, we are committed to supporting the education department and all stakeholders to ensure improvement," Tumusiime said.

Chief Administrative Officer Ssempala Emmanuel underscored the need to revive school feeding programs, calling them critical in motivating both learners and teachers. He noted that many schools have land that could be used to establish gardens to support feeding initiatives.

"Children cannot learn on an empty



Teachers and students at Iguru 1 Primary School in Hoima District during the recent inauguration of a newly constructed classroom block

stomach, and teachers equally need motivation. Schools should maximize their available land to grow food and sustain feeding programs," Ssempala said.

Assistant Resident District Commissioner (RDC) Sonko Bongore reaffirmed the RDC's office support toward raising educational standards, urging school heads to fully implement

the Universal Primary Education (UPE) policy to guarantee access for all children.

Meanwhile, District Education Officer Harriet Kihumuro issued a strong warning to non-performing head teachers, saying that those who fail to implement agreed reforms will face sanctions.

According to the District Inspector of Schools, Robert Kyomuhendo, out of 3,696 candidates who registered for the 2025 PLE, only 96 passed in Division One. A total of 1,367 passed in Division Two, 870 in Division Three, 527 in Division Four, while 91 learners did not sit for the examinations.

Despite the calls for reform, head teachers highlighted persistent challenges, including teacher shortages, inadequate water access, and insufficient classroom infrastructure—issues they believe must be addressed for meaningful change.

Power Outages in Bunyoro Blamed on Bush Fires and Vandalism

By Hannington Tibaijuka, Communication Officer- Buliisa



Residents in Uganda's Bunyoro sub-region are grappling with frequent power outages, primarily caused by bush fires damaging electrical infrastructure and acts of vandalism on power lines, according to the Uganda Electricity Distribution Company Limited

(UEDCL).

In a recent video interview shared on X (formerly Twitter) by Spice FM Hoima, UEDCL spokesperson Jonan Kiiza explained the challenges facing the oil-rich area.

“Bushfires are a major issue, burning poles and lines, while vandalism exacerbates the problem,” Kiiza said. He emphasized that the region’s vulnerability stems from its expansive terrain and limited infrastructure resilience.

Kiiza also highlights that a significant contributor to power outages in the region is the widespread vandalism and theft of electrical wires.

Kiiza urged locals to report outages immediately through UEDCL hotlines to facilitate quicker repairs.

“Community involvement is crucial in reducing downtime and ensuring reliable power supply,” he added.

The Bunyoro sub-region, home to significant oil reserves, relies heavily on

stable electricity for economic activities, making these disruptions particularly impactful.

Some of the residents also claim there's the common E07 error on Yaka prepaid meters, often linked to faulty cables or water damage, which can interrupt supply even when the grid is stable. Umeme, another key electricity provider, advises checking connections and seeking technical support for such

errors.

UEDCL has committed to ongoing maintenance and community education to mitigate future incidents. Local authorities are also calling for increased vigilance against vandalism to safeguard critical infrastructure.

BY Brian Atunura, Communications officer- Masindor

NITA-U to Expand Internet Access in Kiryandongo

By Emmanuel Murungi, Communication Officer, Kiryandongo District



Kiryandongo District stakeholders pose for a group photo after the UDAP inception meeting

Kiryandongo District is poised for a significant digital transformation as the National Information Technology Authority-Uganda (NITA-U) rolls out new internet infrastructure aimed at expanding access to affordable connectivity and strengthening e-governance services.

The development comes under the Uganda Digital Acceleration Project (UDAP), a Government of Uganda initiative supported by the World Bank. The project seeks to bridge the digital divide by improving internet access in underserved and vulnerable communities, while also promoting sustainable digital practices across the country.

Speaking during an inception meeting with district stakeholders, Richard Obita, Director Technical Services at NITA-U, said the project will play a critical role in enhancing digital inclusion, particularly for refugees and host communities. Kiryandongo is among 12 host districts and 13 refugee settlements targeted to benefit from the intervention.

“The Uganda Digital Acceleration Project is designed to ensure that no one is left behind in Uganda’s digital journey. By expanding internet infrastructure in districts like Kiryandongo, we are enabling government institutions, refugees, civil society organizations, and underserved communities to access affordable internet and essential online services,” Obita said.

He added that beyond connectivity, the project will also introduce e-waste management initiatives to promote environmental sustainability as digital adoption increases.

The infrastructure improvements are expected to lower internet costs and widen access to digital services for public institutions and local communities. This will enhance service delivery through e-governance platforms, allowing residents to access government services more efficiently.

Kiryandongo District leadership welcomed the initiative, pledging full support for its successful implementation.

Deo Kabugo, the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) of Kiryandongo, expressed appreciation to NITA-U for selecting the district as a beneficiary of the project.

“We are grateful to NITA-U for choosing Kiryandongo to benefit from this important national project. As a district, we are committed to providing all the necessary support to ensure the success of the Uganda Digital Acceleration Project,” Kabugo said.

As part of the project’s community-focused approach, two fully equipped community tele centers will be established in Kiryandongo District. These centers will provide public access to digital tools and internet services, offering residents opportunities to learn, communicate, and engage with online platforms.

Once completed, the initiative is expected to strengthen digital participation in the district, empower vulnerable populations, and support Uganda’s broader agenda of inclusive digital transformation.



Richard Obita, Director Technical Services at NITA-U addressing stakeholders during an inception meeting held at Kiryandongo District Headquarters

A composite image featuring two promotional banners. The left banner is for 'Explore Bunyoro', dated from 26th September to 1st October. It lists 'Places To Visit' including Bwendero Agro Tourism farm, Butiaba Escarpment and the Rift valley, Kibiro hot springs and salt mines, Oil wells, Kabalega Airport, Bunyoro Kingdom palace, Itohya Forest, Lake Albert, and Murchison Falls. The right banner is for 'Explore Uganda', describing it as 'THE PEARL OF AFRICA'. Both banners feature a background image of an elephant.

Ministry of Health Begins Recruitment, Training of 110 Community Health Extension Workers in Hoima

By Alex Tumuhimbise, Communication Officer, Hoima District



Representatives from the Ministry of Health, Baylor,RHU and Hoima District leadership pose for a photo moment after an entry meeting

The Ministry of Health, in partnership with several development organizations, has launched a new initiative to recruit and train 110 Community Health Extension Workers (CHEWs) to strengthen grassroots health services in Hoima District.

Each of the district's 55 parishes is set to receive two CHEWs, a move officials say will significantly improve access to primary healthcare and promote disease prevention at the household level.

According to Shaminah Kawuma, a senior sociologist in the Ministry's Department of Health Education

and Strategic Communication, the recruitment targets individuals with at least an Ordinary Level education, strong moral integrity, and deep ties to the communities they will serve.

During an entry meeting held with Hoima District leaders, ministry officials outlined the goals and scope of the program, emphasizing its role in advancing primary healthcare through community-level engagement.

Representing the Hoima District Chairman, Secretary for Social Services Hillary Tumusiime welcomed the initiative, noting that CHEWs will help close persistent gaps between formal

health facilities and families in remote areas. He highlighted the need to prioritize nutrition, sanitation, hygiene, disease prevention and immunization—areas where communities continue to face significant challenges.

The Deputy DISO, speaking on behalf of the Hoima Resident District Commissioner Rogers Mbabazi, expressed the district's readiness to support the rollout and ensure smooth implementation of the government's plan.

The training program for the newly recruited CHEWs will run for six months, including four months of intensive classroom instruction followed by two months of supervised field practice. Trainees will receive transportation

support, digital communication devices, basic health service kits and a monthly stipend of approximately 150,000 shillings.

Their curriculum will cover a broad range of public health priorities such as communicable and noncommunicable disease prevention, mental health, maternal and child health, social behavior change and general community health promotion.

District officials say the program will bolster Hoima's capacity to serve its rapidly growing population, offering timely and community-centered health interventions where they are needed most.

Ministry of ICT Launches New Module to Strengthen Parish Level Service Delivery Tracking

By Brian Atuhura, Communication Officer - Masindi



Eng. Doreen Gift Bujingo, Senior ICT Infrastructure Engineer (in red), listens to remarks from DCAO Jane Akiror

The Ministry of Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) has unveiled a new Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) module within the Parish Data Management Information System (PDMIS), marking a major step toward improving how local governments supervise, verify, and utilize service delivery data.

The new module was introduced during a capacity building session for district level leaders at the Masindi District headquarters. The training was led by Eng. Doreen Gift Bujingo, a Senior ICT Infrastructure Engineer at the Ministry, who emphasized the critical role of accurate and harmonized data in driving effective decision making at the parish level.

Eng. Bujingo urged district officials to prioritize the integrity of information entered into sector specific systems such as the Education Management Information System (EMIS), the Health Management Information System (HMIS), and the Financial Inclusion System (FIS) under the Parish Development Model (PDM). Data verified through these platforms will automatically feed into the new M&E module, allowing supervising ministries to centrally monitor trends and compare performance across districts.

“This Monitoring and Evaluation module will make it easier to assess how districts are performing in service delivery, especially at the parish level,” she noted.

The system will track key sectors including health, education, production, roads, and the Parish Revolving Funds (PRF). According to the Ministry, the enhanced tool is expected to support Chief Administrative Officers and other district administrators in strengthening accountability, promoting evidence

based planning, and improving responsiveness to community needs.

The training brought together several senior district officials, including the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, District Health Officer, District Commercial Officer, District Community Development Officer, District Production Officer, IT Officer, Population Officer, and Communications Officer.

Deputy Chief Administrative Officer Jane Akiror welcomed the rollout, praising the government for the impact already witnessed under the Parish Development Model. She noted that many beneficiaries have registered improved livelihoods but cautioned that some communities remain hesitant or inadequately informed about the programme.

Akiror called for intensified sensitization and deeper investment in the mindset change pillar of PDM, stressing that community buy in is essential for sustained development at the parish level.

The introduction of the M&E module signals the government’s commitment to greater transparency, more efficient tracking of service delivery, and stronger accountability mechanisms across local governments under the PDM framework.

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