

For the people

Issue 1

January, 2025

BUSOGA **TIMES**

Kadaga vs. Among

Will Speaker **Anita Among** finally displace former Speaker **Rebecca Kadaga** from Busoga?



Both ladies have the money and power and are in great need of Busoga as a bloc to further their political influence in the ruling party and country at large.



Managing Director
Eve Brenda Mbasabye

Executive Editor
Julius Mirimu

Editor
Baz Waiswa

Graphics
Baz Waiswa

Photographers
Elisha Muloki, Elizabeth Namuli,
INTERNET

Contributing Writers
Julius Mugabe, Baz Waiswa,
Musa Kikuuno, Sam Bamutaze

CONTRIBUTORS
Waiswa Michael Baluye
Waiswa M. Baluye is the Office
National Chairman coordinator in
Buyende district

Nyago Bosco
Nyago Bosco is a Sciences
Teacher at Naminyagwe Muslim
Secondary School

Alfred Malijjo
Alfred is a senior citizen based in
Kaliro district who is an
accomplished author & historian

CONTACT US
Mugande House, Nakalongo Rd
Irundu Town Council
Buyende District
Mob:
0774064259, 0742938876
Email:
editorial@busogatimes.com
info@busogatimes.com

WWW.BUSOGATIMES.COM
@BUSOGATIMESUG

IN THIS ISSUE



**KADAGA VS AMONG:
WHO WILL WIN?**

5



**OBITUARY: DR. FRANK
NABWISO NO MORE**

10



**INTERVIEW: BIGIRWA
TELLS WHY HE LEFT NUP**

12



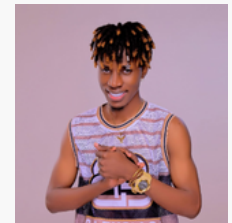
**BUSOGA CAN PRODUCE
MORE PROFESSORS**

20



**BUYENDE NUCLEAR
MUST BENEFIT BUSOGA**

22



**INTERVIEW WITH
SINGER ACIDIC VOKOS**

25



**FOOTBALL DAWN RISES
WITH BUSOGA UTD**

30



**UGANDA READY FOR
CHAN TOURNAMENT**

32

DEAR READERS



Busoga is a region endowed with greatness untapped, potential underutilised, treasures un hunted, possibilities masked in intrigues, and a future blinded by uncertainties. We are a people that must turn around things because we are living in the times.

The time to correct that which we have done wrong, a time to wake up from the slumber of ignorance and disunity, a time to connect the dots and realise our potential and our greatness, a time to go to work. To work for the people. The people of Busoga. The time of self-discovery is now.

What you are reading now is our first editorial and one of the many that you will delightfully read for many moons to come. With this inaugural Busoga Times e-magazine, we will walk with Busoga, the Basoga, and the people in Busoga and Uganda at large.

We will be with you, our readers, on the journey of Busoga's self-discovery and reinvention. We are here to push and fuel Busoga's development agenda. Busoga must be great. We will make Busoga achieve greatness. That we commit ourselves as a publication.

Our unbiased editorial policy, our professional journalism, our positive work ethics, and our truth-telling nature will be at the forefront of this journey that commenced last year when we first went online with our news website (www.busogatimes.com) and on our social media platforms (@BusogaTimesUG). We will work for the people of Busoga and Busoga as a kingdom and a region, mirroring it to fit in with what is happening on the national and international stage.

To achieve this, we will need the support of our readers—share this magazine with your friends & acquaintances, let them read about what is happening in Busoga, advertise with us, give us news tips from your communities and opinion articles, let us know what you want to read about, and let us create partnerships. We can work together for the good of Busoga and Uganda, the land that feeds us. Equally, we welcome guidance and positive criticism that aims to make us better news gatherers and publishers.

In this issue, we have packaged some scintillating news content that will give a snippet of what is happening in Busoga. We intend to build on this inaugural magazine to package similar e-magazines to meet your editorial needs. We commit to be your preferred choice of reliable news source.

Thank you

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Baz Waiswa". The signature is fluid and stylized, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Editor

Kadaga vs. Anita Among

Will Speaker Anita Among finally displace Rebecca Kadaga from Busoga?



By: BAZ WAISWA

Photography: INTERNET/PARLIAMENT

The Speaker of Parliament, Anita Annet Among, is a go-getter, and surely she gets what she sets out to get. People can have differing views about the methods she uses to get whatever she wants, but she surely succeeds.



Anita Annet Among, the Speaker of Parliament of Uganda

By: BAZ WAISWA

Photography: INTERNET/PARLIAMENT

The Speaker of Parliament, Anita Annet Among, is a go-getter, and surely she gets what she sets out to get. People can have differing views about the methods she uses to get whatever she wants, but she surely succeeds. This persona has seen her rise through the political ranks to become the number three of the country despite being a regime outsider, having come from the once-leading opposition political party, the Forum for Democratic Change (FDC). Among knows how to play her cards well. She also deals the deck superbly to her advantage.

It is not clear at what point Among crossed to the ruling National Resistance Movement (NRM), but when she quit FDC, the party that politically mentored her, it came with powers—a lot of it. And she exercises this power flauntingly.

The making & rise of Anita Among

Under the FDC ticket, Among stood for Bukedea district Women Member of Parliament (WMP) twice and failed—in 2007 during a by-election when the

district was created and in the 2011 general elections. All the two times, Among was defeated by NRM's Rose Akol. It is rumoured that in 2016, she refused the FDC ticket, preferring to stand as an independent. This time, without the blue colour, Among won the race, defeating Akol, who earlier had been appointed a minister for internal affairs. With this victory, Among became an MP in the 10th Parliament.

Political pundits suggest that after the defeat in 2011, that is when President Yoweri Museveni lured her to cross to NRM. Ahead of the 2016 elections, the ambitious Among was not going to entertain another failed attempt at becoming an MP.

Well aware of the strength of NRM in her constituency, Among ditched FDC and refused the party card. She

stood as an independent. At this point, Among 'had grown wings' and was a 'well-connected' person who didn't need FDC backing. While there is no available evidence that 'state contacts' funded and 'backed' her in the 2016 elections, Among had acquired the purse resources good enough to beat her nemesis Akol.

district was created and in the 2011 general elections. All the two times, Among was defeated by NRM's Rose Akol. It is rumoured that in 2016, she refused the FDC ticket, preferring to stand as an independent.

This time, without the blue colour, Among won the race, defeating Akol, who earlier had been appointed a minister for internal affairs. With this victory, Among became an MP in the 10th Parliament.

Political pundits suggest that after the defeat in 2011, that is when President Yoweri Museveni lured her to cross to NRM.

Ahead of the 2016 elections, the ambitious Among was not going to entertain another failed attempt at becoming an MP. Well aware of the strength of NRM in her constituency, Among ditched FDC and refused the party card. She stood as an independent. At this point, Among 'had grown wings' and was a 'well-connected' person who didn't need FDC backing.

While there is no available evidence that 'state contacts' funded and 'backed' her in the 2016 elections, Among had acquired the purse resources good enough to beat her nemesis Akol.

If in that period there was a deal that had been 'cut' between Museveni and Among, it was a deal that gave her too much clout and power.

As a first-time MP, and an independent at that, she was a mover and shaker in the 10th Parliament. Seasoned MPs feared her because of her connections and deal brokering. Reports indicate that Among was the go-to person when you needed to meet Museveni or to get things done.

In Museveni-lingual, she had turned from Saul to Paul, only that she was a woman from Bukedea.

FDC's Anita Among joins NRM

Eventually, she crossed to NRM in 2020, ahead of the 2021 elections—an election she swept with ease, unopposed.

Also, she had got a boyfriend in Moses Hashim Magogo, the President of the Federation of Uganda Football Associations (FUFA) from Kagulu, Buyende district.

Now entrenched in the NRM and with money and power, Among has been expanding her political space and establishing power centres outside Bukedea and Teso, a region that borders the Busoga region on many fronts.

However, it was going to be difficult for Among to establish herself in other regions before capturing Busoga.

As usual, she dealt her cards and started playing, this time targeting Busoga. But there was one problem: Busoga had a strong woman, a woman of valour, a woman so much loved and adored—Rebecca Alitwala Kadaga.

Buoyant, Among nonetheless made a move on Busoga. Aware that Kadaga would not relinquish Busoga peacefully and easily, Among moved in gaintly and arrogantly, fists clenched and ready to pounce. When she first pounced, at an event in Kigulu, in December 2021, christening herself as Mama Busoga, a moniker that had been a reserve for Kadaga, it backfired, attracting a backlash from all corners of Busoga. She has never again attempted to call herself Mama Busoga.

At the time, Among had just been elected as Deputy Speaker, and the late Jacob Oulanyah had successfully defeated Kadaga in the speakership race. Among and Oulanyah had teamed up and were making braggart tours in Busoga to solicit support.

In Kigulu, Among vowed to solve all problems facing the region because Busoga was now her second home through her marriage to Magogo. Magogo had just won the MP race for Budiope East when he ousted Geoffrey Dhamuzungu.

In Kigulu, Among declared that she would be Deputy Speaker for ten years and then become full speaker, just like Kadaga had done.

Death interfered with her plans, albeit to her advantage, when Oulanyah died in March 2022.

Jacob Oulanyah's advantageous death

Fate did not wait for ten years to make Among become a full speaker.



Anita Among ditched FDC to team up Jacob Oulanyah in NRM



Among is a lover of fine things in life, and it showed in the dresses she donned, the cars she drove, and the gifts she gave to her newfound lover, Magogo. Among would also later marry Magogo in a civil marriage.

Anita Among builds power centres

Among didn't just buy fine clothes and fine shoes from exclusive European shops; it is alleged and believed by Ugandans that she used taxpayers money to buy herself some love and loyalty from members of the August House. This, political speculators say, helped her build a power centre in and outside Parliament—a case of putting the now tamed and compromised MPs on her leash. Government MDAs didn't survive either.

Kadaga's timely fight back

In a recent online leaked video said to have been captured at a wedding reception in Jinja, footage said to be of the former Speaker, Kadaga is heard lashing out at members of the Busoga Parliamentary Caucus.

In the video, Kadaga is heard lambasting the caucus members for being paid and used by Among to fight her.

This is one of the not many times when Kadaga is heard publicly responding to onslaughts from Among.

It is also in this video that Kadaga is heard vowing to fight back in equal measure.

Kadaga's pushback comes a few months after Among publicly



Kadaga has had a firm hold on Busoga politically for four decades.

declared that she will vie for the NRM's National Vice Chairperson (Female) position.

This is a position Kadaga currently holds in the party. “You wanted to know whether I am contesting for NRM National Vice Chairperson (Female). I am not standing for the position in Eastern; I am standing for NRM National Vice Chairperson (Female),” Among told journalists in Kampala on Wednesday, 24th November 2024.

This move was widely seen as a strategic step to strengthen her influence within the ruling party, where many, especially party historicals, still look at her as an outsider.

Her declaration, as expected, rattled Busoga because it was looked at as another direct attack on Kadaga, who holds that position. With no expected return into the speakership race, even if her constituents in Kamuli vote her back into Parliament in 2026, Among snatching her seat in the NRM's

Central Executive Committee will be a big blow for Kadaga. It will push Kadaga out of the top party leadership fray. No wonder Kadaga is fighting hard to fend off an advancing Among.

Old woman from Kamuli going nowhere

In an audio released by Jinja-based NBS Radio, Kadaga vents her anger at people in Busoga who are working with forces that want to replace her, yet she is the one who made them. In the audio, Kadaga affirmed that she is still around and available; therefore, she needs no heir. With 2026, the year for national general elections, fast approaching, it looks like Kadaga has chosen the right time to fight back after many years of not retaliating. Among has been using every opportunity when she is in Busoga, especially in her husband's constituency (Budioppe East), to lash out at Kadaga. She at one time vilely described Kadaga as ‘those old women.’ “Someone was speaker for 20 years; what did she do to [for] you people? Did she do anything to [for] you?” Among questioned at a community meeting in Kagulu before asking the congregation to chase away ‘those old women.’



While Kadaga doesn't seek votes in Budiope, she has investments in the constituency. She runs a hospitality business at Kagulu Hill, just a few meters away from Among and Magogo's palatial home. The description of Kadaga as an old woman rubbed the people of Kamuli the wrong way. Youth leaders in Kamuli called a press conference at which they demanded that Among apologise to Kadaga and the people of Busoga. Anita Among never apologised. Among's bare-knuckle attack on Kadaga has made her infamous in Busoga. She at one time was made to make a last-minute cancellation of her appearance at an event, his blue-eyed boy Maurice Kibalya fundraiser in Kamuli. Kibalya is the MP for Bugabula County South. Among has generally scaled down her appearance and activities in Busoga.

Kadaga's unlikely allies

Kadaga has found unlikely allies. Former nemesis Persis

Namuganza, the State Minister for Lands, Housing, and Urban Development, speaking at Bishop Willis PTC during an NRM activity, vowed to deal with whoever fights Kadaga because the former Speaker has worked hard to empower women in Busoga.

Kadaga, despite being a high-ranking NRM cadre, is by the National Unity Platform (NUP) leadership in Busoga.

At a burial in Bugweri in April 2024, which Among attended, the NUP Deputy Spokesperson Waiswa Mufumbiro asked the Speaker to back off Kadaga. "Here in Busoga, we are for Kadaga, and I will say it since others are fearing to mention it. If there are any issues, stop blaming them on Kadaga. Don't be in Bukedea and start abusing her," hard-worded Mufumbiro said.

Stage set ahead of 2026

Now that Kadaga has also clenched her fists, ready to defend her territory, we await to see how this will play out. The NRM has rolled out its roadmap in which it seeks to streamline its party leadership structures in preparation for the 2026 elections. It remains to be seen if seasoned Kadaga will be able to fend off a determined fight from Anita Annet Among.

Busoga is fast turning into a political playground as Anita Among matches out to end Rebecca Kadaga's supremacy in the region and NRM.



Dr Frank Nabwiso

A gentleman of unbound love, personality rests eternally

By: ALFRED MALIJJO

Photography: INTERNET

As we send his remains to the gallows of the earth, commit his soul to the Lord and refer his name and legacy to the stockpile of annals of Ugandan history, it is befitting of us still alive to remember this genius from Bulamogi, Dr Frank Wilberforce Bulima Nabwiso through an eulogy.

Parentage and early childhood

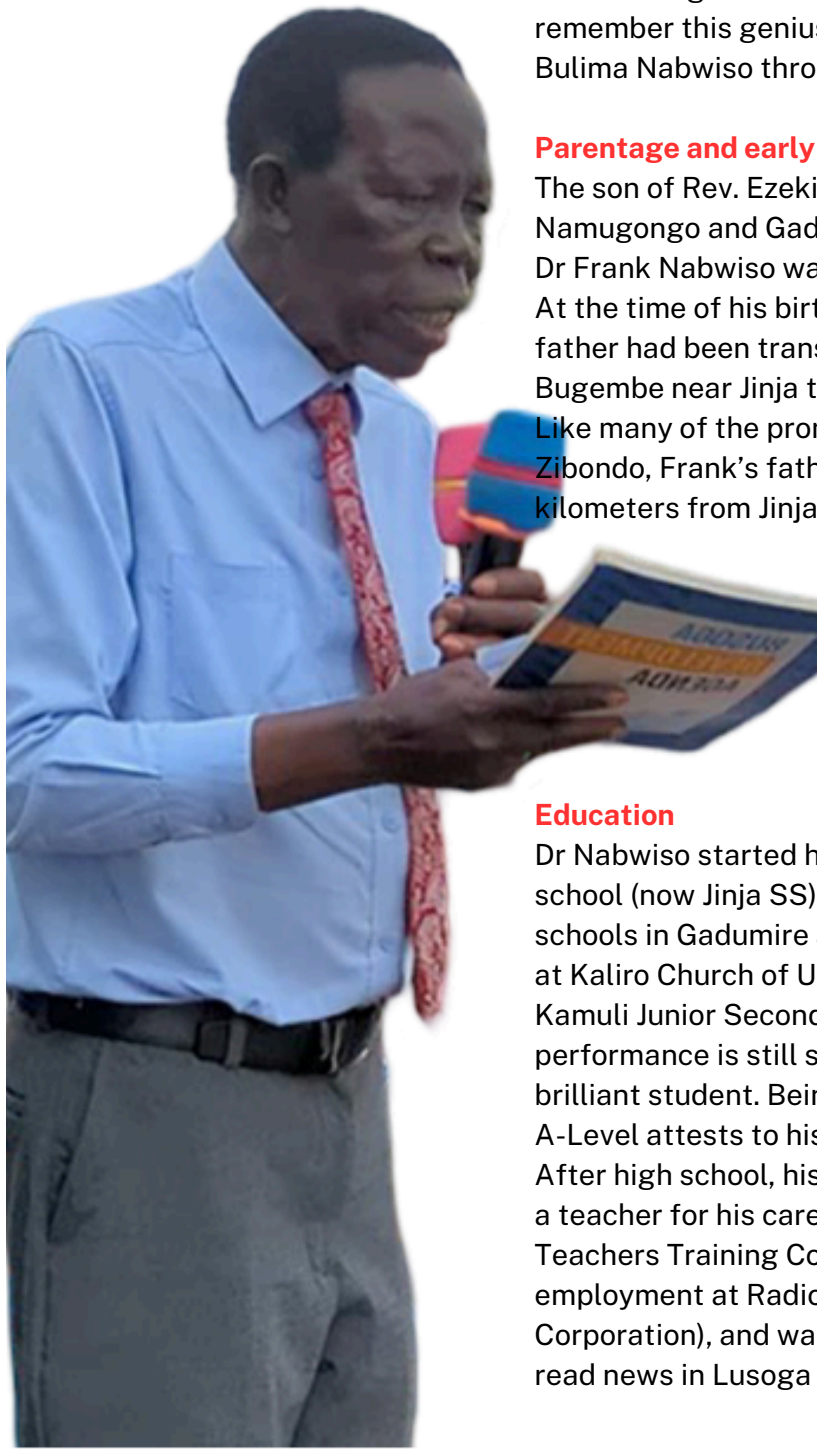
The son of Rev. Ezekiel Kijja Bulima and Eseza Ruth Matama of Namugongo and Gadumire respectively, in the Zibondo Chiefdom, Dr Frank Nabwiso was born and raised up by a priestly family. At the time of his birth in 1940 at Bugembe health clinic, his father had been transferred to the Diocesan headquarters in Bugembe near Jinja town (now City).

Like many of the prominent Balamogi then, including the Zibondo, Frank's father migrated to Nsuube village, a few kilometers from Jinja town along Kamuli road.

Education

Dr Nabwiso started his education journey from Jinja sub-grade school (now Jinja SS), in early forties. He later went to other schools in Gadumire and later completed his primary school level at Kaliro Church of Uganda. He joined secondary education at Kamuli Junior Secondary School for his O-Level. Though his class performance is still scanty, it is pretty clear that Frank was a very brilliant student. Being enrolled at Busoga College Mwiri for his A-Level attests to his level of brilliance.

After high school, his father preferred his brilliant son to train as a teacher for his career, and got him enrolled at Kyambogo Teachers Training College. Two years after completion, he got employment at Radio Uganda (now Uganda Broadcasting Corporation), and was the first person from Busoga kingdom to read news in Lusoga language.



www.busogatimes.com

He later enrolled at Makerere College School (now University) from where he attained his first degree, and later went on to graduate with a PhD in History and Social Sciences.

A personality of unique qualities

Just like many of the prominent African leaders, Dr Nabwiso rose from a very humble beginning but used his unique character spiced up by his humility, simplicity and proper upbringing to rise up to the highest levels of social status in Uganda and Africa, at the time of his death.

Dr Nabwiso was a man of unique qualities. He had an incredible sense of memory. He knew almost all the prominent people in Bulamogi and Busoga in general, present and long dead, and could remember all stories and facts about them with incredible ease.

Dr Nabwiso fondly loved his ethnicity, Chiefdom of Zibondo and an unequalled love for the Royal Family. He never shied away from using his tribal language, the Lulamogi anywhere at any time.

Dr Nabwiso was a man of principles. He was never apologetic on matters of truth even if such truth would land him in jail. During the seventh parliament, Dr Nabwiso, Ken Lukyamuzi and Afuna Adula



vehemently opposed the destruction of the Bujagali falls and traditional shrines for the construction of a hydro electricity dam. He also fearlessly opposed the degazetting of the Butamira Forest Reserve for sugarcane planting by Madvani Kakira Sugar Corporation.

These incidents almost landed him in jail but never was he scared nor chickened like all the other Mps from Busoga did.

Faced by a superior argument against any matter he had believed to be true, Dr Nabwiso had the grace to let you shine, but as an ardent researcher, most often ended with a promise to research further. Nabwiso treasured education.

He helped many children of majorly the most poor, in Bulamogi and Busoga in general regardless of where one came from, what one looked like, and other social inequalities, because he believed that all humans deserved the opportunity to succeed in education and build a decent life.

[@BusogaTimesUG](https://www.instagram.com/BusogaTimesUG)

He was a distinguished elite, teacher and mentor. He helped many including myself, in developing their research qualities, capabilities, skills and authorship. He always stressed that failure is part of life and setbacks strengthen than weaken, but warned that one should not be defined by failure.

A man of unbound love

He was a man with unbound love for everyone, including his enemies who always melted down in shame at the sight of him. He has always been patient, resilient and hopeful until the fortunes turned in his favor. In triumph over such harsh situations, he nicknamed himself 'kiti kya muwogo' Dr Nabwiso was a very busy man every day of the week but never too busy to attend to his wife and children. He was the best father a son or daughter could have. He was a successful family man.

He was a very smart man. He rarely left his house without a neck tie. He loved humor and singing, especially songs from his protestant church. Dr Frank's immense integrity and legacy was too much for any scholar to cover in a simple writing of this nature but has left behind an incredible mark. Frank, rest in peace.

Mr. Alfred Malijjo is a distinguished author and historian on Busoga

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

How irreconcilable differences, intrigue and a toxic environment made Moses Bigirwa quit NUP to form Eastern Revolutionary Platform



Despite a long-standing friendship and political comradeship, Bobi Wine fell out with Moses Bigirwa who was a key promoter of NUP in Busoga region.

In this tell-it-all exclusive interview, Moses Bigirwa, the President of Eastern Revolutionary Platform (ERP), in detail, reveals to Baz Waiswa, the editor of Busoga Times, why he left the National Unity Platform (NUP), how his new political organization, the ERP, will liberate Busoga region but the greater eastern Uganda from the NRM using Eastern First strategy, and his other political plans. Read the interview excerpts below.

You have had quite a remarkable journey in Uganda's political arena, what can you say are your highlights that people of Busoga and Uganda at large should know about you?

I, Gen. Bigirwa Moses, have passionately championed the voices of marginalized communities, advocating for better governance, accountability, and inclusive development. My efforts in building the Democratic Party Youth Wing (DP

UYD), National Unity Platform (NUP), and now the Eastern Revolutionary Platform (ERP) are a testament to my commitment to empowering Eastern Uganda.

Through these initiatives, I have mobilized communities to demand their rightful place in national development. My unwavering campaigns for MP from my youthful days symbolize my resolve to stand for the people, even in

the face of adversity and resistance. It's only Bigirwa Moses and Dr. Kizza Besigye who has been arrested very many times in this country.

You were at the forefront of popularizing the National Unity Platform and it's leader Bobi Wine in Busoga, to clear the air, why did you leave, and, if I put it lightly, let your effort go to waste?

My decision to leave NUP stemmed from irreconcilable differences in strategy and approach.



While I played a pivotal role in growing NUP's influence in Busoga, it became evident that our methods of addressing regional inequalities differed significantly. My contributions, however, were not in vain—they laid the groundwork for my current efforts with ERP. Unlike NUP, ERP offers a fresh perspective and real solutions to the struggles of our people in Eastern Uganda.

The NUP leadership and NUP supporters have accused you of indiscipline, corruption and working with, and for, the National Resistance Movement (NRM), do you have an idea why a party you cherished would turn against you? They can't be entirely wrong, and I can't really say you are guilty - clear the air.

The allegations of indiscipline and corruption leveled against me are baseless and politically motivated. These claims arose from internal party politics and my insistence on accountability within NUP. I have never associated with or worked for the NRM and remain fully committed to the broader struggle for change.

Those who know me understand my integrity and the dreams I have for our nation. I am no opportunist; I am a visionary leader dedicated to meaningful change.

From your experience, and having sowed the seeds of NUP in Busoga, what can you say are the challenges of NUP in Busoga having gained ground in the 2021 elections?

NUP's challenges in Busoga include its failure to connect with grassroots structures, insufficient focus on region-specific issues, and a lack of leadership capacity-building. Despite its initial popularity, the party's inability to sustain momentum post-2021 has weakened its presence in Busoga.

I wish them success, but ERP is steadily building an alternative that resonates with the grassroots.





It was quite surprising that instead of fighting for your place in NUP, you chose to leave - leaving wasn't the only option, why did you choose to leave instead of dialoguing to remedy your relationship with NUP and further push your political agenda?

Attempts at dialogue were met with resistance and pre-determined outcomes orchestrated by a few individuals. The toxic environment within NUP made it impossible to resolve disputes amicably. Dialogue sessions were marred by prejudice from clique of individuals including Bobi wine himself who prioritized personal ambitions over collective progress. Leaving was the only viable option to pursue my vision for Eastern Uganda through ERP.

You didn't just leave NUP, you countered it with the formation of The Eastern Revolutionary Platform (ERP), did your disagreement with NUP & Bobi Wine change your political objectives?

The Eastern Revolutionary Platform (ERP) is not a counter to NUP but an independent Platform focused on addressing the unique challenges of Eastern Uganda. ERP's objectives include promoting equality, justice, and development while empowering the region to demand its fair share in national affairs. ERP is a platform for all Ugandans—whether from NUP, FDC, DP, or any other opposition group—united in the pursuit of meaningful change that benefits all Eastern First being the most marginalized region in Uganda since independence.

For the purposes of educating the readers of Busoga Times, what is ERP & what does it stand for politically?

ERP is a revolutionary platform advocating for regional balance, inclusive governance, and accountability. It is designed to address the socio-economic challenges specific to Eastern Uganda, ensuring that the region plays a decisive role in national politics. Locally, the people of Busoga have embraced it as "ekyaiffe ku' bwaiffe", meaning "ours for ourselves." ERP constitutes members from various political backgrounds and affiliations; we're united for Eastern cause.

In NUP, you were fighting to cause regime change; can you specifically say and confirm that ERP is still pursuing to bring President Yoweri Museveni's regime to an end?

ERP is committed to challenging the status quo and advocating for democratic governance in Uganda. Our strategies include mobilizing the eastern region, holding leaders accountable, and fostering unity among opposition forces to amplify the call for change. We even recently wrote to all opposition parties an idea that we empirically researched to bring meaningful change; this is how it works; Let the FDC focus on delivering Teso, Bugishu, Bukedi, Kasese, and parts of Acholi and Lango, while also picking a few seats from Central and Western regions as usual. ANT should concentrate solely on Ankole under Mugisha Muntu's leadership. NEED should put all its efforts into Bunyoro, leveraging Kabuleta's influence. UPC should focus on Lango and parts of Acholi. NUP and DA should prioritize Central Uganda, where they have the capacity to win all seats.

DP should concentrate on Acholi and select areas of Buganda. JEEMA, ERP should target Busoga and some parts of Central Uganda by JEEMA. PPP, with its presence in Acholi through Hon. Santa, can influence and win additional seats in that region. PFF, under Dr. Besigye, can effectively deliver Kigezi. With this strategy, how will Museveni's NRM win a majority in Parliament? Following this plan, the opposition could secure over 300 MPs in the 12th Parliament! We strongly urge all opposition parties to embrace this strategy; it's our best chance to achieve a united front and victory.

Your public statements show that you have a score to settle with Bobi Wine and NUP foot soldiers than Museveni and NRM, are we wrong? Why then do you publicly attack your comrades in the 'struggle'?

Criticism of NUP leadership is not personal but aims to address gaps and demand accountability. For the struggle to succeed, missteps within opposition ranks must be corrected. I encourage NUP's top leadership to view public criticism as an opportunity for self-reflection and improvement. Our past efforts must not be reduced to mere showbiz but used as a foundation for real change.

What plans does ERP have for Busoga as a sub region?

ERP's plans for Busoga include continuous advocating for improved infrastructure, increased investment in agriculture, education, and healthcare, and creating economic opportunities for youth and women.



For instance, our recent petition to the Ministry of Works about the Mabira road has already led to its rehabilitation. Similarly, our advocacy for the Sugarcane Bill saw swift action from the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament. These actions demonstrate ERP's impact in addressing the needs of our people.

What strategies does ERP have as a political organization to entrench itself in Uganda?

ERP's strategy revolves around grassroots mobilization, capacity-building for local leaders, strategic alliances, and leveraging media to amplify our message. By branding ourselves and launching localized initiatives, we ensure regional ownership of this platform. We have reached villages across Eastern Uganda and collaborated with other opposition parties to strengthen our collective voice.

People are accusing you and ERP of being an organization basing on tribal lines, what is your response to these allegations?

ERP is not a tribal entity; it is a region-focused Platform addressing the marginalization of Eastern Uganda. Our vision is inclusive, welcoming members from all parts of Uganda to join in creating equitable opportunities for all.

A couple of times you have unsuccessfully contested for Member of Parliament, we are entering an election year, are you standing again for Kamuli Municipality constituency seat?

Yes, I will contest for the Kamuli Municipality constituency seat in 2026. This is a continuation of my commitment to addressing the unmet needs of our people. The current leadership has left a significant vacuum that I am ready to fill.

If so, give the people of Kamuli a snippet of your manifesto ahead of 2026 and what your MP reign will be like.

My manifesto prioritizes youth empowerment, improving education and healthcare infrastructure, investment in agriculture, and ensuring accountability in service delivery. My leadership will advocate for inclusive development, making Kamuli a model of progress that inspires Busoga, Eastern Uganda, and the entire nation.

What is the future like for ERP as a political establishment?

ERP is poised to become a formidable force in Uganda's political landscape. With a clear vision and dedicated leadership, we will amplify the voices of the marginalized and drive meaningful change across the nation.

I extend my gratitude to the leadership of ERP, particularly Hon. Adepo Francis, the Revolutionary Secretary General and National Youth Chairman of the FDC, Hon. Ngalula John, our Spokesperson, and the leaders across Busoga; Kamuli, Jinja City, Mayuge, Kaliro, Iganga, Teso, Bugishu, Bukedi, Sebei, and the diaspora.

Your unwavering commitment has strengthened ERP's message and inspired hope for a brighter future of our region and Uganda at large.

Characteristics of poverty and its impact in Buyende district

By: WAISWA MICHAEL BALUYE

Photography: BAZ WAISWA



Waiswa Michael Baluye

Buyende, located in eastern Uganda, faces several poverty-related challenges that impact the livelihood of its people.

KEY CHARACTERISTICS INCLUDE:

Low Income Levels: A large portion of the population in Buyende struggles to earn enough for basic necessities, leading to a dependence on subsistence farming.

Poor Access to Education: Many children in Buyende do not have access to quality education, which limits their future employment prospects.

Limited Infrastructure: Inadequate roads, poor healthcare services, and lack of reliable electricity hinder economic growth and development.

Food Insecurity: Poverty leads to food shortages, and many families rely on rain-fed agriculture, making them vulnerable to climate change.

High Unemployment: Many people in Buyende are unemployed, with few opportunities for income-generating activities beyond agriculture.

IMPACT OF POVERTY IN BUYENDE

Health Challenges: Poverty contributes to malnutrition, poor sanitation, and lack of access to healthcare services, leading to high morbidity rates.

Social Problems: Poverty can lead to social issues like crime, domestic violence, and child labor as families struggle to survive.

Cycle of Poverty: Lack of education and job opportunities traps people in a cycle of poverty, which can persist across generations.

CAUSES AND DYNAMICS OF LAZINESS

Laziness, often seen as a reluctance to work or take action, can be driven by several factors:

Lack of Motivation: A person may not see the value in putting effort into work if they don't expect positive results or rewards.

Depression and Mental Health Issues: Psychological factors like depression can demotivate people, causing a lack of energy or will to work.

Cultural and Social Norms: In some communities, especially where poverty is widespread, there can be a cultural acceptance of inactivity or dependence on others.

Lack of Education: Without proper education, individuals might not see the importance of hard work and the benefits it brings.

Poor Environment: A harsh, challenging environment, such as poor living conditions and lack of resources, can make people feel helpless or unwilling to try.

The dynamics of laziness often involve a combination of these factors, which can create a feedback loop, where poverty leads to despair, which in turn fosters laziness.

GAMBLING AND MONEY GAMES

Games like matatu, ludo, omweso, and others played for money have become popular in many communities as ways to make quick money, but they often have negative consequences:

Financial Losses: Many individuals spend all their money gambling without securing their livelihoods or improving their situation.

Psychological Impact: Gambling can lead to addiction, resulting in further poverty, strained relationships, and mental health issues.

Distraction from Productive Work: People can become fixated on winning quick money, abandoning more reliable and productive forms of employment.

Reinforcement of Negative Behavior: The culture of quick-money games can encourage a lack of work ethic and a focus on immediate gratification.

Changing Mindsets: Encouraging People to Work

To encourage people in Buyende and similar areas to work and break free from poverty, the following steps could be taken:

Education and Awareness: Promoting the value of education and training in essential skills can help people understand the importance of hard work. This could be done through community workshops, vocational training, and awareness campaigns.

Promote Entrepreneurship: Providing support for small businesses, such as microfinance, business training, and access to markets, can motivate individuals to invest in their own businesses and generate steady incomes.

Rewarding Work: Establishing incentives for hard work and innovation in the community can help people see the tangible benefits of working diligently.

Community Involvement: Encouraging a sense of community responsibility can foster collaboration and teamwork, making people feel more connected and responsible for their own success.

Mentorship and Role Models: Positive role models who have worked hard to achieve success can inspire others to follow suit and take their own steps toward economic independence.

THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT

The government plays a critical role in combating poverty and laziness, including:

Infrastructure Development: Investing in roads, healthcare, and schools is key to supporting economic development in Buyende and similar areas.



Buyende is a naturally endowed district with untapped resources good enough to enrich its people.

Social Programs: Providing social safety nets, food security initiatives, and welfare programs can help mitigate the immediate effects of poverty and give people a sense of security while working toward a better future.

Job Creation: By promoting industries, providing training, and encouraging the development of the agricultural and manufacturing sectors, the government can create sustainable job opportunities.

Legislation and Regulation: Governments can regulate gambling and money games, imposing limits or bans to prevent people from being distracted from more productive activities.

Public Awareness Campaigns: The government can launch campaigns to educate the population about the dangers of gambling, the importance of education, and the benefits of hard work.

In conclusion, addressing the characteristics of poverty in Buyende, the causes of laziness, and the negative impact of gambling requires a multi-pronged approach involving education, infrastructure development, social programs, and a concerted effort to change cultural attitudes.

Both the government and the community must work together to foster an environment where hard work is valued and encouraged.

The government should also encourage the beneficiaries of programs like OWC, EMYOGA and PDM to put the money received to sustainable use.

The author of this article, Waiswa Michael Baluye, is the Coordinator of the Office of National Chairman (ONC) Buyende district.

Kasongoire fish festival delights Buyende

The 2024 festive season was a unique one for the people of Kasongoire, a village in Nkondo Sub County, Buyende district. The first ever fish festival happened in their backyard. The theme of the festival was crafted out of the area's leading economic activity - fishing. Sharif Mangaraine, who is aspiring to be elected as the next local council five chairperson for Buyende district, was the organizer and host of the festival. Mangaraine said the fish festival idea was born out of the need for the people of Budiope to come together to discuss the current socioeconomic and political affairs of Buyende and to celebrate the cultural heritage of eating and drinking together. At the festival, revellers ate different species of fish like Nile perch, tilapia, mad and cat fish, enjoyed music and dance, cheered bicycle races and boat races, and a boat cruise. They also made time to discuss the political question of Buyende ahead of the 2026 election year.



Isebantu Kyabazinga's photo gallery

The year 2024 was a good one for the Isebantu Kyabazinga wa Busoga, His Majesty William Wilberforce Gabula Nadiupe IV, and Inhaiffe, Her Royal Highness Jovia Mutesi. *Busoga Times* shares with you our readers some of the memorable moments captured on camera as the Kyabazinga reigned.



Here is how Busoga can produce more scholarly professors

By Nyago Bosco



Dr. Nyago Bosco

In the field of education, Busoga region has had many firsts and has always been a giant in the academic world producing some of the country's most iconic scholars. However, there seems to be an ongoing decline as many Basoga are not seeking education at the highest level. In this article, I look at what, how and why Busoga and Basoga should study beyond the post secondary school degree and become professors to elevate and develop the region.

Who is a professor?

A professor is a senior academic teacher or researcher at a college or university, typically responsible for teaching students, conducting research, and contributing to their field of expertise. Professors often hold

advanced degrees (such as a PhD) and may publish scholarly articles, books, or other works related to their discipline.

Professors are also involved in mentoring students, developing curriculum, and participating in academic or administrative duties within their institution. In some countries, the title "Professor" is specifically reserved for the most senior academic staff, while others may use it more broadly.

In Uganda, the title Professor is a prestigious academic rank typically granted to highly accomplished scholars in universities and other higher education institutions. It is often reserved for individuals who have achieved significant academic and professional milestones, including:

Academic Qualifications: Most professors in Uganda hold a Ph.D. or equivalent terminal degree in their field of study.

Research Contributions: They have published extensively in peer-reviewed journals, books, or other scholarly outlets, often contributing new knowledge or advancements in their discipline.

Teaching Experience: Professors usually have a long history of teaching and mentoring students at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

Leadership Roles: Many professors in Uganda also take on administrative roles, such as heading departments, faculties, or even serving as vice-chancellors of universities.

Path to Becoming a Professor in Uganda

The academic hierarchy generally progresses as follows: **Teaching Assistant:** Entry-level academic staff, often pursuing a master's degree.

Assistant Lecturer: Typically holds a master's degree.

Lecturer: Requires a Ph.D. and evidence of research output.

Senior Lecturer: Significant teaching experience and published research.

Associate Professor: A step below professor, requiring extensive research, publications, and academic contributions.

Professor: The highest rank, achieved after decades of academic excellence, with a significant impact on the field and a proven track record of mentorship and leadership.

The title "Professor" is awarded after rigorous evaluation by academic committees and governing bodies within the university.

Institutions like Makerere University, Uganda's most prestigious university are known for their stringent requirements for professorship.

What must Busoga do to get more professors?

To produce more professors in the Busoga region, several strategic actions can be implemented at the community, institutional, and governmental levels:

Enhance Basic Education Quality

- **Increase Access:** Improve access to quality primary and secondary education in rural and urban areas. Credit goes to government of Uganda for the UPE and USE programs, PLAN Uganda should also be thanked for enhancing especially the girl child stay in school in Kamuli and Buyende districts.
- **Teacher Training:** Invest in teacher training programs to ensure well-qualified educators.
- **Infrastructure Development:** Provide well-equipped schools, libraries, and laboratories to create a conducive learning environment.

Promote Higher Education

- **Scholarships and Grants:** Provide financial support for students to pursue higher education. Credit here goes to Madhivani group for their sponsorship programs and the Obwa'kyabazinga Bwa Busoga (OBB).

Establish Local Universities: Strengthen existing institutions in Busoga, like Busoga University, and encourage partnerships with other universities.

- **Research Opportunities:** Create research centers and encourage students to pursue academic and scientific studies.

Support Academic Excellence

- **Mentorship Programs:** Connect students with professors and researchers for guidance.
- **Recognition of Talent:** Establish awards and incentives for academic excellence to inspire students.
- **Exposure to Role Models:** Highlight and celebrate successful academics from the region to serve as inspirations. Academicians like Prof. Waswa Balunywa, Prof. David Lameck Kibikyo, Prof. Jossy Mary Nakandha Okwakol, Prof. Charles Oweyagha Afunaduula, the late Prof. Frank Nabwiso etc should be inspirational to students.

Encourage Postgraduate Education

- **Master's and Ph.D. Sponsorships:** Provide funding or create affordable programs for postgraduate studies.
- **Collaborations:** Partner with international institutions to offer advanced education and research opportunities.

Build a Research Culture

• **Fund Research Projects:** Offer grants for research in various fields. Research funding is one of the greatest hindrances to achieving higher educational qualifications.

- **Support Publications:** Encourage and support academic publishing in journals.
- **Create Knowledge Hubs:** Establish knowledge-sharing platforms for scholars and students.

Leverage Community and Government Support

Community Awareness: Promote the value of education and higher learning within communities.

Policy Support: Advocate for policies that prioritize education and research in the national agenda.

Private Sector Involvement:

Encourage private businesses to invest in education as part of corporate social responsibility. More companies should emulate Madhivani group and extend their CSR towards funding higher education.

Retain Talent

Job Opportunities: Create attractive job opportunities in academia within the region.

Work Conditions: Improve the pay and working conditions for academic professionals to reduce brain drain.

Involve Alumni Networks

Mobilize successful alumni to mentor students, fund scholarships, and build educational facilities.

By focusing on these areas, the Busoga region can create a strong foundation for producing more professors and advancing academic development.

Mr. Nyago Bosco is Animal Husbandary Officer and a sciences teacher at Naminyagwe Muslim Secondary School in Bugiri district.

Nuclear plant in Buyende must benefit Busoga first

By: BAZ WAISWA

Photography: INTERNET/MEMD



The energy ministry in 2023 held a consultative meeting with residents of Kasaato village

Eyes in the energy sector are glued on Kasaato, an impoverished village in Kidera Sub County, Buyende district where a 8,400MW nuclear power plant is set to be built at a reported cost of US\$9 billion (approx. UGX33 trillion) by Korea Hydro and Nuclear Power Company Limited. The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development reveals that for Uganda to meet its target of 3,668 kWh electricity per capita consumption by 2040, nuclear energy must be integrated in the electricity generation mix. This reiterates the importance of the Kasaato project.

The energy ministry plans to acquire 30sqkm of land which will host the nuclear power plant and its supplementary facilities.

At the different crIn November 2024, the ministry launched the Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) study whose findings will inform the Project Affected Persons (PAP) compensation.

The affected villages include Kiwogoire, Kiyinga, Nawasaso, Kasato, Kyankole, Buyanja A, and Buyanja B.

To boost its nuclear energy management expertise, Soroti University selected to be a Nuclear Reactors Research Centre. Soroti University was found to be the most suitable in terms of infrastructure, land, security, transport connectivity among others. This puts Soroti district among the first technical beneficiary of the nuclear power plant project in Buyende.

Prioritize skilling Busoga youths

Speaking during the World AIDS Day commemoration held at Bukungu Primary School, Bukungu Town Council, Buyende District, The 1st Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of East African Community Affairs, Rebecca Kadaga requested government to be clear on the nuclear power project in the area so that they get to know the benefits of the project towards the locals and the country at large.

Kadaga's call resonates with murmurs among the people of Buyende who are asking how the project will benefit them beyond land compensation.



In an interview with *Busoga Times* during the Busoga Olwekobano Energy Expo in Kaliro in December 2024, Florence Mutyabule, the Senior Presidential Advisor on Alleviation of Poverty in Busoga called on government to immediately start training local youths so that they can benefit from the project through direct and indirect employment opportunities. “This is a big renewable energy project that can potentially end energy poverty in the country. We, however, want to see the youths of Busoga being trained to acquire skills that will enable them to work on the project. They should be given priority since they are the hosts of the project,” Mutyabule said. She also called on government to work with civil society organizations which are undertaking such renewable energy skills development in Busoga by capitalizing them and giving them incentives.

Kyabazinga presents nuclear demands

In a meeting with officials from the energy ministry, the 2nd Deputy Prime Minister, Owek. Osman Noor, on behalf of the Kyabazinga, presented 15 key demands and conditions for the construction of the nuclear power plant in Buyende. The Kyabazinga, who emphasized fairness, transparency, and community benefits, demanded that the Kingdom must benefit from the project in a manner similar to how the Bunyoro Kingdom is benefiting from oil and gas sector. Busoga Kingdom also demanded that Parliament enacts laws targeting the Nuclear Power Resources. The fifteen demands are Fair and Transparent Compensation, Comprehensive Resettlement Plan, Economic Activities for the Region, Social Service Support, Job Opportunities for Basoga Youth,

Scholarships for Specialized Studies, Royalties and Honoraria and Environmental and Safety Measures.

Other demands include: Infrastructure Development, Subsidized Power Rates, Agricultural Support, Kingdom Representation, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Legal Agreement, and Community Monitoring Role.

Plant to produce electricity for all Ugandans

President Museveni who was in Bukungu during the World Aids Day commemoration noted that Uganda needs the nuclear power plant in Buyende since it will increase the electricity power in the country.

“It is very important for the whole country because we have been using the hydro power but the different falls along the Nile will give us a total of 10,000 megawatts.

This one here will be 8,000 megawatts. In other words, all the dams we have will not have as much electricity power as this nuclear plant. It is very important for Uganda but also for this area,” he urged.

“In order to fully benefit this area, we can plan on whether we put up some industrial parks and so on.

That's how even Jinja came up with a small dam of Nalubaale,” the President added.

Benefits for the host community According to a brief by the energy ministry, construction of a nuclear power plant provides economic growth and creation of jobs.

Namayingo miners told to register with ministry of energy

The ministry reveals that the construction period of a nuclear power plant requires at least 2000 skilled and experienced workers on the site at the peak of the construction period. The majority of the labour required to construct a new nuclear power plant is craft labour and accounts for over 60% of the total on-site labour during plant construction. The host community is expected to benefit by getting jobs during construction and operation of the Nuclear Power Plant, revenue such as royalties for the District Local Government, development of social infrastructure such as access roads, schools, hospitals, markets, hotels, etc. and overall improvement of livelihood.

Possible risks from a Nuclear Power Plant

While the a nuclear plant presents risks like radioactive waste, nuclear accidents and negative effects from radiation exposure, a spent fuel and radioactive waste management strategy has been developed by the energy ministry. The strategy recommends on how waste will be categorized and handled with variations from the low volumes such as spent radioactive sources to large and diffuse volumes, such as tailings from the mining and milling of ores that contain uranium and thorium, and their radioactive decay products.



Artisanal miners looking for gold in the rocks of Namayingo district.

The Minister of State for Energy and Mineral Development (minerals), Phiona Nyamutoro, recently told the people of Namayingo district who want to get involved in mineral development to dully register with the ministry and get licensed so as to operate smoothly with government support.

The minister who was speaking to miners at a community meeting in Bulamba parish in Namayingo district promised to sort out contention between the license holder of the area, Harmony resources LTD, and the local people through engagements to have both mineral rights and land rights harmonized for future cohesion of investments.

“For emphasis, illegal mining is culpable by the law and land rights are not mining rights.

The Ministry is ready to support all miners that come forth through the legal process,” Nyamutoro said.

“I was encouraged to see the local people unite themselves in Bukooli, Namayingo Cooperative which we shall support to fully get licensed ,operate legally within the area as per the Mining Act 2022 and regulations,” she added. There has been chaos in Namayingo, a district rich in minerals like gold and the rare earth minerals as government through police engage in running battles with artisanal miners who are not licensed to mine for gold.

Switching from singing in Lusoga to Luganda made me a better artist—**Acidic Vokoz**

His song, it's okay, has appeared on almost all the notable and influential top ten lists of the year 2024, yet *Acidic Vokoz* is still a newbie in Uganda's music industry. In this interview with *Baz Waiswa*, the editor of *Busoga Times*, Acidic Vokoz narrates his music journey and why it is important that musicians in Busoga should tap into the Kampala market.

Who is Acidic Vokoz? Tell us about yourself and your music journey so far.

I am Acidic Vokoz. Kakaire Mutwahilu is my real name. I was born in a village called Namanumya in Busembatya, Bugweri district, formerly part of Iganga district. I grew up in Busembatya and Namutumba. I studied at Namanumya Primary School and Downside High School.

When I dropped out [of school], I started my music journey. I was in my senior four (O' Level) vacation when I recorded my first song, though it wasn't that popular. Then I joined the music and audio production. I was still in Namantumba when I joined audio production.

Then I had to go to Jinja. I got a chance there; one of the biggest studios in the east called me, and they told me, "Acidic, we can work together and do other music productions. I studied audio production. I was studying and working as well.

From there, I got my breakthrough via TikTok with the song "nkulinako Crush." It went viral, and I used that chance. I came to Kampala and got this management that I'm having right now.

Acidic Vokoz, real names Kakaire Mutwahilu, is a rising star with great music potential

We had a peaceful talk and a peaceful transition of power from the other guy to this management that I'm having right now called Mama Baba Entertainment.

What inspired you to choose a career as a musician and performer and not any other career?

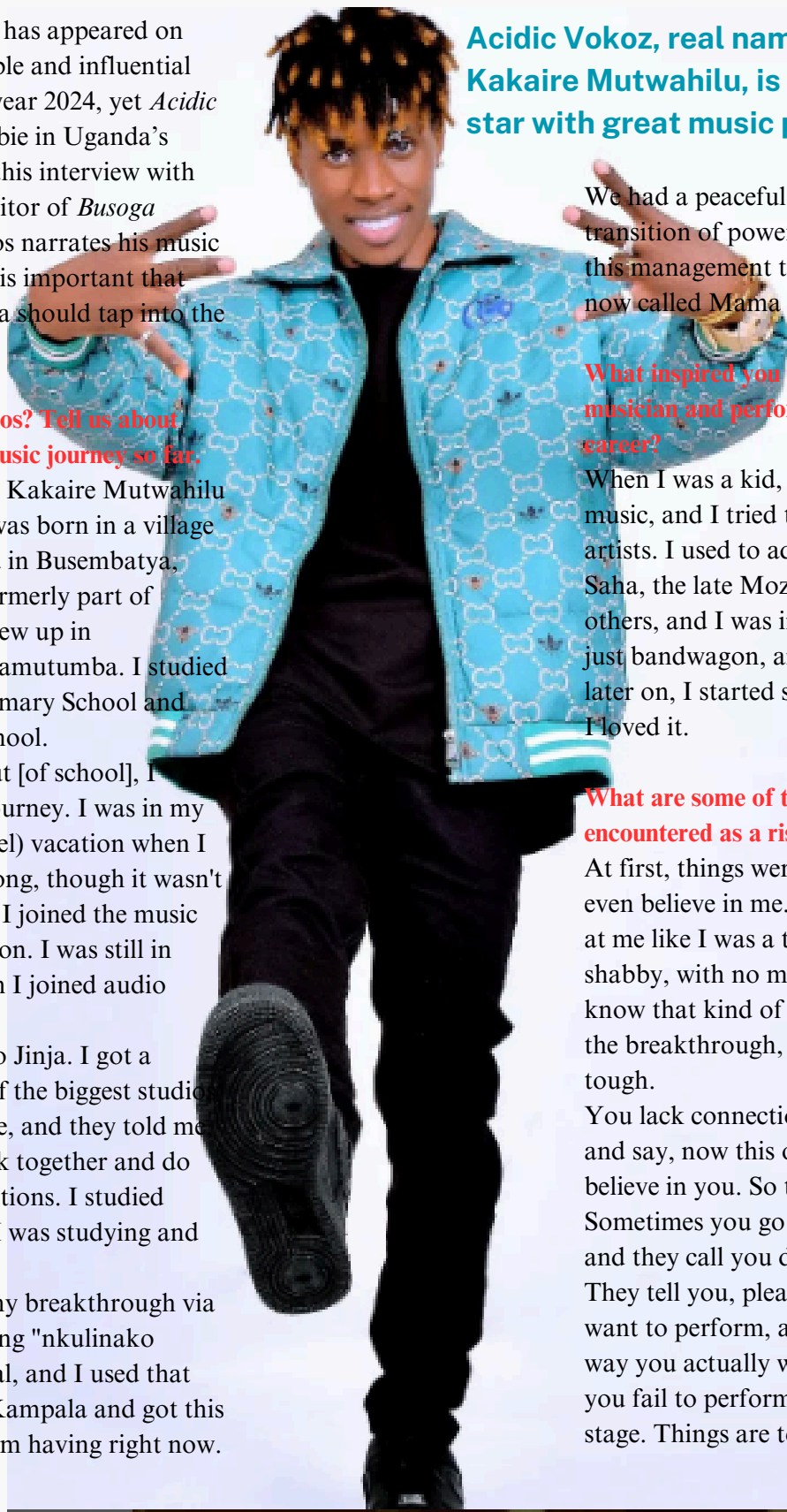
When I was a kid, I had a passion for music, and I tried to look up to these big artists. I used to admire the likes of King Saha, the late Moze Radio, and many others, and I was inspired. At first, it was just bandwagon, and group influence. But later on, I started seeing this as a job, and I loved it.

What are some of the challenges you have encountered as a rising music maker?

At first, things were tough. No one would even believe in me. Everyone would look at me like I was a thief. I was a rastaman, shabby, with no money, just trying; you know that kind of stuff. And after getting the breakthrough, man, still, things are tough.

You lack connections. People look at you and say, now this one. No one can even believe in you. So things are really tough. Sometimes you go somewhere to perform, and they call you down.

They tell you, please leave the stage. You want to perform, and things don't go the way you actually wanted them to go. And you fail to perform. You fail to carry the stage. Things are tough!



Not many musicians in Busoga have transitioned to base in Kampala; how have you managed to successfully achieve this?

It seems that if you're in Jinja or any other part [that is not Kampala], things cannot go your way. First put it in your mind that Kampala is the capital city. Everything starts from here, and then it goes to other regions. When I got that breakthrough, I had to shift from Jinja to Kampala so that I could use every single chance that came my way. In Kampala, we have many radio and TV stations. Many stakeholders in this industry are here in Kampala! I had to shift and use every single opportunity I could get.



Acidic Vokoz is winning Awards

So you can see that the problem is the artists. We should wake up and do the right thing because we can do it.

From your knowledge of the industry and your experience as an artist, why does Busoga music fail to cross Busoga borders?

It is not that the music is bad for it to cross borders; sometimes it is us, the artists, who are the problems. We lack the confidence to come and reach out to people who can really help us. We fear these people.

If you chase that fear, your music will cross [borders] because we have good productions that side [Busoga]. We have good producers, good artists, and good music. It can really cross borders, but the problem is artists who lack the confidence to come and talk to these people who can help us. You can see, Roo Ya Simba, he is my elder in the music industry; actually, he is my father [uncle]. His song nzila crossed from Busoga to this side in Kampala.

Some people say you're shining because you crossed to Kampala and started singing in Luganda & English; how true or false is this insinuation? Should other artists consider migrating to Kampala?

It's true. When I changed the language, things started changing for good. Still, I didn't run away from my language. It can also work for others because it has worked for me. Singing in Lusoga gave me many endorsements, but business-wise, I said, let me go to Kampala and tap into another audience.

What advice would you give a young artist starting out as a musician in Busoga? The first thing is that everyone should believe in himself or herself. In whatever you are doing, you should believe in yourself. Believe that you can make it. You can actually achieve whatever you want.

And endeavour to avoid negative minds because negative minds will always and only set you backward. But if you have positive minds, you will always go forward. There is nothing for free. Work hard. Don't say that someone will come and run everything for me. No. First do something for yourself. Then people will support you.

What are some of the achievements you have registered since you started the music business?

I have achieved many things. I've got many good friends just because of music. I am famous just because of music. And I have my personal achievements, which I cannot tell you here just because of music. My first attempt to fly out of the country was because of music.





5 songs from Busoga that Acidic Vokos listened to & enjoyed in 2024

In a year that has been rich in music in Busoga - right from the established artists like Kadabada, Menton Ras, Omudongole Yazo, Tinah Baby, and many other up coming talents, these five great songs have stood out for Acidic Vokos in the year 2024.

1. Ezila by Roo Ya simba
2. Kyawaire by Cilikon Avokoz
3. Omuwala by Kimera
4. Musiwufu by Tuff Soldier
5. Mama Uganda by Shanandi

You sing about love, and some of these songs are lamentations that indicate a mistrust in love; your encounter with love and relationships must not be a happy one—are you dating someone?

This is a business, and I am an artist. I sing about many different situations and things. It's not that whatever I sing about, I am in that situation.

I am not in love right now; I am not seeing anyone, but I wish that very soon I will be seeing someone, Inshallah.

The Kyabazinga appointed you as the tourism ambassador. How are you using your stardom to execute this ambassadorship?

My role as an ambassador is to show other people in other regions how beautiful Busoga is and to make sure that people get more attracted to coming to

Busoga because we have many beautiful features.

My role is to bring others on board and to make my region shine, which I am doing. What are your future plans in terms of music, personal growth, and your Busoga region, your home?

I want to set a trend. I really want to make records, and I have started. In just two years, I staged a concert at Lugogo Cricket Oval, and it was fully packed. I still have many wishes, and I really believe that with God and people, I will fulfil my wishes.

Acidic Vokos's influence on music in Busoga is growing given his talent and vocal abilities. With him, the future of music in Busoga is in safe hands.



BUSOGA MASAZA CUP 2024: the highs and lows, the hits and misses

By: MUSA KIKUUNO

Photography: INTERNET/SABULA SPORT



The Kyabazinga handing over the trophy to the captain of Butembe following their victory over Bukono in the 2024 Busoga Masaza Cup at Kyabazinga Stadium in Bugembe.

The 7th edition of the Busoga Masaza Cup 2024 came to an exhilarating conclusion on Sunday, 15th December 2024, at the Kyabazinga Stadium in Bugembe, where Butembe claimed their second historic title with a narrow 1-0 victory over Bukono. Officially launched on 3rd August 2024 at Bugweri District Grounds, the tournament was graced by His Majesty William Wilberforce Kadumbula Gabula Nadiope IV, the Kyabazinga of Busoga. Sponsored by MTN Uganda, Nile Special, and Baba Media Group, the competition attracted 14 teams from Busoga Kingdom's 11 counties.

THE HIGHS & LOS OF THE 7TH EDITION

Promotion of talent

The Masaza Cup continues to provide a springboard for youth talent in Busoga. Players displayed exceptional skills, showcasing the region's footballing potential and offering opportunities for professional growth.

Increased competition

The 7th edition saw an unprecedented level of

competition, with counties fielding highly skilled players. This raised the quality of matches and made the battle for the Kyabazinga Cup more thrilling.

Biggest rewards yet

The 2024 champion, Butembe, walked away with a record UGX 13 million, while Bukono, Bugabula, and Buzaya earned UGX 9 million, 6 million, and 4 million, respectively. This growing prize pool has significantly boosted the tournament's allure.

Unity and togetherness

Fans from across Busoga rallied behind their teams, exemplifying how the Masaza Cup fosters unity and community spirit. The tournament brought people together, transcending local rivalries.

LOWS & CHALLENGES

Despite its successes, the tournament faced several challenges that need to be addressed to enhance its future editions:

Delayed decisions by the TOC

The Tournament Organizing Committee (TOC) was criticized for slow decision-making. For example, a rematch between Bugweri and Budioppe, abandoned due to injuries, took nearly three weeks for a ruling, creating frustration.

Disregard for TOC ruling

Teams like Bugweri failed to honor TOC decisions, citing insufficient notice for rematches. This reflected a need for improved communication and adherence to tournament rules.

Ignorance of petition procedures

Many teams lacked awareness of petition procedures, including timelines, required formats, and filing offices. This lack of orientation hindered effective dispute resolution.

Absence of TOC offices

The lack of physical TOC offices limited teams' access to officials for assistance. This led to delays and frustrations, with some teams like Buzaya resorting to external courts.

Unfulfilled promises

While the TOC promised to reward all quarterfinalists, only the top four teams received prizes. This discrepancy created dissatisfaction among other competing teams.



The tourney has its high and lows that TOC must address.

Screening irregularities

Poor player screening allowed ineligible participants, undermining the competition's fairness. Several teams avoided filing petitions due to ignorance or logistical barriers.

Insufficient match officials

A shortage of referees led to repeated officiation by the same individuals, raising concerns over potential bias and overwork.

Neutral ground policy concerns
While finals were appropriately held at neutral venues, fans called for home-and-away formats for quarterfinals and semifinals to enhance local revenue and crowd engagement.

Security issues

Insecurity at venues, such as the attack on Butembe's goalkeeper at Namayingo Primary School Grounds, highlighted the need for stricter safety measures for players and fans.

Looking forward to 2025

The 7th edition of the Busoga Masaza Cup showcased both the immense potential and challenges of this cherished regional tournament.

While the competition provided a platform for talent and unity, addressing issues such as delayed decisions, poor communication, and security lapses is crucial for the tournament's growth.

As the 8th edition approaches in 2025, all eyes are on whether the TOC will incorporate fan suggestions like home-and-away knockout stages.

This could mark a new chapter in making the Masaza Cup a true symbol of footballing excellence and community pride in Busoga.

**For feedback, contact
Musa Kikuuno on WhatsApp:
0756322265.**

A New footballing dawn rises with Busoga United

By: BAZ WAISWA

Photography: COURTESY



Busoga Kingdom Prime Minister unveiled Busoga United new identity at Igenge Palace in December 2024

Football reverberated across Busoga region with teams like Nile FC which won the national league in 1980, Idudi FC, UMEME (UEB) FC, Iganga Town Council FC, and many others. Busoga has over the years produced some of the most revered footballers in this country – people like Hakim Magumba are a mainstay in the history of Ugandan football.

While the region continues to produce great talents like current Uganda Cranes (the national team) captain Khalid Aucho, you can't say the same for footballing teams or clubs. This is why the coming of Busoga United, backed by Obwa Kyabazinga Bwa Busoga, is good news for the region.

Kyabazinga's team

The formalization of Busoga United was concluded with its launch at Igenge Palace by the Kyabazinga. The Kyabazinga His Royal Highness William Wilberforce Gabula Nadiope IV unveiled the team at a dinner while celebrating his 36th birthday at his Igenge Palace. That the Kyabazinga is the team's patron is more exciting to the fans.

At the launch of the club, the Kyabazinga said that Obwa Kyabazinga Bwa Busoga will work with FUFA to promote football in his kingdom. "Promoting talent in Busoga is a sign of unity. Thank you for heeding my calal to promote unity through football," the Kyabazinga said.

The team also unveiled a new logo and jerseys – replacing blue color with maroon; an inspiration from the traditional colors of Busoga Kingdom.

Identify and develop talent in Busoga

The Kyabazinga called upon all Basoga, friends of Busoga, residents of Busoga and the business communities in Busoga to support the club by raising the resources required.

The president of the Federation of Uganda Football Associations (FUFA), Moses Magogo who has vested interests in the club says the vision of the club is to identify and develop the abundant talent in the region through its academy.

Magogo revealed that over UGX100m has already been raised in cash from Basoga civil servants, business community, and individual well wishers to help run the club. He explained that the clubs needs about UGX500m annually to fund its activities.



Busoga Utd new jersey

To live to this promise of talent development, the club held football trials for footballers aged 17 to 25 years. The exercise took place between 28th December 2024 and 10th January 2025 at the Kyabazinga Stadium in Bugembe. It was hoped that the club would spot players who they would sign and strengthen their squad. Nabbosa Najiba, the club's PRO, in an interview with the Busoga Times, said they were looking for passionate and talented players who can help write a new chapter for Busoga United.

Building a professional club

In a recent interview with Busoga Times recently, Busoga United chief executive officer, Daniel Gulere highlighted that the team has undergone a significant transformation from a high school team to a community club co-owned by the Obwakyabazinga Bwa Busoga. The team is run by an interim board consisting of Hajji Abubaker Walubi (chairperson), Kawanguzi Geoffrey, Mukoka Yusufu, Atiisa Patrick, Kintonto Ronnie, Nkuutu David Nelson, Mutesi Deborah Christine, Naigaga Sylvia, Daina Nyago (vice chairperson) and Mugabi Samuel. Gulere said their aim is to establish the most professional club globally. "Our goal is to build a professional team with strong governance structures, promoting talent within Busoga, Uganda, and worldwide. We focus on governance, business, and sport, aiming to transform Busoga through football," he explained.



Busoga United has had a faltering Big League start

Upsetting start in Big League

Following its relegation from the Uganda Premier League, Busoga United has had a tumultuous like in the Big League, the second tier league in Ugandan football. The team has only managed to win game leaving them second last on the fifteen-team league table.

These upsetting results have the team management and fans in despair, however, the CEO remains optimistic that they will salvage the season. Despite struggles on the field, our aim for the remainder of the FUFA Big League season is to secure our position and prepare for promotion to the Super League next season, Gulere said in an interview.

"We acknowledge the current poor performance and have strengthened our technical department by hiring experienced coaches. This will help address the issues and improve the team's performance," he added.

To turn things around, Busoga United hired Charles Ayiekouh Lukula as the new head coach. He is deputized by Eric Ndifuna. Gulere notes that they aim to capitalize on Ayiekouh's experience and player management skills to get the results.

Busoga United's next FUFA Big League fixture is a home game against Arua Hill on 5th January 2025 at the Kyabazinga Stadium.

This will be followed by an away trip to Masindi to face Booma FC on 12th January, before hosting Blacks Power on 19th January.

These games are crucial as the club fights to escape the relegation zone, where it currently sits 14th with 8 points from 11 games.

Membership and Support

Busoga United has introduced a tiered membership system to encourage community support:

- Citizens: Free of charge, with bragging rights.
- Members: UGX 20,000, granting information and voting rights.
- Supporters: UGX 30,000, which includes an ordinary season ticket.
- Congress: UGX 100,000 or UGX 250,000, with benefits ranging from season tickets to replica jerseys and participation in the club congress.
- Executive: UGX 1,000,000, offering VIP benefits and two replica jerseys.
- President: UGX 5,000,000, a role reserved for the club president.

CHAN: Co-hosts Uganda hopeful, ready

A tournament like the African Nations Championship (CHAN) presents an opportunity for countries like Uganda to shine on the continental stage, the Minister of Education and Sports, also First Lady, Janet Kataha Museveni, told a retreat of the 2024 edition's local organizing committee.

The minister added that she feels a deep sense of hope and excitement ahead of the tournament scheduled for February 2025. Uganda will join Kenya and Tanzania to co-host the biennial tournament. The participating nations must consist of only players playing in their national league competitions.

The President of Federation of Uganda Football Associations (FUFA) said it is "our responsibility to make the CHAN 2024 a success." The President of Confederation of African Football (CAF), Dr. Patrice Motsepe, was in Uganda on 20th December 2024 to assess Uganda's readiness to host the tournament. He left a happy man and proud of the excellent work Uganda has put in to prepare for of the 2024 CHAN edition.

CAF confident

"I want to assure football enthusiasts all over the world that East Africa is ready to host a big tournament like CHAN and this will be the best Championship ever," Dr Motsepe stated.



Uganda Cranes is putting in the work ahead of CHAN tourney

"I know there are challenges especially on the side of football facilities but I have all the confidence that these will be sorted before the tournament gets underway in February next year. I have the assurance from the Heads of State of the three host nations," he added. Dr. Motsepe indicated that such Championships come with numerous benefits and believes CHAN 2024 will have a positive impact on the East Africa region.

Uganda Cranes putting in the work

Uganda Cranes head coach, Paul Joseph Put, said they are focused on building a strong CHAN team.

To achieve this, he preferred to maintain the same players who played the two-legged CHAN 2024 qualifier match against Burundi in December 2024 to foster cohesion and strong partnerships among the players - an indication that he intends to use the same group of players "We are analysing the CHAN team, and after assessing the first game, we identified areas that need improvement to ensure better performance moving forward. If we make too many changes, we may lose the opportunity to gauge the team's true competitiveness. While some adjustments will be made, we aim to retain the core of the team to build their confidence and maintain continuity," Put said.

Allan Okello, one of players expected to be on the CHAN said they have been well prepared by the coaches.

NEWS FOR THE PEOPLE
WWW.BUSOGATIMES.COM
[@BUSOGATIMESUG](https://twitter.com/BUSOGATIMESUG)

