

# BUSOGA TIMES



## A kingdom not at ease

**TURMOIL IN BUGEMBE:** The lack of a public appearance by the Kyabazinga since January 2025 has got Busoga talking of an internal strife within the kingdom. Matters were not made any easier when Kadaga alleged that foreigners had hijacked Obwakyabazinga. The king's subjects are impatiently demanding answers.





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## EDITORIAL

# BUSOGA SHOULD MAKE CLEAR PRIORITIES AHEAD OF 2026 ELECTIONS



As the political landscape of Uganda continues to evolve, the upcoming 2026 elections present a critical juncture for the Busoga sub-region. It is imperative that we, as a united front, define and articulate our political priorities to ensure our voices are heard and our interests are represented effectively. First and foremost, Busoga must conduct a thorough assessment of its current socio-economic and political standing. This involves identifying the most pressing issues facing our communities, such as inadequate healthcare, limited access to quality education, unemployment, and insufficient infrastructure. By understanding these challenges, we can formulate specific, actionable goals that address the needs of our people. Secondly, it is crucial to foster unity among Busoga's political leaders, traditional authorities, and civil society organizations. A fragmented approach will only dilute our influence and make it easier for our concerns to be overlooked. We must put aside individual ambitions and work together towards a common agenda that benefits the entire sub-region. This unified front will send a powerful message to national leaders that Busoga is serious about its demands. Furthermore, Busoga needs to engage in proactive dialogue with all political parties and candidates vying for office. We must present our outlined priorities and seek concrete commitments on how they will be addressed if elected. This is not the time for vague promises; we need specific plans and measurable outcomes. By holding these individuals accountable, we can ensure that our needs are not forgotten once the elections are over.

Busoga should advocate for policies that promote economic growth, create jobs, and improve the overall quality of life for its residents. This includes attracting investment, supporting local businesses, and enhancing agricultural productivity. By focusing on sustainable development, we can build a prosperous future for generations to come. In conclusion, the 2026 elections offer Busoga a unique opportunity to shape its political destiny. By defining our priorities, fostering unity, engaging in proactive dialogue, and leveraging our voting power, we can ensure that our voices are heard. Let us seize this moment and work together to build a brighter future for Busoga.

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

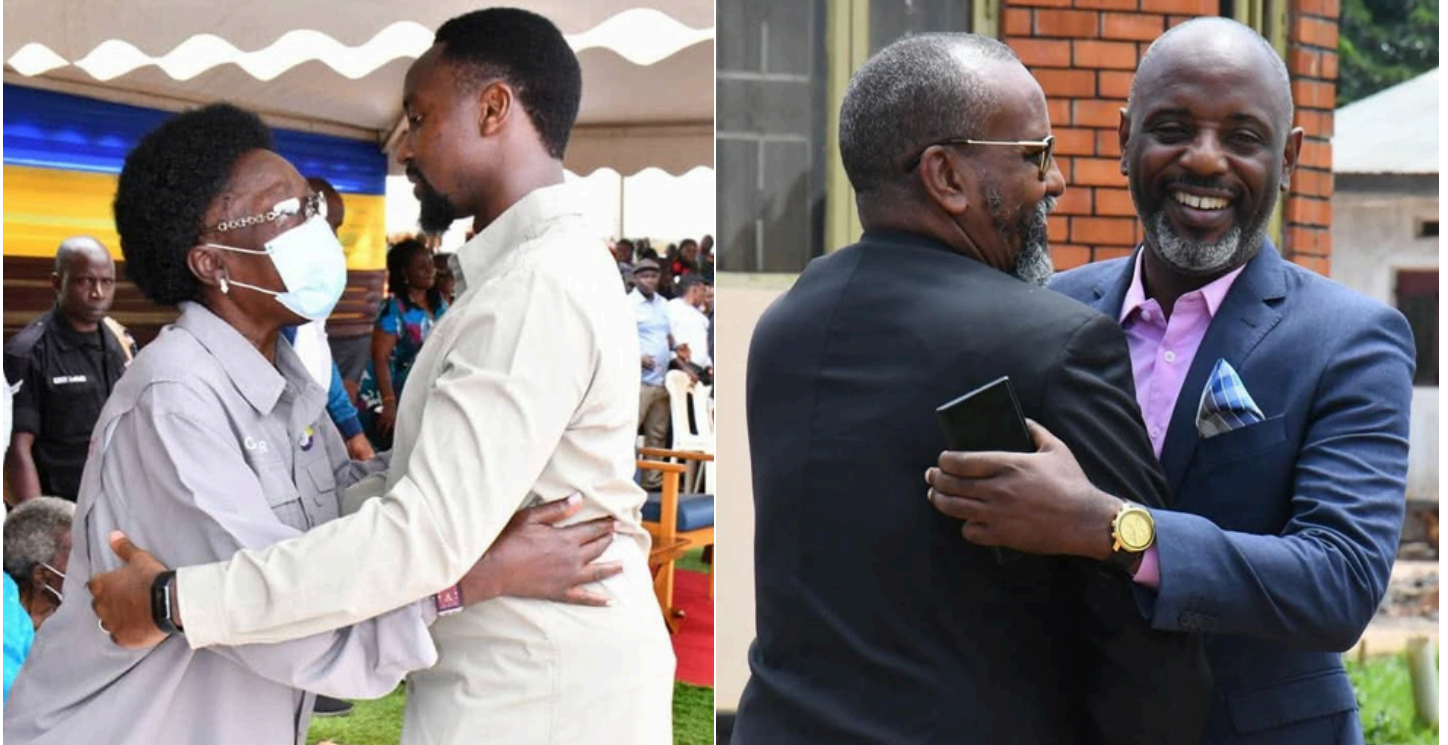
**Editor**



# A kingdom not at ease

By: BAZ WAISWA

Photography: COURTESY INTERNET



**Kadaga believes the presence of Osman in Bugembe is a detriment to the stability of Busoga, but the Kyabazinga and Muvawala have defended the businessman from Kaliro.**

Where is the Kyabazinga? A question many Basoga ask with urgency but timidly. The Kyabazinga of Busoga, His Majesty William Wilberforce Gabula Nadiope IV, last made a public appearance in Busoga and Uganda in January this year. Without a word, the Kyabazinga vanished. And the questioning murmurs of his whereabouts got louder when Basoga on social media started demanding their king. The Kyabazinga aides took to social media, sharing old

photos of the Kyabazinga's public appearances – the plan was to reassure Busoga and the public that all was well with the most important man in the kingdom. It didn't work. The demand for the Kyabazinga got louder and more brutal. The Katukiro (Prime Minister) of Busoga Kingdom, Owekitibwa Joseph Muvawala, was dead silent, reluctant and probably found no reason to respond to chorus calls from commoners.

In March, it took the voice of Rebecca Alitwala Kadaga, the First Deputy Prime Minister of Uganda and Minister for East African Community Affairs, for Muvawala to provide an update – even though it was inconclusive and didn't really respond to the fears of the Basoga.

It was more of a direct response to the issues Kadaga had raised.

**Kadaga drops revealing bombshells**

Kadaga dropped a bombshell during an interview with Kamuli-based KBS Radio when she alleged that

Obwakyabazinga bwawambibwa – loosely translated, the kingdom of Busoga was hijacked or overthrown – by foreigners. This is not a small allegation by any means, especially coming from a respectable person like Kadaga, who was central in the making of Gabula Nadiope as the Kyabazinga of Busoga.

In the interview, Kadaga made a politically sensitive allegation when she said Gabula Nadiope was not the person President Yoweri Museveni preferred to become the next Kyabazinga following the death of Kyabazinga Henry Wako Muloki in 2008. Kadaga told the radio station that she put in a spirited fight to convince Museveni to accept Gabula Nadiope. She was successful, and Gabula Nadiope ascended to the throne on 13 September 2013 at a grand ceremony held at the kingdom's headquarters in Bugembe, Jinja City.

The former Speaker of Parliament and woman MP for Kamuli district was on a roll during the interview with the radio station. She accused kingdom officials in Bugembe of selling the kingdom properties, including land. She went on to say that people running the kingdom, like the second deputy Katuukiro Owekitiibwa Haji Osman Ahmed Noor, are not Basoga because they belong to no clan in the kingdom.

Kadaga's utterances further exposed intrigue brewing up at the

kingdom headquarters. It was an open hint that Kadaga has fallen out with people at Bugembe for various factors. It was now an open secret that Kadaga was at war with Osman, Muvawala and other dignitaries in Bugembe. This was not the first time that Kadaga was having a go at the people in Bugembe, especially Osman. When it first happened, the Kyabazinga came out at a public event to praise Osman, thanking him for inviting and bringing investment to the Kingdom. With all the grumbling from Kadaga, the Kyabazinga has not come out to defend her in the open. But Kadaga is growing impatient with her perceived onslaught from Bugembe that she is now revealing secrets that probably should have stayed where they are hidden.

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**The Kyabazinga serving royals at his coronation in Bukungu, Buyende district, in 2024.**



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### **No one has overthrown the Kyabazinga - Muvawala**

Following Kadaga's radio interview, Muvawala issued a statement on 4th April 2025 assuring the people of Busoga that the Kyabazinga was safe executing his duties as enshrined in the relevant legal regimes and Kisoga culture and norms. He, however, didn't reveal the whereabouts of the Isebantu. "The Obwakyabazinga Bwa Busoga is under no control by any other forces apart from the authority and leadership of His Majesty the Isebantu Kyabazinga," Muvawala said in the statement, adding, "The Kyabazinga informs all of us that nobody is bigger than Busoga and our cosmopolitan nature and unity in diversity as Obwakyabazinga is our strength."

In a veiled response to those questioning the whereabouts of the Kyabazinga, Muvawala said that as per Kisoga culture and norms, the Kyabazinga does

not seek permission from any of the subjects in the execution of his duties both within and out of the country. "The Kyabazinga may upon his will make public appearances to his subjects, and as is the Kisoga norm and culture, those days and occasions exist in the kingdom's annual calendar, and His Majesty has diligently been pleased to appear on such occasions this year, the last being the several public appearances two months ago in January 2025," Muvawala explained.

### **Busoga is not only for Basoga people**

Muvawala downplayed the connotation that Obwakyabazinga should only be served by Basoga, saying Busoga is a product of several migrations that finally made up the eleven chiefdoms that

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were merged around 1919 to give rise to the current cosmopolitan setup called Obwakyabazinga Bwa Busoga. He said the Kyabazinga doesn't discriminate against his subjects on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion or political affiliation, given the history of Busoga and in line with the Constitution of Uganda.

He revealed that Owek. Osman was born and hails from Kaliro district, Bulamogi Chiefdom, and is the longest-serving member of the Busoga Kingdom cabinet. "He carries a fair amount of institutional memory, having had the opportunity to serve as cabinet minister under the late Kyabazinga, His Majesty Wako Henry Muloki, and has served under five different Prime Ministers of Busoga Kingdom. All his actions and duties in execution of his lawful mandate are this with the full approval of His Majesty, the Kyabazinga, and support of myself, the Katukiro of Busoga."

### **Museveni has no mandate to choose Kyabazinga**

The Katukiro disputed Kadaga's allegations that Gabula Nadioppe was not Museveni's choice, saying the president has no mandate and role in the election of the Kyabazinga. It is not true that the President was not in support of the election of our Kyabazinga, as the process was purely a cultural one, Muvawala explained. He further explained that the Kyabazinga enjoys a very cordial and warm working relationship with the government and Museveni.



**Owek Osman has increasingly become a Kyabazinga man of influence.**



The Katukiro, Owek Muvawala (below), assured Busoga that the Kyabazinga (middle) is well and safely executing his duties of the kingdom.

"Examples are the ongoing negotiations with the government on the return of Busoga Assets Ebyaiffe, which have already commenced; the construction of new kingdom headquarters; the handover of the duly refurbished Igenge Palace; and financial support to the kingdom alongside other cultural institutions in Uganda and other collaborations."

#### No facts on stealing kingdom properties

On the allegations of mismanaging the kingdom properties, as Kadaga and many other Basoga allege, Muvawala said the allegations are not backed by facts but on assumptions. "I would like to inform the public that land as a factor of production is key to the sustainability of Obwakyabazinga Bwa Busoga, and just like in several parts of the country, a number of

challenges have been and continue to be encountered in the land management question in Busoga.

"The kingdom is faced with historical challenges like the absence of title systems in Busoga, which has greatly affected the land security and tenure, as most of the land and property that was taken over from the kingdom upon abolition of kingdoms in 1967 was later occupied by private individuals; some sold it off, others decimated it, and by the time of restoration of cultural institutions, 40 years later, a significant portion of the former kingdom land could not physically be availed for kingdom or public use, as demonstrated in the first phase of return of kingdom assets in 1999.







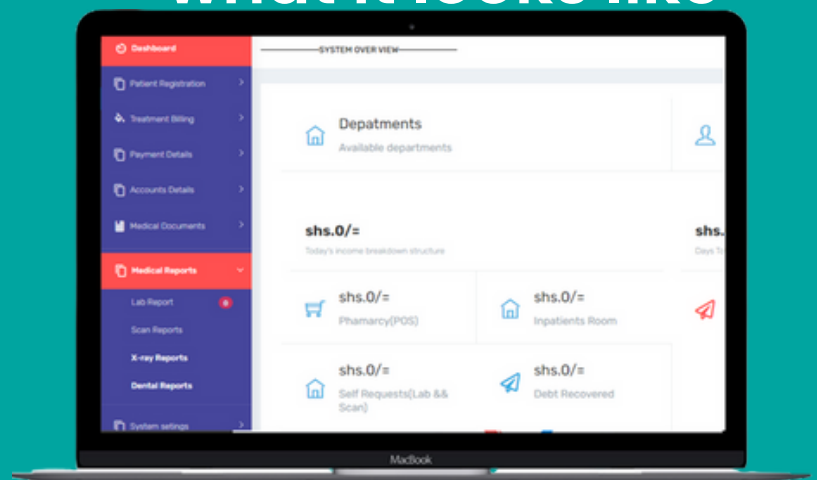
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# Perspective

## Will the constitutionally-created cultural institutions stand the test of time?

By Prof Oweyegha-Afunaduula

It is true. The President of Uganda did not want to reintroduce Kingdoms in whatever form. He said he did not go to the bush to reintroduce Kingdoms. There was a lot of pressure on him, especially from the Baganda, to reintroduce kingdoms. He knew what to do and he did it. He introduced what he called cultural institutions, which was a distortion, since the Kingdoms had political, spiritual and cultural institutions.

The strategy was to depoliticise the former Kingdoms and make them completely dependent on the centre, which wanted to use them to achieve its political ends. This strategy made the LC1 politically more powerful than "the new cultural leaders" LC1 is the lowest level of political organisation of government.

### The money factor

The President chose the strategy of sustaining the cultural institutions with money. The government gives a salary of UGX60m to every cultural institution. Only the Kabaka refused to accept the salary and instead demanded to be paid the money that his institution was demanding from government.

There is evidence that the money given as salary to the cultural leaders



**The Kyabazinga of Busoga has a good relationship with government**

is not only weakening the cultural institutions but is also dividing them. Currently, the Kyabazingaship is in crisis because of money from the centre clandestinely allegedly being used to destroy the cultural institution. One school of thought is that people called mafias do not want a strong leadership of Busoga because that will strategize to ensure that her mineral wealth benefits Basoga and Busoga, thereby making it difficult for the mafias to exploit its mineral wealth for their own selfish interests.





### **President Yoweri Museveni has a cagey relationship with cultural leaders in Bunyoro, Tooro and Buganda**

For Busoga to stand the rest of time as a constitutionally-created cultural institution without political power will be extremely difficult. Politics is where decisions are made. Without political power Kyabazingaship, unlike in the past, will not be able to decide how Busoga should be governed nor how and when it mineral wealth of uranium, oil, gold, diamonds, platinum and rare earth minerals should be exploited in the interest of the area and its people. Currently, the central government is strategizing to exploit Busoga's oil and to use its uranium to build nuclear plant in Buyende but the Busoga cultural institution is not involved. Besides, Busoga's gold, platinum and rare earth minerals are being exploited by mafias and exported but the cultural institution is outside the trade.

Busoga is a sleeping giant that is captured as a region and cultural institution. There is a need for Busoga leaders to rethink their current conflicts and resolve to reject divide and rule for the sake of Busoga. They must know that together the sink or rise. Our future generations are in danger of not belonging to Busoga and losing their identity because foreigners are penetrating the area not only to exploit its resources at the expense of Busoga, but also create a new belonging and a new identity that has nothing to do with Busoga.

For God and My Country.

**Prof Oweyegha-Afunaduula is a member of Center for Critical Thinking and Alternative Analysis**





# Busoga Diocese's female dean

## Anglican congregants urged to emulate virtuous Dr. Joy Mukisa Isabirye



The Anglican Church of Uganda's Busoga Diocese named its first female dean in over five decades. At an event led by Bishop Paul Samson Naimanhye, the Very Rev. Canon Dr. Joy Mukisa Isabirye was officially installed during a Palm Sunday ceremony at Christ's Cathedral, Bugembe. Before this, Dr. Mukisa had served as the cathedral's Sub-Dean for two years. Her appointment symbolizes a progressive shift in the Anglican Church, challenging longstanding gender norms in senior leadership. The Anglican Church in Uganda is a traditionally male-dominated.

Dr. Mukisa, 58, succeeds Bishop Naimanhye, who previously held the dean role before leading the diocese. She is praised for her humility and academic excellence. She becomes the second prominent female cleric within the Church of Uganda, following Rev. Can. Rebecca Nyegenye, who was installed as the first female provost of All Saints' Cathedral, Kampala. Dr. Mukisa credited her achievements to divine guidance, reflecting on her faith journey that began at age 15. "I serve not for reward, but through God's grace," she stated, pledging to

continue offering selfless service. "I am committed to working hand-in-hand with congregants to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ and promote virtuous living," she said. Mukisa also emphasized her desire to champion economic transformation and sustainable development among households in the diocese. As Dean, she is tasked with supporting the pastoral and administrative functions of the diocese. Born in Katende Cell, Bugembe — now part of modern-day Jinja City — Mukisa began her education at Nakanyonyi Primary School.





**Dr. Joy Mukisa Isabirye**

She later attended St. James SS for her Uganda Certificate of Education and joined Iganga SSS for A'Level studies.

Born in Jinja City's Katende Village, Dr. Mukisa boasts an impressive academic portfolio, including a PhD in Religious Studies from Kenyatta University, a Master's in Religious Education from Kyambogo University, and a Bachelor of Divinity from Makerere University. Before entering ministry in 2008, she taught at Busoga College Mwiri and later lectured at Kyambogo University.

### **Praises from peers**

According to Bishop Naimanhe, Dr. Mukisa's elevation was a divine choice. He called upon congregants across Busoga Diocese to embrace her leadership,

describing her as a dedicated servant blessed with the ability to balance her clerical duties, teaching career, and family life. "[Dr.] Mukisa is a hard worker, gifted by God's grace to strike a balance for her family, teaching career, and clerical service without falling short in execution," Naimanhe said, adding, "These virtues have endeared her to congregants, who cherish her for being highly blessed and committed to serving all." Naimanhe urged congregants to emulate Dr. Mukisa's virtuous lifestyle, suggesting her consistent elevation is a testament to living a life worthy of divine blessing. The installation ceremony was presided over by the Bishop of Bukedi Diocese, the Rt. Rev. Bogere Egesa, who commended Dr. Mukisa for her selfless service

and unwavering commitment. "Society demands much from women clerics — especially as perfect homemakers — a mark which Mukisa has achieved with excellence," Egesa said. "She is passionate about her family, her career, and the Church — a rare and admirable combination." Egesa further lauded Mukisa's inclusive leadership style, which he said upholds the dignity and wellbeing of all individuals, regardless of their social standing — a virtue every cleric should embody.

### **Rising through the ranks**

Married to Grace Isabirye since 1993, Mukisa began her clerical journey with ordination as a reverend in 2008. She was ordained in 2010, paving the way for steady growth in her ministry. In 2014, she was transferred from Kivubuka Church of Uganda in Jinja City to Christ's Cathedral, Bugembe, as an Assistant Vicar, where she deputized the then Vicar General, Mathias Katiko. Following her ordination as a Reverend Canon in 2021, Mukisa was appointed Sub-Dean after the then Dean, Rt. Rev. Paul Naimanhe, was consecrated as bishop. According to Bishop Naimanhe, Mukisa's elevation was a divine choice. He called upon congregants across Busoga Diocese to embrace her leadership, describing her as a dedicated servant blessed with the ability to balance her clerical duties, teaching career, and family life.

# Salaam Musumba tips youths in Kamuli on productivity



**Salaam gifted her guests with startup packages containing the Pakistani coffee seedlings, local medicine trees, vegetable seeds, and pesticides.**

Youths in Kamuli have been cautioned against politicking because they will be used and dumped by politicians; instead, they should use their youthful energy to productively build themselves up so that they stand alone as self-made persons who value work and discipline.

This counsel was delivered by former Bugabula South Member of Parliament Proscovia Salaam Musumba while meeting with the Magogo Sub County Youth Brigade, who paid a courtesy visit to her home in Namwendwa, Kamuli District, on Tuesday, 15th April, 2025. She encouraged the youth to live exemplary lives.

“Reset your mindset to food security and income generation and invest your energy and resources in personal health and incomes because development is not in politics but in your mind. I have lost more than five times but continue to live better because I reset my mind to home, food, and eating healthy,” Salaam assured the youth after touring her multiple food and health security model projects. Salaam regretted that despite being endowed with land, Busoga remains food insecure and the youth spend most of their time talking politics and waiting for the “season” of elections.

She said the youths are misused to fight other people’s personal wars, yet they are given peanuts. She added that because they fear taking risks, the youths wait for handouts from politicians. Godfrey Isota, the youth team leader, said their association, founded in March 2024 with only 30 members targeting Emyooga, now has over 100 members. He said they were inspired by radio talk shows about social change. Today, he says, they can attest that it is not politics but hands-on work through which one can survive. The youth said that they have always been misfiring by asking for balls from politicians. Now, they are going to start small, localised projects for development.



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# What crucial role will Busoga play in 2026 presidential elections?

By Alfred Malijjo

The next elections, 2026, are barely a year away, and the only front runner political parties, the National Resistance Movement (NRM) and National Unity Platform (NUP) are in frantic preparations for the grand battle for Busoga. The question is; what crucial role will Busoga play? Who will Busoga listen to and give its vote?

Many political analysts in the past have tried to determine Busoga's response during the past elections but none, if not very few have succeeded in coming up with a comprehensive, convincing outcome. Why? Because of a profound lack of understanding about Busoga in many aspects. And if one is to come up with a perfect, reasonable likely outcome of the presidential election, in particular, one has to anatomize the region fundamentally focusing on the intricate tribal distribution, intertribal relations and settlement pattern.

By comparison Busoga can be equated to the Swing States in the US. Why? Because unlike with the other sister regions like Bunyoro, Bugisu, Buganda,



Mr. Alfred Malijjo

Lango, Acholi, Teso and Karamoja, characterized by commonality of language, ancestry, and origin, Busoga has nothing of the sort. It has no fulcrum, no strong epic center of authority that has the capacity to plan, or hard bargain for the entirety of its people politically. It has no common agenda, no common vision, no common beliefs, no common language, all because of absence commonality of ancestry and origin.

In the highly nucleated, unitribal societies mentioned above, with very strong common values, moral, cultural ties and language which serves as the glue, when their leaders talk, just a few will disobey but still go by the decision of their paramount leaders.

Lack of commonality in everything coupled with the diverse tribal distribution, manipulation as a tool has been used by those politicians who have found endearment in Busoga. Sir William Wilberforce Kadhumbula Nadiope the III became Vice President during Milton Obote's first republican government and yet he was a traditional chief/Kyabazinga. In summary, therefore, Busoga will play swing; any presidential candidate who will understand each individual tribal needs, wants will carry the day.

Let us anatomize Busoga more accurately.

Far in the north in the sub counties of Kidera and Nkondo nestle the Baluli and Banyala tribes who migrated to Busoga from Bunyoro. For the centuries they have stayed in Busoga have never allowed their coveted, language among other things, to be diluted.

In the far East we find the Samia firmly settled in the districts of Busia, Bugiri, Namayingo and the Sigulu Islands. These islands are predominantly settled by the Luo splinter tribe from Western Kenya. During the 2016 elections Hon Ouma George Abbott was elected member of parliament, but during the 2021 elections the Samia rejected him because of tribalism, being a Luo.



In the near East we find the stubborn Lugwere speaking, Balamogi people, settled in the districts of Kaliro and Namutumba.

In the central and south west part are the districts of Kamuli, Iganga, Bugweri and Luuka, the predominant language spoken is Lutenga.

In the north east we have the district of Buyende/ Budiope County. This one is heavily settled by Itesot who migrated from Pallisa and Kumi districts. Though in Busoga, have kept intact their languages. In Bugiri district there is a subcounty called Mutumba where you find firmly settled a sizable big population of the Jopadhola from Tororo.

This leaves no one in doubt, Busoga is just a katogo of tribes. This explains why it can't unite in whatever form, for whatever purpose and cause.

Put on a balance of possibilities to win over Busoga in terms of presidential election of 2026, will largely depend on two main issues; understanding the unique wants and needs on the one hand, and the main teething problems of each of these diverse tribal societies. The 2021 election results still fresh in our memories, the two main rivaling parties NRM and NUP were neck to neck in terms of popularity and support. In the majority of polling stations NUP floored and in some humiliatingly defeated NRM.

Out of the 11 districts NRM managed a thread thin win in Kaliro and the biggest percentage of the votes for NRM came from the Greater Nawaikoke, and in particular from Nansololo subcounty.

It was only in Nzirakayindi polling station where NRM polled 224 votes and NUP managed a mere 50 votes. In Busanda primary school polling station in Kasokwe subcounty Museveni polled 103 votes and Kyagulanyi 100 votes. This shows you how threateningly close NUP was to NRM and yet for almost all the previous elections NRM was sweeping with 90% in Bulamogi County.

Shortly after the 2021 elections NRM political strategists sat down to plough back into how it faired in Busoga particularly focussing on why it was defeated by an almost politically insignificant, infamous known marijuana puffer, Kyagulanyi Sentamu Robert. What is on the horizon is that they failed flat to unearth the actual cause and ended up with an incredible mistake of thinking that poverty/ money was the problem. My predictions may not be as good and fitting to believe in; NRM is headed for another humiliating loss in spite of tossing out billions of money in form of PDM.

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





# Saka Bridge commissioning links Kaliro to Pallisa



Residents in the districts of Kaliro and Pallisa can now interconnect seamlessly after the commissioning of Saka Bridge by the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for East African Community Affairs, Rt. Hon. Rebecca Kadaga, who represented President Yoweri Museveni.

The bridge, a vital infrastructure in the region, will catalyze economic growth by boosting trade, enhance connectivity, and improve safety for local communities. The Saaka has a projected lifespan of 120 years. Kadaga commended Arab Contractors, the company contracted to build the bridge at Saka swamp, for the quality of work done and completing it eleven months before schedule. I look forward to working with you on other projects around the country, Kadaga stated. "You people of Pallisa, the roads are meant to enable you work and generate wealth which would translate into development of the Country," Kadaga told the congregation at the commissioning. Under the National Roads Development and maintenance programme (NRDMP) selected town roads (7.5km) in Pallisa and (12.2km) in Kumi were upgraded from gravel to bituminous standard.

The project was funded by the Ugandan government at UGX 76.5 billion under the National Roads Development and Maintenance Programme.

The project features a 60m bridge (3 spans), 6 box culverts, 4 pipe culverts, and paved approach roads. The works began in July 2022 and concluded in February 2024 under the supervision of the Ministry of Works and Transport.

The bridge crosses the Saaka Swamp, a 3.5-kilometre wetland located at the border between Kaliro and Pallisa Districts. With approach roads of 0.5 kilometres on either side, the crossing connects Namwiwa Sub-County in Kaliro District to Kasodo Sub-County in Pallisa District. It is situated approximately 28 kilometres from Kaliro Town and 10 kilometres from Pallisa Town. The swamp is traversed by River Mpologoma, which drains from the Mount Elgon region and feeds into Lake Kyoga. "Saaka Bridge offers an opportunity to guarantee safety of residents within Kaliro and those of Pallisa," said State Minister for Works, Musa Ecweru, during the commissioning. "In the past, residents of these areas faced several unfortunate fatalities, especially during the rainy season as the available mode of transport was use of canoes."







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# Courses Ordinary Level leavers of Competency-Based Curriculum can study

By: **NYAGO BOSCO**

Photos: **INTERNET**

As Uganda continues to embrace educational reforms, the Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC) has emerged as a transformative approach, preparing students not only to excel academically but also to acquire practical skills vital for the job market. With ordinary level (O-Level) graduates seeking pathways to further education or direct employment, numerous courses have been tailored to address the diverse needs of these learners. This article explores the courses available for O-Level leavers within the framework of Uganda's CBC, alongside the unique benefits each course offers.



Nyago Bosco

## Vocational Training Programs

Vocational training programs offer practical and specialized training in various trades. They focus on skills development and are designed to respond to the local economic context.

Key Areas:

- Carpentry and Joinery
- Electrical Installation
- Plumbing
- Tailoring and Fashion Design
- Hospitality Management

Benefits:

- **Job Readiness:** The hands-on nature of vocational training equips students with skills that are in high demand in the job market. Graduates can quickly transition into job roles or even start their own businesses.

- **Entrepreneurial Opportunities:** Vocational training encourages innovation and entrepreneurship, allowing students to create their own enterprises.
- **Economic Contribution:** Skilled vocational professionals contribute significantly to improving local economies and enhancing productivity.

## Technical Courses

Technical courses focus on specific fields such as engineering, ICT, and automotive technology, blending theoretical knowledge with practical application.

Key Areas:

- Information and Communication Technology (ICT)
- Automotive Mechanics

- Building and Construction
- Agriculture and Animal Husbandry

Benefits:

- **Diverse Career Paths:** Graduates from technical programs can seek employment in various sectors, including technology, manufacturing, and agriculture.
- **Skill Versatility:** The training provides a strong foundation, enabling graduates to adapt and thrive in multiple job roles or industries.
- **Contribution to National Development:** By offering skilled labor, graduates contribute to national projects and infrastructure development.

## Arts and Humanities

Programs in the arts and humanities focus on critical thinking, creativity, and cultural studies, aligning with Uganda's rich cultural heritage.

Key Areas:

- Fine Arts
- Music and Performing Arts
- Journalism and Mass Communication
- Literature and Creative Writing

Benefits:

- **Cultural Preservation:** These courses help promote and preserve Uganda's diverse cultures and traditions.
- **Enhancement of Soft Skills:** Skills in communication, creativity, and teamwork develop well-rounded individuals equipped for various careers.





### A learner can study for a certificate in structure construction

- Opportunities for Diverse Careers: Graduates can venture into fields such as media, education, and public relations, enhancing prospects for employment.

### Business and Entrepreneurship Courses

Designed to equip O-Level leavers with the skills to run businesses successfully, these courses cover essential aspects of starting and managing a business.

#### Key Areas:

- Business Management
- Marketing
- Financial Literacy
- Entrepreneurship Development

#### Benefits:

- Empowerment through Entrepreneurship: By fostering a spirit of entrepreneurship, these programs inspire self-reliance, enabling individuals to create job opportunities for themselves and others.

- Financial Literacy: Students gain crucial financial management skills, preparing them for informed decision-making in personal and business finances.
- Innovation Promotion: Courses encourage innovative thinking, helping students to develop unique solutions to local challenges.

### Health and Wellness Programs

Health-related courses cater to the increasing demand for skilled professionals in the healthcare sector, aimed at producing competent health workers.

#### Key Areas:

- «Nursing and Midwifery
- Community Health Work
- Laboratory Technology
- Environmental Health

#### Benefits:

- Public Health Improvement: Graduates play a vital role in improving healthcare standards and health education in communities.
- High Employment Demand: The healthcare sector generally offers a wide range of job opportunities, ensuring a higher chance of employment.
- Contribution to National Health Policies: Skilled health professionals are essential for implementing government health initiatives.

### Agricultural Training Programs

With Uganda's economy heavily reliant on agriculture, courses focused on sustainable farming practices, agribusiness, and rural development are essential.

**Key Areas:**

- Crop Production
- Livestock Management
- Agroecology
- Agricultural Extension Services

**Benefits:**

- Food Security Promotion: Training in agriculture equips students with skills necessary for improving productivity and ensuring food security.
- Entrepreneurial Viability: Graduates can cultivate their own plots or engage in agribusiness ventures, contributing to the economy.
- Rural Development: Education in agricultural practices often leads to development and modernization of rural communities.

**Conclusion**

For ordinary level leavers in Uganda, the competency-based curriculum presents numerous pathways for further education and career advancement. The courses offered cater to a variety of interests and aspirations, ensuring that students not only receive theoretical knowledge but also practical skills essential for today's dynamic job market. As Uganda continues to evolve its education system, investing in these courses can empower the youth, paving the way for a productive workforce that supports national development goals. Embracing vocational, technical, and other specialized courses will not only benefit the graduates but contribute to the overall economic growth of the country.

“As Uganda continues to embrace educational reforms, the Competency-Based Curriculum has emerged as a transformative approach, preparing students not only to excel academically but also to acquire practical skills vital for the job market.”





# Kadaga wins Africa Good Governance award in Morocco

The First Deputy Prime Minister of Uganda and Minister for East African Community Affairs, Rebecca Alitwala Kadaga, won an international award in Morocco for her efforts to empower women in Uganda, Africa and the world. “[I am a] proud recipient of the Africa Good Governance award, for my work in women's emancipation and Parliamentary stewardship, transparency, integrity and accountability,” Kadaga, also the Woman Member of Parliament for Kamuli district shared the good news on X.

Kadaga said she was ‘humbled by the recognition accorded to me as recipient of the Africa award for Good Governance from the Heritage Times of London.’ She dedicated the award to her electorate in Kamuli, Fida Uganda and to Members of Parliament in the 7th, 8th 9th and 10th Parliament of Uganda.

Others on Kadaga’s dedication list are the CWP (Africa) and (International) and IPU ‘where we broke barriers in Women's Representation in decision making.’ The award ceremony was held at the Savoy Hotel, Marakesh, Morocco on April 12, 2025. The AfriHeritage Awards celebrated visionary leaders whose commitment to people-centered governance continues to inspire.



Kadaga posing with the award at the award ceremony in Morocco

Recently, Kadaga was among the notable Ugandans who were awarded medals for exceptional service on Saturday, March 8, 2025, during the International Women’s Day celebrations held at Bukwiri village in Kyankwanzi district.

Kadaga was awarded the Distinguished Order of the Crested Crane Grand Commander 1st Class medal for spearheading women's emancipation not only in Uganda but also in East Africa and the world at large. For many years, Kadaga has been the face of the fight for gender equality, emancipation, and women's empowerment globally.

Rebecca Kadaga has had a distinguished political career, serving as Uganda's first female Speaker of Parliament from 2011 to 2021. She has been an advocate for women's rights and has held various ministerial positions. She has worked with the International Federation of Women Lawyers, established the first-ever legal aid service in Uganda, and established the first women’s law firm, Kadaga and Co Advocates. In an interview with Uganda Broadcasting Corporation (UBC) television, Kadaga, said the journey to the achievements being witnessed today has been ‘interesting’ but ‘not an easy journey’.





**Kadaga presented the award to the staff of Ministry of East African Community Affairs**

“It is not an easy journey to make changes in policy and legislation and to change society. It is a job you have to do for a long time and consistently, and there are many barriers. I am delighted that a number of things have been achieved so far. For instance, we established the Legal Aid Centre of FIDA, the first one in the whole country, in 1998 to support the poor people who cannot afford lawyers,” she said.

Adding: “We have influenced a lot of policies, for instance, the law on trafficking was enacted from the women’s caucus of parliament, and the law on FGM. We made changes in legislation; for example, in the committees of parliament, I made sure that the law says 40% of chairpersons of the committees are women because there was a time when there was none—men were not allowing women to get involved.”





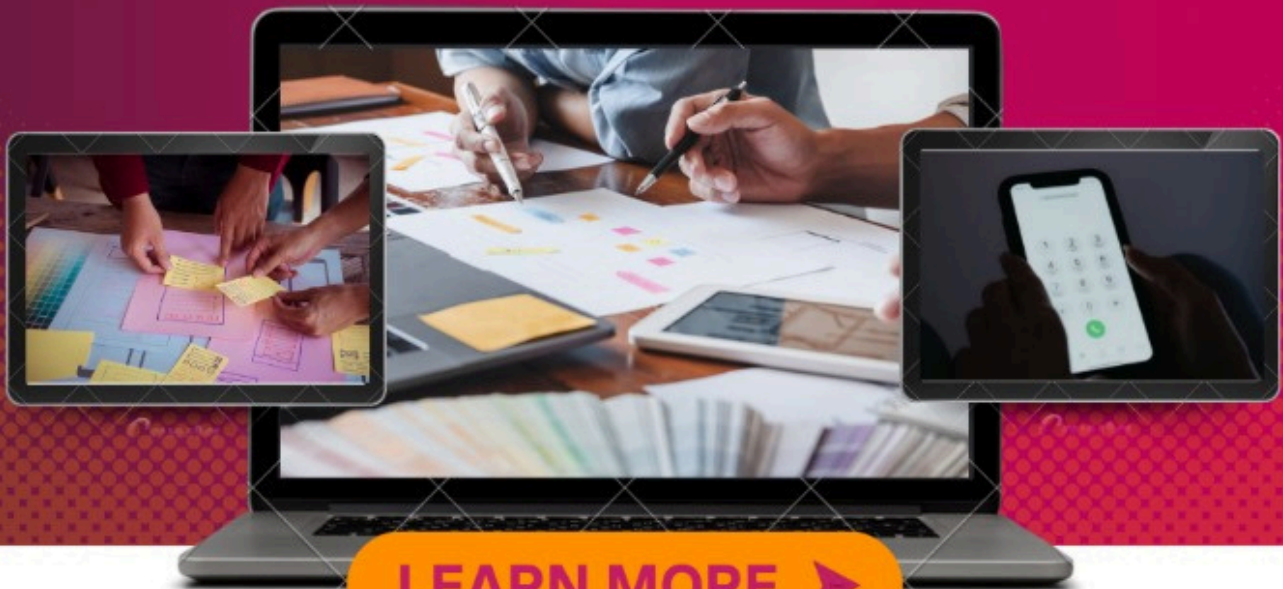


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# Winnie Nfaaki

## Committed to curbing climate change through renewable energy use promotion



The Minister of Energy and Mineral Development, Ruth Nankabirwa, awarded Winnie Nfaaki a medal for her efforts to promote renewable energy use in Uganda during a Women's Day function in Kaliro.

In a world grappling with climate change, the voices of those championing sustainable solutions are more critical than ever. In this issue of Busoga Time, I'm excited to introduce you to Winnie Nfaaki, a passionate promoter of renewable energy in Kaliro district. Winnie's tireless efforts to bring clean, affordable energy to her community are not only transforming lives but also setting a powerful example for others.

With this illustrative interview, join me as we delve into her story, her motivations, and her vision for a greener future in Kaliro and beyond.

**Can you tell us a bit about yourself and what sparked your passion for renewable energy, particularly in Kaliro district?**

Nfaaki Winnie is my name. I am a born of Kaliro district, Bumanya Sub County, Namusolo village, to the late Kyakatuuka Samuel and late counsel Nakiyemba Loy.

I'm a student of international relations and diplomacy, with a detailed focus on climate change and resilience. The spark towards the renewable energy solutions was driven after constant assessment of my village, and the district at large, that many people did not afford or access power, yet they needed it.



**For those unfamiliar with Kaliro district, can you paint a picture of the energy landscape there before you began your work? What were the primary sources of energy, and what were the challenges associated with them?**

Kaliro district, as part of Busoga region, has been affected by sugarcane growing. People have cut down trees to burn charcoal and replaced forests with sugarcane plantations. This in turn has degraded the environment. 80% of the district's surface area is covered by sugarcane plantations. Also, communities in Kaliro are stuck with ancient fossil fuels like firewood and charcoal. These fossil energies are a threat to the health. Young girls who are sent to fetch firewood are exposed to social dangers like rape and other insecurities.

**What specific types of renewable energy are you promoting in Kaliro district? Why did you choose to focus on these particular technologies for this region?**

I am specifically looking at communities embracing solar energy technologies because it's the most abundant and reliable source available, though other technologies are taking up the space, especially the waste-to-energy techniques. Turning waste to energy will help with the management of waste in the district, especially in urban centres.

**Can you describe some of the projects you've initiated or are currently working on in Kaliro? What are the key objectives and expected outcomes of these projects?**

I have been at the frontline for

operations with many implementing partners around the energy sector. I have worked closely with Busoga Yaiffe in the organization of the Olwekobaano Energy Expo and Health Camp where key players in both energy and health come on board. The district health office together with World Vision has been a key supporter of the health camp, while Kaliro Technical Institute, Sendea Academy, and the Physics Department of Makerere University boost education and training in renewable energy technologies. We have worked with the Uganda Solar Energy Association and the National Renewable Energy Platform from the Ministry of Energy.

The key objective is to leverage accessibility of clean, reliable and affordable energy for improved health, agriculture, education and trade.

**What are the main benefits that renewable energy brings to the communities in Kaliro district?**

Renewable energy technologies with time will benefit Kaliro through enhancement of energy reliability both energy and health come on and security. It will also result in a reduction of carbon emissions from the factories in the district. It will also lower energy costs. Renewable energy will create jobs for people who are undergoing training in solar.

**What strategies are you using to raise awareness and encourage adoption of renewable energy solutions among the local population? How do you address any scepticism or resistance?**

The major strategy being used to create awareness is the annual energy expo, which is a three-day event full of diverse activities.....



**A solar energy demo at the 2024 Olwekobaano Energy Expo in Kaliro**

The major strategy being used to create awareness is the annual energy expo, which is a three-day event full of diverse activities, including exhibitions of the energy technologies, a health camp and a delegates' conference. There is also an introduction of the Girls for Climate Change club in schools to have climate action plans adopted from the grassroots. Constant community dialogues and dissemination meetings and home visits are conducted to highlight the dangers of fossil fuels.

**What are some of the biggest challenges you face in promoting renewable energy in Kaliro district?**

The major challenge faced is the stereotypes about renewable energy. Many people believe that only men can implement in this sector, yet I am one of the women who have broken through the ceiling, trying to close that gendered gap.

The other challenge is politics and government policies. Some people believe I am in this to gain fame so that I can run for political office, which is not true. Other people believe it is only the government, and not individuals like me, that are supposed to provide these renewable energy sensitisation services. The other challenge is limited resources, yet the scope of operation and area we have to cover is large.

I would have loved to see the whole country adjust to renewable energy technology. However, my principle is to use what I have to do what I possibly can. So, I am using the little I can mobilize through strategic partnerships to take affordable, reliable and clean energy to my people.



**How are you working to overcome these challenges?**

I am in close touch with strategic partners that support renewable energy use efforts. We have brought trainings closer to people. Sendea Academy, together with Kaliro Technical Institute, has renewable energy trainings annually. We have teamed up with partners to organise Olwekobaano Energy Expo and Health Camp, an annual event organised in Kaliro district.

**What kind of support would be most helpful in scaling up renewable energy adoption in Kaliro?**

I look at having capacity building for district resource officers, environment officers, health, education and agriculture officers to devise ways how renewable energy can be deployed in our communities. I also need government support to achieve net zero emissions in our communities.

**Are there any specific success stories or impactful moments you've witnessed**

**that illustrate the positive changes brought about by your work?**

Through coalitions, the Open University UK provided solar kits to vulnerable homesteads in Buyunga ward, Kaliro. St Mark's Church of Uganda Health Centre in Kaliro has received solar packages. Sendea Academy is partnering with the Technical Institute, which is running training for solar technicians, with at least one intake a year. Many patients have accessed medical care from the routine medical camps organised.

**What is your long-term vision for renewable energy in Kaliro district?**

My long-term vision is to see Kaliro district access energy that is affordable to everyone. I also want to see a clean decarbonised environment through the implementation of carbon-neutral and net-zero designs that will help mitigate climate-related disasters. I also want to create jobs for people in renewable energy.



# Hellen Waiswa T. Lunkuse

## "Golf has shaped my character, instilling in me virtues essential for my personal growth"

For many people, golf is an exclusive sport – a reserve for people high on the corporate ladder who largely play for recreational purposes. Yet for Hellen Waiswa T. Lunkuse, the current Vice President of the Uganda Ladies Golf Union and Lady Captain at Jinja Golf Club, golf has been the tool that has shaped the person she is today – a committed advocate for women's rights and community leader. . She is the Founder and Executive Director of the Rape Hurts Foundation, an organization focused on providing support to survivors of gender-based violence while promoting empowerment through extensive community initiatives. These initiatives encompass the establishment of vocational and skills training centers, the provision of medical aid and emergency support, the offering of educational opportunities to at-risk children, legal assistance, comprehensive documentation, leadership training, and the execution of climate change mitigation projects, including solar-powered community infrastructures such as bakeries, streetlights, refrigerators, and water pumping systems.

### Falling in love with golf

Lunkuse is distinguished as the first female graduate in her village. She takes pride in her role as a mentor to young women and girls, encouraging them to overcome cultural barriers. Her significant contributions have garnered international recognition, including prestigious awards such as the Community Impact Award from Thomson Reuters, acknowledgment from the Vital Voices Global Leadership Awards, and nominations by the Global Thinkers Forum and Athena40.

**Gold has made Lunkuse a better person**







**Hellen Waiswa Lunkuse captain Jinja Golf Club**

Curiosity drove her to the sport of golf. Her friends who are enthusiasts of the game encouraged her, and like they say, the rest is history. She testifies that golf has played a pivotal role in shaping her character, instilling in her the virtues of resilience, patience, and integrity, which have become essential in my professional and personal endeavours.

Lunkuse's objective is to cultivate inclusive opportunities for women and young girls in the sport of golf through the establishment of accessible training programs, advocacy for sponsorships, and the enhancement of competition standards. We seek to augment community engagement and promote a supportive environment that empowers more women to participate actively and confidently in golf, she says.

### **Women and golf – breaking barriers**

Lunkuse explains that encouraging women and girls to engage in golf necessitates making the sport accessible, affordable, and inviting. This, Lunkuse, says, it entails

implementing mentorship programs, youth-oriented training, and enhancing the visibility of accomplished female golfers to inspire newcomers. She adds that establishing environments where women feel esteemed and supported will considerably enhance their sports participation and retention.

She intends to utilize golf to foster social inclusion, enhance health awareness, and develop leadership skills among women, ultimately positively contributing to community growth and promoting gender equality. And to achieve this, the Uganda Ladies Golf Union, where she is a leader will play a crucial role to advance community development by advocating for women's and junior empowerment through sports.

### **Mentoring women in golf**

Gold is believed to be an expensive sport, a position Lunkuse acknowledges and notes that access to resources and sponsorships is a challenge that blocks many golf enthusiasts especially women.

Resources like golfing gears (tools), training grounds, and competitions are crucial for the progression within the sport of golf. In response to this issue, Lunkuse is proactively establishing networks and partnerships to foster support for women's golf, thereby enhancing visibility and ensuring essential resources for tournaments and training.

She reveals that mentorship holds significant value in the realm of golf, offering guidance, encouragement, and practical insights. 'I have been privileged to receive mentorship from individuals who have profoundly inspired me, she narrates,' adding that 'I aim to reciprocate this mentorship by proactively guiding young women and juniors and developing structured mentorship programs to nurture new talent and instill confidence within the sport.'







**Hellen Waiswa Lunkuse founded Rape Hurts an NGO that empowers women who have been victims of rape**

She is positive that in the near future women golfers in Uganda will attain the desired recognition on national and international platforms. As for Lunkuse, her specific objectives encompasses establishing of junior golf programs, securing consistent funding for women's tournaments, and enhancing infrastructure to accommodate the increasing participation of females in the sport.

#### Playing for Jinja golf clubs

Playing for Jinja Golf Club as the Lady Captain, and excuting her mandate at the Union as the Vice President, plus running errands at Rape Hurts Foundation, means Lunkuse is a busy bee, but how does she pull it off? he answers that managing these responsibilities necessitates meticulous planning, prudent delegation, and effective timekey. management.

SShe says, “I prioritize tasks in an efficient manner, delegate responsibilities to competent team members, and uphold clear boundaries to ensure that I allocate time for playing golf, which continues to be crucial for my well-being and personal development.” Adding, “Golf has significantly impacted my personal development by fostering patience, enhancing strategic thinking, and cultivating emotional intelligence. Both on and off the course, these skills have augmented my leadership capabilities, improved my interpersonal relationships, and fortified my capacity to manage life's challenges with grace.” She advises young women starting their golfing journey that maintaining persistence, passion, and patience is

She notes that the sport of golf imparts valuable life lessons that extend beyond the course, therefore, it is essential to embrace continuous learning, seek mentorship, practice consistently, and believe in one's potential to excel not only in the realm of golf but also in all facets of life.





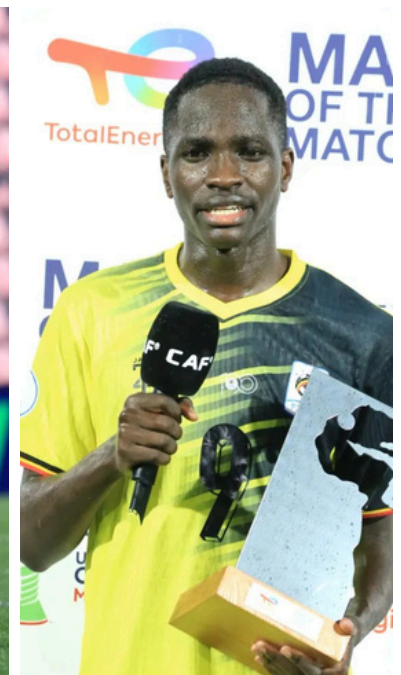
# World Cup duty calls for Uganda Cubs

FUFA will support this team to make sure it succeeds in Qatar. We are excited that we shall be at the global stage where Uganda will get the chance to be drawn against the biggest names in world football like Argentina, Brazil and many others. As a Federation, this has been a strategy. You know everything is done by strategy. There are very many people who have said, these people are lucky. Yes, we are lucky. But luck loves those who plan, because whatever we are doing and seeing today, is planned.

For us to be able to succeed at the highest level, we need to deliberately make intentions about youth football in Uganda.

We started the FUFA U17 Juniors League, and many naysayers thought that it cannot happen, it's not practical. But since 2015, when we launched the FUFA U17 Juniors League, there has been a lot of success already. We have also entered all our teams for available international competitions by CECAFA, CAF and FIFA.

As we celebrate the achievements of our young players, let us continue to nurture and support them, providing them with the opportunities and resources they need to excel. By working together and staying committed to our goals, I am confident that Ugandan football will continue to thrive and achieve great things.





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