

BUSOGA TIMES



A nation worried

OLD HABITS DIE HARD: President Yoweri Museveni's preference for violence as a tool to sort out situations that don't favour him is well documented. He was quick to pick up the gun to justifiably fight the undemocratic regime of President Idi Amin Dada. He did the same when he convincingly lost the 1980 elections to President Milton Obote. Now, close to 40 years since he took over power after a five-year bloody guerrilla war in which about 500,000 Ugandans lost their lives, President Museveni often turns to the gun to deal with Ugandans who believe that he should retire. In fact, going by the electoral violence of 2021, and what happened in the Kawempe North by-elections, Ugandans are worried that Museveni's democracy will spill more blood and leave many people dead and property lost in 2026.



**Managing Director**

Eve Brenda Mbasabye

Business Development

Julius Mirimu

Executive Editor

Baz Waiswa

Editor

Baz Waiswa

Graphics

Baz Waiswa

Photographers

Elisha Muloki, Elizabeth Namuli,
INTERNET

Contributing Writers

Julius Mugabe, Baz Waiswa,
Musa Kikuuno, Sam Bamutaze

CONTRIBUTORS**Mr. Waiswa Michael Baluye**

Baluye is the Coordinator Office
of the National Chairman
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

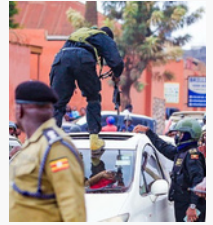
@BUSOGATIMESUG

IN THIS ISSUE



A NATION BRUTALISED, SCARED AND WORRIED

5



STATE TERRORIS DURING ELECTIONS

10



KADAGA AWARDED FOR EMPOWERING GIRLS

13



RAMADAN HEALTH AND SPIRITUAL BENEFITS

24



SINGER MARO ACHIEVES GREATNESS

28



UGANDA CUBS GOES TO U17 2025 AFCON

31



AMERICAN FOOTBALL NATIONAL LEAGUE SET

32



UGANDA CRANES REGROUP FOR WCQ

33

EDITORIAL

POLITICS SHOULDN'T TURN US INTO BLOOD SPILLING BEASTS



Man is, by nature, a political animal is one of the most famous quotes attributed to Aristotle, an ancient Greek philosopher. This ageless quote can loosely be translated to mean that man will always participate in the politics of his or her country no matter what the conditions are.

Politics and political activities and choices define how a country is governed. The participation of a citizen in the politics of his or her country is a given; a human right that shouldn't be taken away by anyone. Participating in politics completes the tenets of democracy.

In Uganda, the 1995 constitution gives Ugandans a right and freedom to participate in the country's politics. The same constitution allows Ugandans to respectfully and legally express their political interests and choices. It is therefore improper to see some actors in Uganda prohibiting others from participating in the politics of their country.

The recent violent acts by the police and military against Ugandans are beastly and shouldn't be happening in this modern era. Uganda's political arena should be peaceful and calm. Uganda has a darker and ugly political history; the animosity that saw thousands of Ugandans lose their lives shouldn't be repeated, especially by people who claim to have liberated the country from bad politics.

The leaders of this country should know that we are one people – brothers and sisters – and that differences in political ideologies shouldn't call for guns to come out to spill blood. Politics is a competition; you lose some, you win some. When the time to lose comes, lose honourably, and let the country be at peace.

Baz Waiswa

Editor

A nation brutalised, bloody scared and 2026 worried

By: BAZ WAISWA
Photography: INTERNET/NUP



An election, the process of electing leaders by casting a vote, is the epitome and face of democracy world over. It is what civilized people do when deciding who should lead them. Under normal circumstances, the process should be peaceful, fair and transparent. The election process is a showcase of civility and observation of basic human rights. All this can be if the country in focus is not Uganda. For the past three decades, elections in Uganda has been a life and death affair – the closest to a calm election period dates back to 1996, the first of such an exercise since President Yoweri Museveni took over power in 1986, ousting a democratically elected Uganda People's Congress (UPC) government under the leadership of Dr Milton Obote after a bloody five year armed struggle.



Bobi Wine, aka Ngobi, is loved in Busoga

After that, in 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016 and 2021, it has been guns and bullets, tear gas and batons, tears and blood, and arrests and murders. The most unfortunate part of this ugly history is that the violence during these election cycles was meted out on Ugandans by the very people who are supposed to protect them – the police and the army. Every election has had its share of victims, mostly young men and women who dared to oppose Museveni and his ruling machine, the National Resistance Movement (NRM), a political party that morphed out of his rebellion outfit, the National Resistance Army (NRA).

State coordinated violence as an electoral malpractice benefits the incumbent who commands the gate keepers of the law like the police, the military, the judiciary, and as we come to witness, the parliament. In the recent past, we have seen the police work alongside unidentified militias in curtailing Ugandans from exercising their freedoms to participate in an electoral process.

The atrocities committed by the current regime during the past elections are well documented and have come to characterize elections and democracy in Uganda.

A violent 2026 elections looms

As Ugandans look forward to the 2026 elections, and going by the behavior of political actors inside the regime and the military leadership, they foresee a more intentional violent election period – worse than what the country saw in 2021 when Robert Kyagulanyi Ssentamu, a not tested political novice, dared to challenge Museveni.

Kyagulanyi, and his political party, the National Unity Platform (NUP) are gearing up to yet again face off with Museveni in 2026. Kyagulanyi is conducting countrywide tours promoting what he is calling a ‘protest vote’; an idea rallying Ugandans to turn up in big numbers and vote Museveni out of power.



While Museveni has not verbally indicated that he will stand for re-election, activities inside the NRM, the military and State House, point to his return. The Electoral Commission last year rolled out a roadmap leading to the voting period commencing in January of 2026.

Museveni’s son, Gen Muhoozi Kainerugaba, who is the Chief of Defence Forces (CDF), has publically declared that the army will not allow civilians like Kyagulanyi become president of this country. He has since expressed his wish and desire to kill Kyagulanyi and Dr. Kiiza Besigye, the founder of Forum for Democratic Change (FDC).

Dr Besigye run-ins with Museveni vying for the presidency have almost cost him his life. He is currently languishing in prison after he was kidnapped by the regime while on a trip in Kenya's capital Nairobi last year.

The violence rehearsal in Kawempe

A by-election to replace former Member of Parliament (MP) for Kawempe North, the late Muhammad Ssegirinya, was marred by excruciating violence orchestrated and distributed by the army, the police and the Joint Anti-Terrorist Taskforce (JATT), a militia in the police that was created to fight terrorism. Going by their operations in Kawempe, JATT has turned its guns on civilians who politically disagree with the regime.

Reacting to the violence that happened in Kawempe during the nomination of candidates in that by-election, the former Leader of Opposition, and MP for Nyendo-Mukungwe, Mathias Mpuuga, warned that the violence witnessed in the Kawempe by-elections is just a rehearsal of what awaits Ugandans in the 2026 elections.

"There is no rational explanation as to the presence of the military in the by-election. The pretence must stop, if we are intentional about building a democracy, we must speak to what we are dealing with, if we don't want elections, do away with them and rule by martial law," said Mpuuga during a parliamentary sitting.

Various political parties and their leaders, including some leaders in the ruling NRM, condemned the violence saying such violent acts are unacceptable. The FDC issued a statement in which it stated that the high handedness wasn't necessary at all and demanded that punitive action against the errant security officers involved in the operation to torture Ugandan is taken.

Despite the readily incrementing evidence in the press and public outcry, government expressed unwillingness to address the matter.

At a press conference in Kampala, government Chief Whip, Hamson Obua revealed that the NRM Parliamentary Caucus meeting that had sat at State House in Entebbe

ignored the discussion on the violence that marred the Kawempe by-elections. Instead, he attributed the violence to Ugandans who fail to cooperate with security forces.





Human rights abuses

In Parliament, Ibrahim Ssemujju, the MP for Kira Municipality raised concerns over the deteriorating human rights observance by security forces. This human right issue has not spared MPs and political party leaders. Recently, top leaders include FDC party President Patrick Oboi Amuriat were arrested inhumanely and remanded for weeks in Soroti. Others are MP Aloba Joan, Jonathan Ebwaru, Isaac Asaku, and Mary Goretti Atemo. The Soroti Chief Magistrate's Court set a cash bail of UGX 32 million for their release. Reacting to the gross human rights violation by state agencies, the Archbishop of Church of Uganda, Samuel Kaziimba asked Ugandans to stop provoking security forces in order to avoid escalation of tense situations. He, however, expressed concerns over the brutality and violence inflicted on Ugandans by security forces. He made

the remarks during Ash Wednesday Holy Communion Service held at Parliament.

A CDF that promises and delivers violence

Jonathan Odur, the MP for Erute South, has questioned if government has lost control over the CDF, Gen Kainerugaba. Each day, Ugandans wakeup to social media posts from the CDF threatening violence against Ugandans. Sometimes, he comes good with his threats. He in one post on X (formerly Twitter) bragged that the JATT operatives were working on his orders. He has promised to promote an army officer who was seen in a video beating people on the voting day in Kawempe.

His utterances come at a time when other government officers play the clean slate by regretting the actions

of the government security personnel. For example, David Muhoozi, the Minister of State for Internal Affairs, described the dress code of JATT operatives where they cover their faces with hoods as unacceptable. He said enforcement officers are supposed to be identifiable while on duty. "If you are enforcing the law, you must be properly identified. We said we have rules of engagements, booklets written to officers, so I think we shouldn't tire in our quest to ensure that we enforce the law and we enforce it according to the dictates of enforcement," the minister said. With utter disregard of the law and what his minister had told Parliament, the CDF said JATT officer will continue covering their faces because it's their standard.





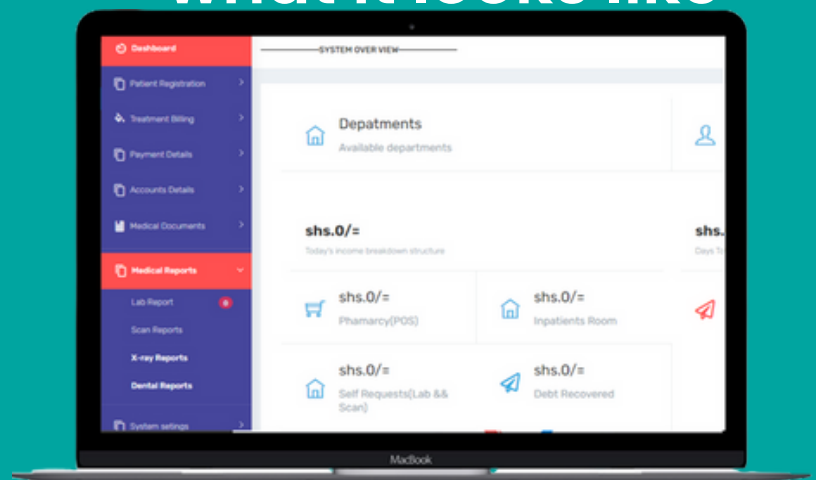
CONTACT US
+256 779941964

Made for doctors by doctors

ClinicSync is a hospital management system designed to streamline administrative, clinical, and operational processes within healthcare facilities. It integrates various modules to enhance efficiency, improve patient care, and optimize resource management.



what it looks like



Ready to take charge of your health? Contact us today to schedule an appointment or learn more about our software



Entebe Mpala opposite stabex
petrol station



info@elsesoft.net



www.elsesoft.net

State Terrorism

Before, during and after elections in Uganda

By Oweyegha-Afunaduula



Masked security officers belonging to government's Joint Anti Terrorism Taskforce have caused havoc in recent election activities in the country.

Terrorism is of many types. The most known type of terrorism is that in which the terrorisers use guns, chemical weapons and biological weapons against human and other beings. When the terrorisers are organised and manifest as the State, their type of terrorism is called State Terrorism.

When the terrorised are people, State terrorism involves torture to harm. Many times, State terrorism may result in total disappearance or death of the terrorised. Objects such as fire, acid, electric wires, iron bars, stones and sticks are used. The aim and purpose is not so much to harm and eliminate the terrorised as to generate and proliferate fear and silence among the population and thereby build a docile, inactive, unresponsive citizenry that cannot collectively rise against the oppressor.

There can be State environmental terrorism, State ecological terrorism, State intellectual terrorism, State social terrorism, State cultural terrorism, State food terrorism, State media terrorism, State presidential terrorism and State military terrorism, State police terrorism, State paramilitary terrorism, State Mental and psychological terrorism and State business terrorism.

Let me define these different types of State Terrorism.

State environmental terrorism

"State environmental terrorism" refers to environmental destruction or the threat thereof that breaches national or international laws and exhibits the characteristics of terrorism by the State, potentially targeting natural resources to force political or ideological change.

State ecological terrorism

"State ecological terrorism" refers to acts of environmental destruction or the threat thereof, committed by a state or government, that are intended to instil fear or cause harm to a population, often for political or ideological reasons.

State cultural terrorism

"State cultural terrorism" refers to the use of cultural practices or policies by a state to intimidate, control, or suppress a specific cultural group or population, often through the promotion of a dominant ideology and the marginalization of others. It involves Suppression of minority cultures, Propaganda and indoctrination, Targeted discrimination and Destruction of cultural heritage.



Ugandans have vehemently condemned the rowdy actions of JATT

State Food Terrorism

"State food terrorism" refers to the intentional contamination or disruption of food supplies by a state or state-sponsored actors, aiming to cause harm, panic, or economic disruption.

involves governments or factions within them using violence or the threat of violence against their own citizens, other factions, or foreign governments/groups to achieve political goals.

State Media Terrorism

State media terrorism is when the State targets the media and media workers to restrict the media from transmitting knowledge and information about state excesses or on what the state considers not for public consumption.

State police terrorism

This is an aspect of state-sponsored terrorism by the government involving the police or units within the police using violence or the threat of violence against their own citizens, other factions, or foreign governments/groups to achieve political goals.

State presidential terrorism

This type of terrorism emanated from presidential words, actions, behaviours, guidelines or Executive Orders to the state instruments of coercion to reign havoc on the population in order to cause fear among the people.

State paramilitary terrorism

This is an aspect of state-sponsored terrorism by government, involving paramilitary groups or factions within them using violence or the threat of violence against their own citizens, other factions, or foreign governments/groups to achieve political goals.

State military terrorism

State military terrorism, also known as state-sponsored terrorism,

State Mental and psychological terrorism

State mental and psychological terrorism involves a government or state using psychological tactics, often covertly, to control, suppress, or manipulate a population, causing widespread fear, anxiety, and distress, and potentially leading to long-term psychological harm

State business terrorism

"State business terrorism" is a phrase that suggests the involvement of state actors or entities in terrorism, potentially including businesses or organizations that are linked to or controlled by a government, with the goal of achieving political, economic, or social objectives through fear and coercion.

State political terrorism

State political terrorism, also known as state terrorism, refers to the use of terrorism by a state against another state or its own citizens to achieve political goals through coercion and the spread of fear.

State economic terrorism

State economic terrorism, also known as financial terrorism, refers to the deliberate manipulation of a nation's economy by state or non-state actors, often to achieve political aims and target civilians

All these types of State terrorism have been prevalent in Uganda, even before the National Resistance

Movement/Army grabbed the State instruments of power in 1986 following a bush war in the Luweero Triangle from 1981 to 1986 ostensibly to usher in democracy, freedom, justice.

Unfortunately, whenever the State terrorises the citizens it violates freedom, democracy, justice, human rights and human life in Uganda.

When State terrorism is manifest, constitutional governance and the rule of law are weakened or rendered inconsequential, while the powers of the State President, the army and the police are enhanced, even illegally. The President can order army or police to take action on the people that they deem necessary.

These days it is not uncommon to the Chief of Defence Forces (CDF), who is the first and publicly known only son of the President, simultaneously ordering the army, police and the range of paramilitary groups to reign havoc on the population. These various instruments of coercion are given the free will to do anything to the citizens anywhere, anyhow and anytime using any instrument of torture and harm at their disposal. The assumption is that the population harbours terrorists or can harbour terrorists. A law was passed by Parliament way back in 2002 to combat terrorism within and outside the country. It is called The Anti-Terrorism Law 2002. It is the most frequently evoked law before, during and after elections, purposely to reign havoc on the people in order to control the restive population of mainly young people.

Whenever The Anti-Terrorism Act 2002 is evoked State presidential terrorism and State military terrorism, State police terrorism, State paramilitary terrorism and State Mental and psychological terrorism are integrated and reigned in one spectrum of terror to generate a reign of terror. It is frequently evoked before, during and after elections. Simultaneously an expansive cloud of fear emerges the

country. It consummates the State, which is increasingly manifesting as a Deep State, the Presidency, the military, the police and the population. The whole electoral process is militarised. Many voters are scared away from voting their candidates of choice. It appears as if the elections are not organised to produce leaders but to violate democracy, freedom, justice, human rights, human life and to test various weapons of destruction of all civility in order to make politicomilitarism superior to civilianism. "Civilianism" refers to the dominance of civilian interests and their implementation over military force.

Civilianism, as a noun, signifies the prevalence and influence of civilian perspectives and actions in matters that traditionally fall under military jurisdiction. In Uganda under NRM rule this is next to impossible. Everything possible has been done to subordinate civilians to the power and authority of the military. This is why the CDF could afford to say that Uganda will never be led by a civilian again (Samuel Muhimba, 2024). In his post on X (formerly Twitter), Muhoozi said the security forces

would not allow a civilian to hold the country's highest office (Samuel Muhimba, 2024). He was not contradicted by his father, Tibuhaburwa Museveni.

The continued threat to civilianism we face on everyday basis leaves the country in a state of war. It explains the overcapitalisation of the military in Uganda. This is exacerbated by the fact that the NRM regime have converted our country into the military "policeman" in the Great Lakes region. At the moment the Ugandan military is in at least 5 countries, including South Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo and Somalia. It is possible that the militarisation of the electoral processes, accompanied by militarily-initiated electoral malpractices have to do with this status. There could be fear by the State that a new regime would not maintain the status quo in the region. He regime would redirect resources into education, health and infrastructure development instead of stifling this for regional warring and displaying military strength in the region at the expense of human development in Uganda.

For God and My Country.

Mr. Oweyegha-Afunaduula is a writer, researcher and social commentator



Women Emancipation

Kadaga recognised with national medal for empowering women

The First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for East African Community Affairs, Rt. Hon. Rebecca Alitwala 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. Speaking in Kyankwanzi, the Ambassador of Sweden to Uganda, Her Excellency Maria Håkansson, noted that in Uganda, women's leadership and economic empowerment have expanded, and legal frameworks have been strengthened to protect women and girls. An achievement that has the hallmarks of Kadaga hands and works.





Rebecca Kadaga

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.

Not an easy journey

In an interview with Uganda Broadcasting Corporation (UBC) television, Kadaga, reacting to the medal received, said the journey to the achievements being witnessed today has been 'interesting' but 'not an easy journey'. "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.

And the first daycare centre in a government facility was when I was Speaker at Parliament, and now it has become a policy.

"I have the Kamuli Girls Educational Fund; I must have educated 10,000 girls, including some boys, but it is because I realised that at some stage, you have brilliant children, but their parents don't have money or cannot afford to take them forward," she further said of her achievements over the years. While today she is known for her politics as a senior cadre in the ruling National Resistance Movement (NRM) and as a long-serving Woman Member of Parliament for Kamuli district, Kadaga says she never set out to be a politician.



Rebecca Kadaga has empowered women in Uganda through advocacy, legislation, and philanthropy.



While today she is known for her politics as a senior cadre in the ruling National Resistance Movement (NRM) and as a long-serving Woman Member of Parliament for Kamuli district, Kadaga says she never set out to be a politician. “I was mainly in activism. I was the president of FIDA Uganda, and my work was to advocate for women's rights and so on, but along the way, I was diverted to now being at the centre, demonstrating, speaking at conferences, so I can make the changes from within.”

It was in 1989 that politics kicked in when she was elected to represent Kamuli to the National Resistance Council (NRC), the then national parliament following the takeover of power by the

National Resistance Army (NRA) under the leadership of President Yoweri Museveni. “I started as an LC1 chairperson (at the time it was the Resistance Council — RC), then I was elected as the chairperson of LC 2 for Mbulamuti; from there, I was sent to the district as their representative. Then I was elected to the NRC. So, I started in the village.”

Profile highlights

Rebecca Alitwala Kadaga was born on 24 May 1956 in Mbulamuti, Kamuli district in Busoga subregion, Eastern Uganda. She is a lawyer, politician, activist, and philanthropist. She served as the Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda from 19 May 2011 until 21 May 2021. She is the first woman to be elected Speaker in the history of the Parliament of

Uganda. She currently serves as the First Deputy Prime Minister of Uganda and Minister for East African Community Affairs in the Cabinet of Uganda. She is also the current Woman Member of Parliament (MP) for Kamuli District, a position she has held since 1989.

From 1996 to 1998, Rebecca Kadaga was the Ugandan Minister of State for Regional Cooperation (Africa and the Middle East). From 1998 to 1999, she was Minister of State for Communication and Aviation, and from 1999 to 2000, she was Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. She was elected as Deputy Speaker of Parliament in 2001, a position that she held until 19 May 2011, when she was elected Speaker of Parliament.

Sound of crime: Bugweri turns to drums to curb animal theft



Because of increasing theft of animals in the district, leaders have bought security drums.

From time immemorial in Busoga, drums have been used as a mode of community communication. The drums are sounded to communicate times of joy and sorrow. It was a common practice for residents to sound the drum in a certain way (mukiidi) to communicate that a crime has been committed. This would alert residents to be vigilant and respond to the crime scene so as to find a solution to the prevailing problem. Today, with the presence of LCs officers and police posts in almost every sub-county, the sound of the drum as a means of communicating the occurrence of a crime has been on the low. People prefer the LCs and police who have better mechanisms to arrest,

investigate, and cause justice. However, in Bugweri district, the LC 5 chairperson Hajji Muziransa Shafi is going back to the old days of using drums as a mechanism to fight crime. Muziransa bought 'security drums' to help prevent crime and theft for all the 21 villages in Namalembe subcounty. The district leader turned to this method following the rampant theft of animals in the subcounty. The stealing of animals is interrupting government programs especially the Parish Development Model (PDM). Bugweri District leaders, including the District Resident Commissioner (RDC), LC 5 Chairperson, Chief Finance Officer, Procurement Officer, and others, have been moving

around the district to monitor government projects. One such project visited was the three-classroom block at Butende Muslim Primary School under maintenance using government funding. Earlier in February, a delegation from the Office of the National Chairman, led by the Busoga Regional ONC Coordinator, Kyanika Rehema, visited Bugweri District to assess the progress of PDM, a key government wealth creation program. During a sensitisation meeting at the Namalembe Sub-county headquarters organised by Enterprise Uganda PDM beneficiaries, Lubanga Kyampa, Bugweri district's commercial officer, expressed concerns over a troubling trend among beneficiaries who switch from their proposed business ideas to unfamiliar enterprises, leading to financial losses.

FRESH GRADUATES

internship

Our expert-led sessions provide hands-on learning, practical insights, and valuable networking opportunities to help you excel in your IT field



Daily

09.00–1.00 PM



Hybride. (Both online and physical)

Join Now!



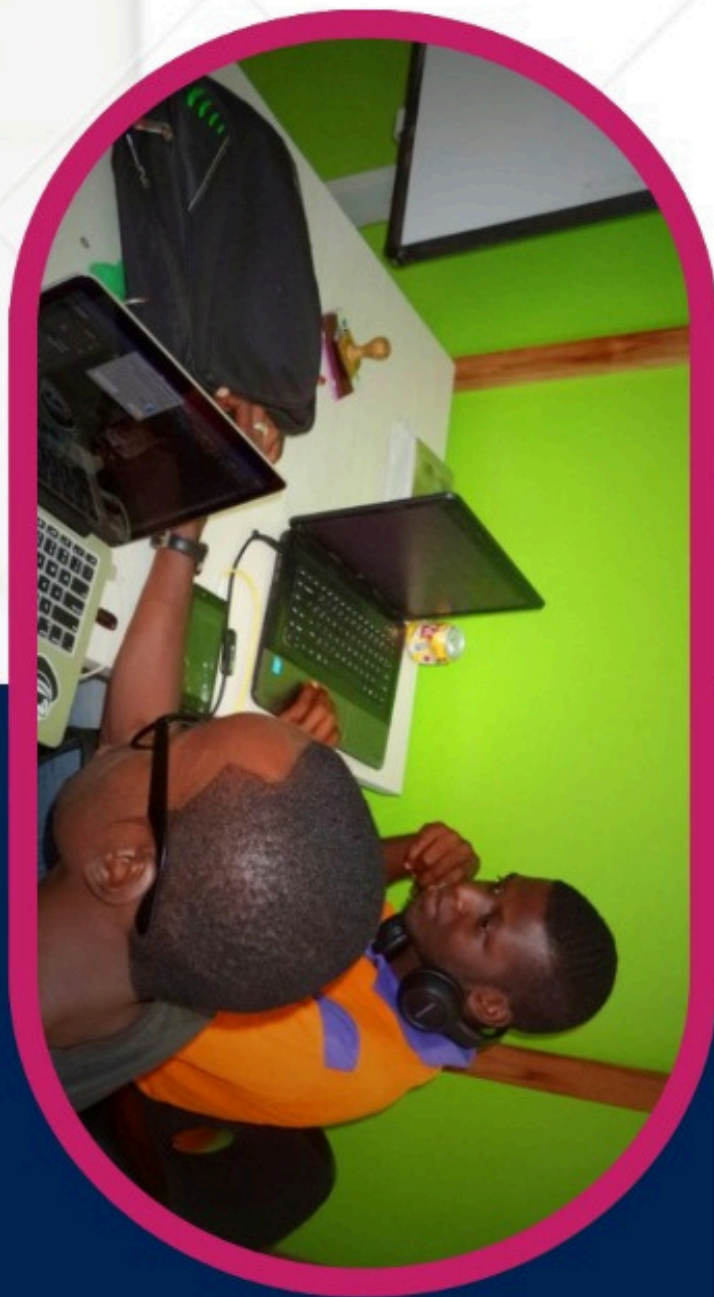
Call Us

256 779941964

Visit Our Website
www.elsesoft.cnet



with elegant designs and smooth functionality



Does wildlife have a future in Uganda?

The case of Busoga

By Oweyegha-Afunaduula

As one of the three earliest trained Ugandan Conservation biologists at the University of Nairobi – the first University in the whole world to produce such professionals (The other pioneer conservation biologists, apart from my, were Dr. Sumba and Professor Kambe)-I have the duty, responsibility and obligation to say what I perceive to be a very uncertain future of wildlife in Uganda.

When I say wildlife, I mean life which has not been interfered with by biotechnological engineering and remains in its natural state inherited from time immemorial. It includes flora (plants) and fauna (animals). Some of the plants and animals are so microscopic that they cannot be seen with the naked eye. Whatever the case, their numbers have been dwindling mainly due to the actions of Man, Homo sapiens -sometimes in ignorance, many times intentionally, as this human species seeks to conquer nature to satisfy its acquisitive and consumptive habits.

There is no doubt that what we call wildlife today is a



miniature of the wildlife that we used to have and interact with, say 100 years ago. Uganda got its label “The Pearl of Africa”, not only because of her luxurious natural forests, big game (lions, leopards, elephants, cheetahs and buffaloes, etc) and the numerous small and medium-sized animals of diverse taxonomic complexity, including fish, amphibians, reptiles and birds. One time Busoga had numerous pythons, which are no more.

The Pearl of Africa also boasted of numerous fresh water lakes and rivers, unpolluted and the rivers characterised by spectacular waterfalls such as Owen falls, Bujagali falls, Rippon falls, Isimba falls and Karuma falls. Most of these falls were removed from the face of the

earth during the reign of Uganda’s longest ruling military leader - Yoweri Tibuhaburwa Museveni - in pursuit of hydropower.

While non-ecologists and non-environmentalists characterised the removal as “development”, ecologists and environmentalists characterised the removal as “destructive development”.

Destructive development is development which first destroys the resource or the landscape and then replaces or overlays it with the desired development. In most cases it is extremely difficult to recover the destroyed natural resource or landscape in case the imposed development become derelict.

This article seeks to answer the question “What is the future of wildlife in Uganda?” For me who was growing up in Busoga in the 1950s the future is today. The environment and ecology I grew up in then is drastically different from what I see today -my future. Many ecologies and environments - and the wildlife that survived in them - and used to characterise Busoga are no more. Or else only vestiges of them remain. The same seems to be the case in most parts of Uganda, except where natural forests still exist in Western Uganda.

For God and My Country
Mr. Oweyegha-Afunaduula is a
Conservation Biologist

EDUCATING A GENERATION

New Life Schools Buwaidha commits to transforming communities in Buyende

The community of Buwaidha in Buyende district is ecstatic that the efforts of New Life Schools Buwaidha is starting to bear fruit since the school's launch in February 2023. The school which commenced with the nursery section has, according to community leaders, imparted early learning skills to their children. This, they say, has prepared their children well for primary education. Pastor Ronald Zigwana, the Project Overseer of New Life Schools, says this has been achieved because of a good working relationship with members of the community. A good academic performance has endeared the school to the community, who delight in seeing their preschool children able to write, read and speak proper English even before they join primary classes.

"There has been a big difference ever since I transferred my children from their previous school to New Life Pre-school Buwaidha. A child who came to New Life when he or she could not speak English; now that child is able to speak and express herself or himself in good English, even at home," Mubi Azalwa, a community leader in Buyende Town Council, confesses.

Not an easy task

Eng. Gerald Isabirye, one of the school directors, noted that teaching and keeping a child in school the entire term is a big task for the school because of the responsibilities and costs involved, like paying teachers, buying and stocking food, and other requirements needed for the school to function properly. "We want to thank the parents for the good work they are doing

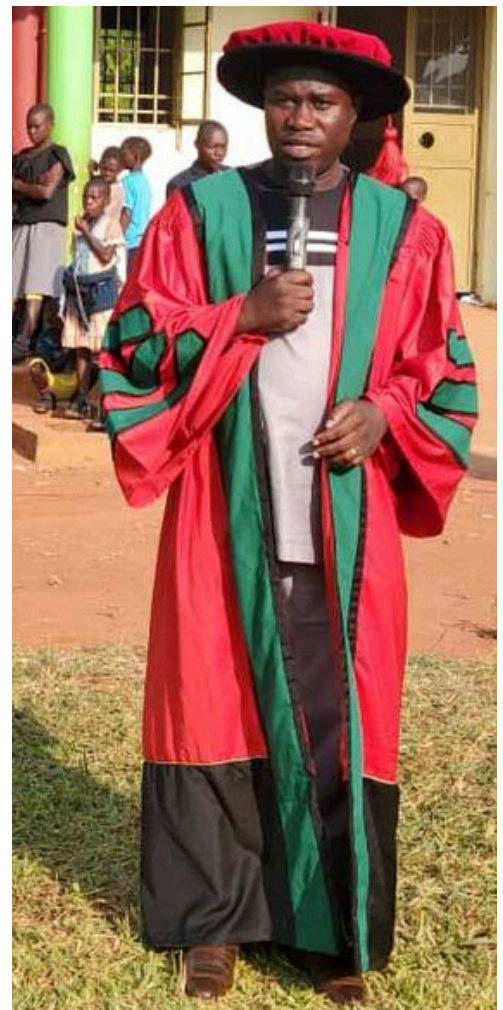


paying school fees. Every penny you pay as school fees is spent on your children. Educating a child consumes money. I want to encourage parents to double your effort. We should work hard and have money because the higher the classes the child goes to, the more money required. We should pray to God that He provides us with the energy to work hard so that we are able to also provide for our children's education." Eng Isabirye shared.

Offering quality education

In an interview, the Headmistress, Naguti Eseza, noted that New Life Schools Buwaidha stands out because of the quality education and social amenities offered that make learning effective and enjoyable. She encouraged parents to bring more children to New Life Schools because they have enough and well-trained teachers from different colleges.

"All our teachers are trained. All that they do, they do it based on the experience they acquired from





the different training colleges they attended," she said. Adding: "By the time our children leave top class to join primary one, you notice a big change and uniqueness. Because of our quality services and good relations within the community, parents refer our school to their friends." She said that the school offers a balanced diet of rice, beans, posho, potatoes, vegetables and others. The school prioritises the learners health and safety. The school has a health facility to manage simple illnesses, injuries and first aid. "Parents who are not using the school shuttle and live near the school drop off and pick up their children to ensure the safety of our learners," she revealed.

Primary section coming

Pastor Zigwana revealed to Busoga Times that this year, they are commencing the construction of the primary section – a four-level storey building that will have a computer and science lab and a TV room for resting. Prince Arnold Nadiope, during a preschool graduation early this year, commended the directors of the schools, saying, "The lives of the learners have changed because of your leadership. For that, you will be remembered for generations to come. Your efforts to empower these children have

made a difference, and I know that these children will uplift the standard they have attained here to be able to do various works in the near future. "To the parents of these children and your families, thank you for trusting New Life Schools and the important work you have done to raise and educate these children. Today is a celebration of your decision to care, provide and educate these children," he added.

The role of parents

Kwikiriza Anna, the top class teacher, said they have imparted the learners with social skills and academic excellence. She encouraged parents

to participate in their children's education beyond providing fees and books.

"Parents should participate in their children's education by showing them love, food, and providing scholastic materials, checking their books, and cleaning them when coming to school," Kwikiriza said. New Life Schools was launched by the Kyabazinga in 2023 at a pompous event that attracted various stakeholders to provide education at nursery (preschool), primary and secondary levels – so far, the preschool is operational.





**2025
ADMISSION
NOW OPEN**

NEW LIFE PRE-SCHOOL

The best school in
Buyende district with
professional services



ABOUT US

New Life Pre-School is a multipurpose-built school in Buwaidha Zone, Nakabira Sub County in Buyende district. It was launched by the Kyabazinga of Busoga, His Majesty William Wilberforce Gabula Nadiope IV, on Saturday 28th January 2023.

OUR FACILITIES

- Newlife Church
- Library
- Dinning Room
- School Shuttle
- School Clinic
- School Garden
- Resting Room
- Sports Field



SCHOOL SERVICES

- Multi purpose school
- Academic excellence
- Sport & health
- Church-based school
- Trained teachers
- Tech classroom
- Affordable education
- Community school

LOCATION

**Buwaidha Zone,
Nakabira Sub County
Buyende District**

Call To Find Out More
0782 069 085/0702 713 951

Your Email Registration
newlifepreshool12@gmail.com

How ICT can be integrated to fit into the new competency based curriculum

By Nyago Bosco

In the first part of this article published in these pages last month (February) we deeply looked at what is the new competency based curriculum (CBC) and its relevance in Uganda's education sector. The CBC is designed to address the challenges of the traditional education system by focusing on practical skills, problem-solving, and real-world application of knowledge.

In this follow up article, we shall look at how stakeholders in the education sector can integrate ICT in delivering this new important curriculum.

ICT (Information and Communication Technology) plays a vital role in Uganda's Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC) by enhancing teaching, learning, and assessment. It is integrated into the curriculum to develop digital literacy, improve learning experiences, and prepare students for the modern job market.



Dr. Nyago Bosco

Ways ICT Fits into CBC

1. Digital Literacy as a Core Competency

- CBC emphasizes ICT as a foundational skill that all students must acquire basic computer skills, internet usage, and digital tools from an early stage.

2. Enhancing Teaching and Learning

- Teachers use multimedia tools to make lessons more engaging.
- E-learning platforms and digital resources support research and self-paced learning.

3. Research and Innovation

- Students use ICT to conduct research, analyze data, and present findings creatively.
- Encourages innovation and problem-solving through coding, robotics, and digital design.

4. Continuous Assessment and Feedback

- ICT tools help track student progress through digital assessments and e-portfolios.
- Online quizzes, automated marking systems, and learning management systems (LMS) help teachers assess competencies efficiently.

5. Bridging the Urban-Rural Education Gap

ICT facilitates access to quality educational content in remote areas through digital libraries and e-learning platforms.

6. Career Readiness and Entrepreneurship

- Equips students with ICT skills essential for modern workplaces, including word processing, spreadsheets, and programming.

Challenges of ICT Integration in CBC

- Limited access to technology: Some schools, especially in rural areas, lack computers and internet connectivity.
- Inadequate teacher training: Many teachers are not well-equipped to integrate ICT into their lessons effectively.
- High costs of ICT infrastructure: Schools struggle with funding for digital tools, maintenance, and software.
- Power and connectivity issues: Unreliable electricity and internet hinder ICT implementation in some areas.

Solutions and Recommendations

- Government investment: Expand ICT infrastructure, provide affordable devices, internet access.
- Teacher training: Offer continuous development in digital skills.
- Public-private partnerships: Collaborate with tech companies to support ICT in schools.
- Parental and community involvement: Encourage at-home digital literacy & safe tech use.
- Learners involvement: Allow learners who have digital devices carry them at school and give them controlled access.

Here is how Busoga's Cattle Corridor can improve livestock population

By: WAISWA MICHAEL BALUYE

Photography: COURTESY



Waiswa Michael Baluye

Busoga sub region, Buyende district in particular, forms part of the Uganda's Cattle Corridor that stretches from southwestern to northeastern parts of the country. Characterized as semi-arid, with low and unreliable rainfall, and prolonged drought, Buyende is struggling to maintain its livestock population. The challenges faced by Buyende in maintaining a strong livestock population are significant, but the solutions proposed in this article offer a path toward improvement.

Factors Contributing to the Decline in Livestock Population:

Disease Control Challenges

In the past, cattle dips were established in the district to combat ticks and other pests, but these have not been maintained or are no longer effective. There is a shortage of veterinary

officials for vaccination and treatment of livestock diseases, leading to the spread of diseases.

Increase in Population:

The growing human population in the district has led to reduced space and resources for grazing and livestock farming.

Climate Change and Drought

Changing weather patterns, particularly increased droughts, have reduced the availability of water and pasture for livestock.

Lack of Clean Water Sources

Without reliable access to clean water, livestock are exposed to the risk of diseases, particularly from contaminated water sources.

Nutritional Challenges

Limited access to quality feed and poor pasture management has led to nutritional deficiencies in livestock.

Proposed Solutions to Improve Livestock Population

Diversifying Animal Breeds

Farmers should consider transitioning from local breeds to more resilient and productive exotic breeds. These breeds tend to have better disease resistance and higher productivity, which could improve overall livestock numbers.

Improved Animal Husbandry Practices

To cope with the increasing human population and shrinking land for grazing, farmers should adopt more

efficient farming methods such as rotational grazing and better management of pastureland.

Construction of Cattle Water Dams

Rebuilding and constructing cattle water dams will ensure that livestock have a constant and clean source of water, especially during dry seasons, preventing dehydration and disease spread.

Government Support and Advisory Services

The government, particularly through the veterinary department, should provide farmers with regular advisory services, including disease control, vaccination programs, and sustainable farming practices.

Education and Training for Farmers

There is a need for continuous training for farmers on modern livestock management practices, disease prevention, and improved feeding techniques to ensure healthier herds.

By addressing these challenges with the proposed solutions, Buyende district can work towards restoring its cattle population and enhancing the livelihoods of its farmers. With a combination of government support, proper infrastructure, and farmer education, the district could once again become a leading center for livestock farming in Uganda.

Health and spiritual benefits and importance of fasting in Ramadan

Ramadan is a holy month for Muslims living across the globe. They observe 29 or 30 days of fasting in a lunar month and keep their fast from dawn until sunset. The benefits of fasting in Ramadan are not just spiritual; it has several other physical and emotional advantages. While many of us know the spiritual rewards associated with fasting in Ramadan, we should also acknowledge its positive effects on the human body. In this article, we will explore the importance of Ramadan and health benefits of fasting in Ramadan.

During this month, Muslims abstain from eating, drinking, and physical intimacy from dawn until sunset. The fast is broken at sunset with a meal called iftar. Muslims begin their fast by having a meal before dawn, called suhoor. The fasting period lasts for 29 or 30 days, depending on the sighting of the new moon. Fasting is one of the five pillars of Islam, and it is considered an act of worship, self-discipline, and an opportunity to focus on spirituality, charity, and good deeds. The benefits of observing fast are multifaceted and include physical, mental, spiritual, and social benefits. Here are some of the benefits of fasting:

Spiritual purification and self-discipline

Fasting is a means of spiritual purification, allowing Muslims to purify their minds, hearts, and



Muslims around the world are observing the Holy month of Ramadan.

bodies through self-discipline, self-control, and introspection. By abstaining from food, drink, and other physical needs during the daylight hours, Muslims can develop greater self-awareness, humility, empathy, and a much stronger connection with Allah.

Gratitude and empathy

One of the benefits of fasting in Ramadan is that it presents an opportunity to express gratitude for having the blessings of food, water, and physical health, which are often taken for granted. It also helps to foster a sense of empathy for those who are less fortunate and may not have access to basic necessities of life. Muslims are encouraged to give charitable donations and perform noble deeds during Ramadan. Hence, Ramadan is a call for personal salvation and a great opportunity to

alleviate the suffering of the marginalized community.

Physical health and well-being

Fasting in Ramadan has many physical and mental health benefits, such as managing our body weight, maintaining a balanced metabolism, and improving control of our blood sugar levels. Observing the fast during the day gives the body a break from constant digestion, which can help improve metabolic function and promote overall health and well-being.

Weight Loss and Improved Metabolism

One of the primary health benefits of fasting during Ramadan is that it helps with weight loss and improves metabolism. As the body adjusts to a limited amount of food and drink during the day, it uses stored fat as a significant energy source.



This leads to fat-burning and weight loss, and the body's metabolism can also improve, making it more efficient at burning calories. Better Blood Sugar Control Fasting can help control blood sugar levels by reducing insulin resistance and improving insulin sensitivity. When a person fasts, the body is forced to use stored glucose for energy, which helps reduce blood sugar levels. Fasting can also help reduce inflammation, which is a contributing factor to insulin resistance. Additionally, fasting can help promote weight loss, which is important for controlling blood sugar levels, as excess body fat can lead to insulin resistance and high blood sugar levels.

Boosted Immune System

One of the important benefits of fasting in Ramadan is that it boosts the immune system. During a fast, the body shifts from using glucose as its primary energy source to using ketones produced from fat stores. This shift activates

autophagy, where the body starts to break down and recycle damaged cells, including those in the immune system. Autophagy helps improve the immune system's function by removing old or damaged immune cells and replacing them with new, healthy ones.

Improved Sleep

Fasting has been suggested to help improve sleep in several ways. For instance, fasting has been shown to reduce levels of the stress hormone cortisol, which can interfere with sleep. Additionally, fasting is linked to increased production of the sleep-promoting hormone melatonin. It may also help regulate circadian rhythms, the natural 24-hour cycles that regulate many physiological processes in the body, including sleep. By aligning the body's natural rhythms with the sleep-wake cycle, fasting may help improve the quality and duration of sleep.

Reduces blood pressure

Fasting has been shown to reduce



blood pressure by decreasing the amount of sodium in the body and reducing inflammation, which can lead to hypertension. It also promotes weight loss, which can further contribute to lowering blood pressure. Additionally, fasting has been found to improve insulin sensitivity, which is also associated with lower blood pressure.

Regulates 'bad' cholesterol

One of the critical benefits of fasting in Ramadan is that it can help regulate bad cholesterol, also known as low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol. It does this by reducing the levels of triglycerides in the blood, a type of fat that can contribute to high cholesterol. When the body is in a fasting state, it starts to use stored fat as energy, which can help to reduce the levels of triglycerides and LDL cholesterol in the blood.

A month-long detox

Fasting during Ramadan can help the body detoxify by allowing the liver to process better and eliminate toxins that have built up in the body. When a person fasts, the body switches to using stored fat for energy, which releases toxins stored in the fat. Additionally, fasting can increase the production of certain hormones and reduce inflammation, further supporting the body's detoxification processes.

Marriage Insights: Manpower demands more from men today than ever

By Peace Ntege

Our generation thinks manpower is marrying many women, sleeping around and spending money, driving biggest cars and many others. This notion can be misleading and disempowering to men and those who depend on them. The allure of money and the fine things that money can buy has equally misled women to enter into toxic relationships and marriage.

If I may take us back, manpower is the inheritance you live behind for the next generation. The big name is such a huge legacy. A good name is earned through the performance of reputable deeds and good morals. A man should invest his time and resources in a manner that adds value to his personality, marriage and his entire family. The investments you leave behind as a man speak louder than the 50 children from different women mentioned at your burial. At that time, the names of your buildings mentioned on your burial day speak louder than the number of widows mentioned left behind.

Be the man of a big legacy. A good name makes more noise. Let's bring back the olden times back to life. Every man must refuse to be intimidated and ruled over by a generation influenced by the immoral pressures that only lead to destruction. This dotcom era has many deviations but it takes a noble man to choose what is right in life, for the

community and the entire nation at large. Today, we are crowned by many voices. Choose the right voice to follow. Choose the right circles of men to keep and hang around with. Bad company misleads. Choose a circle that cleans your heart and deeds. Big men are redefined by the right decisions they take while still alive. Be an influence in your own way.

Marriage today demands more from men in terms of responsibility, care, physical and emotional availability, and love, which are strong pillars for a family to succeed.



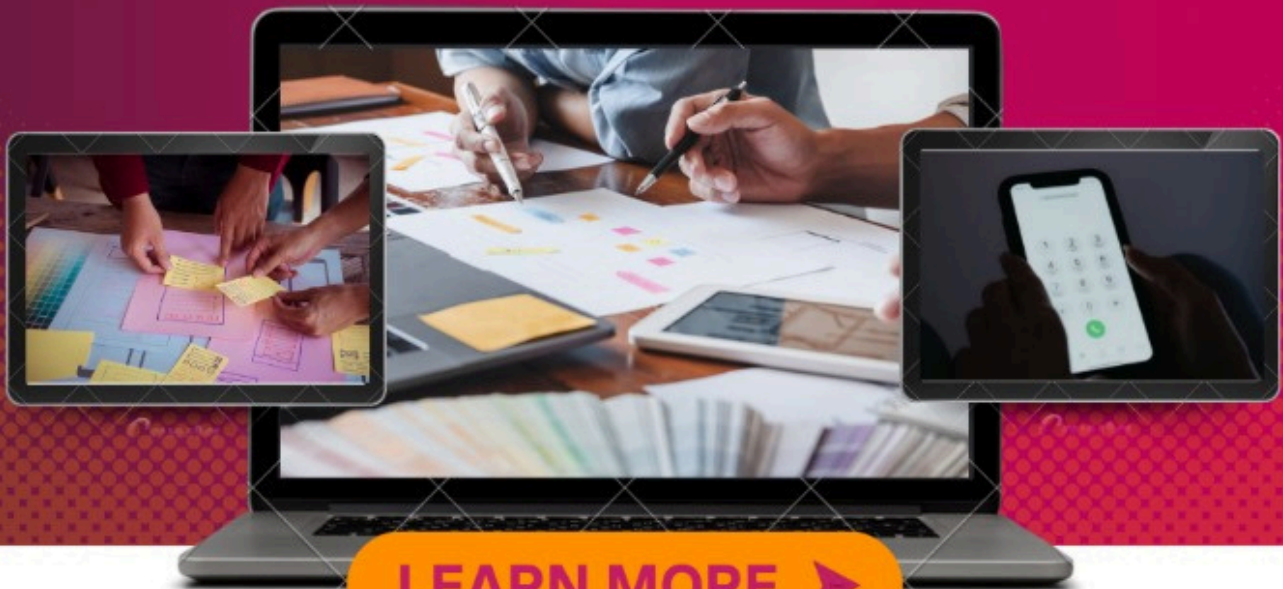


Your Digital
Transformation Partner

IMPROVE YOUR ONLINE PRESENCE WITH

CUSTOM WEBSITE

Our skilled web developers make your vision a reality
with elegant designs and smooth functionality



LEARN MORE ►



More Information
www.elsesoft.net

Contact Us
info@elsesoft.net



256 779941964



IMPROVE YOUR ONLINE PRESENCE WITH

CUSTOM WEBSITE

Our skilled web developers make your vision a reality



More Information
www.elsesoft.net

Contact Us
info@elsesoft.net



Greatness Achieved

Music gives me a voice to express myself — Maro



One music fan commented that his music makes Lusoga sexy, a stereotype that passes for a compliment. His music is likeable, and so is he as a person—humble yet a massively talented vocalist. His influence on the RnB music genre is unmissable. In this interview, Busoga Times talks to the RnB Kyabazinga. Read excerpts below.

Many music fans only know you as Maro, the RnB Kyabazinga, but who are you as a person? What should your fans know about you beyond the music?

My name is Magada Ronald. I am a father and the eldest son of my father. I was born in Buwolero, in Busoga. I am a normal person, and music is just my love and escape to express myself since I am a quiet person. Music gives me a voice to be heard.

What sort of upbringing did you have growing up, and how has it influenced your music and the man you have become today?

I grew up in Nsambya barracks [in Kampala] and also in Buwolero. This helped me to stay humble. I saw it all. In Kampala, I saw flashing toilets and showers. In Buwolero, I saw brushing teeth with a coffee tree stick and bathing outside in the dark night.

If you weren't a musician, what would you be doing?

What hobbies do you have outside of music?

I would have been an artist, drawing or painting, clothing or carpentry, because I love to be hands-on and creative. I love movies; I would have tried acting. I love visual art too much. I know how to edit and shoot visuals.



Describe your creative process when writing new music.

It usually comes as a possession, a dream, and before you know it, I am writing. I am sometimes too fast for many producers. I use a pen or my phone to just write the major pointers, but if you read it, you wouldn't understand it because the rest is in my head, and it still brews for a while.

What is your favourite thing about being a musician in Uganda?

You get so much favour, and it takes you to offices and places you would have never guessed to ever be.

How has collaboration with other artists shaped your music career?

I love it, and I love the challenges too. Helping young stars through collaboration adds to your CV, plus you stay fresh in the eyes of the growing generation.

What have you learnt from working with other artists?

You get to know and trust your art. Many people I have worked with were able to realise my greatness.

I learnt more about who I am mostly. Iryn Namubiru and Radio gave me the challenge I needed, and to have made successful art pieces with them, I grew in confidence.

Can you tell us about a song you've written that holds a special meaning for you?

Songs like biweewo and kyokoba mean a lot to me, and it's not what I said on the song but what I went through doing those songs and obstacles like acceptance of the different language versus the people who ruled the mainstream. They turn out to be my favourite. If it is what I sang, I go with rising star since I meant whatever I was singing.

What are your thoughts on the current music industry landscape in Busoga?

I love that it's a normal thing to have songs from different languages nowadays. And Lusoga is now considered one of the most beautiful languages musically; people drop a Lusoga line or two in their Luganda songs. Musicians have to just try as much to adapt to styles but stay as original as they can to stay unique. We are doing well, though. And bravo to the support from our Busoga people and the Kingdom.

There is a lot of music coming out of Busoga, but it never crosses to Kampala to hit national airwaves. What do you think is the problem—is it the quality, language, or marketing?

You have to collaborate with the big names to help bridge that gap. Not every Lusoga song is relatable until you really adapt and fuse as well as the product on the market.



Times have changed from when you started out to now. What advice would you give a young artist starting out, especially when he or she is based in Busoga?

Be unique as you adapt to the styles prevailing. A great song is a great song; it may not be known by everyone in one week but stays forever and is known by someone new every day. Persistence is important as well as research.

How has the digital era influenced your music?

It is good, but the harm is when the music only trends but none remains. As we cope with the world, we need to copy everything. For example, when Drake sells online, he also sells on the Billboard countdown, TV, and even on our local TV stations. We have to do the same and stop thinking social media, in this case digital, is the end while promoting music.

You have been quiet for a while; we heard you had relocated to Europe. What are you currently working on?
I am back in Uganda, and I am working on giving Uganda more music and a great concert this year.

We have seen teasers of a potential concert from Maro; tell us more about it and what fans should expect.

I am looking at giving them an experience just as what you saw at Roast and Rhyme in Nov 2024 but even greater in production. I would also want to go to Arua or the northern part of Uganda since I have only been in Gulu and Lira a long time ago. For Jinja, I want to do it separately so that it is as special, since it's been 4 years since my last maiden at Mestil Hotel Kampala.

Any last words for your fans?

I love my fans, and they should be as strong as they have been; no one should lie that is greater than the great RnB Kyabazinga. I am back, baby.



Uganda Cubs Chasing World Cup target at U17 2025 AFCON

By: MUSA KIKUUNO

Photography: INTERNET/SABULA SPORT



Uganda Cubs is going to AFCON with intent to qualify for World Cup

Group A:

Morocco (host)
Uganda
Tanzania
Zambia

Group B:

Burkina Faso
UNIFFAC1
South Africa
Egypt

Group C:

Senegal
The Gambia
Somalia
Tunisia

Group D:

Mali
Angola
Côte d'Ivoire
UNIFFAC2

Uganda's U17 Men's National Team, the Cubs, have intensified preparations for the TotalEnergies U17 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) set to take place in Morocco from March 30 to April 19, 2025. With just weeks remaining until the tournament opening, the team shifted their training to Kyabazinga Stadium in Bugembe, Jinja City, after initially starting their camp at the FUFA Technical Centre in Njeru.

The Cubs entered residential camp on February 24, 2025, and have been working hard under Head Coach Brian Ssenyondo. Currently, 31 players are in camp, with six more expected to join soon. The team's training sessions focus on both physical endurance and tactical execution.

In their first practice match on March 2, the Cubs defeated Jinja SS 2-0, with goals from Kabiito Marvin and Walusimbi Abubakali. However, their second match against Ebeneza Soccer Academy on March 6 ended in a 0-0 draw, offering valuable insights into areas for improvement.

The Cubs have been drawn into a tough Group A at the AFCON, alongside hosts Morocco, Tanzania, and Zambia. This "group of death" presents a difficult challenge, but the Cubs remain focused on their main goal: qualifying for the FIFA U17 World Cup later this year.

"Our target is to qualify for the World Cup, and we are confident in our abilities to achieve that," said Coach Ssenyondo. Uganda's last U17 AFCON appearance in 2019 saw them finish third in the group stages, missing out on advancement. This time, they are determined to go further.

The Cubs earned their spot in the 2025 AFCON by winning the CECAFA U17 Qualifiers, defeating Tanzania 2-1 in the final. This marks their third appearance at the U17 AFCON, having previously qualified for 2019 and the cancelled 2021 edition.

With the tournament fast approaching, every training session counts. The Cubs are eager to perform well in Morocco and secure a spot in the 2025 FIFA U17 World Cup in Qatar.

American Football National League set for April start



The American Football Federation of Uganda has been conducting activities to develop the sport in the country

The first-ever edition of the national football league organised by the American Football Federation of Uganda (AFFU) is set to kick off in April 2025. Steven George Okeng, the president of AFFU, said this was a monumental milestone.

The national league is expected to feature six clubs: Longhorns, Wildcats, Eagles, Commanders, Vikings, and Seahawks. Okeng said team managers of the six clubs will perfect the drafting of players to select the best crop.

“There will be drafting of players by the team managers. This is a sustainable development strategy. We want to use this league as a fishing pond for AFFU to build a strong national team,” Okeng added.

American Football Federation of Uganda (AFFU) appointed Denis Ongodia as the chief executive officer (CEO) of the national league. Okeng said Ongodia has enough experience to move the league to the next level.

“With his dedication and passion for

the game, we believe that American football will grow,” Okeng said.

Freshly appointed, Ongodia has set his targets, especially attracting sponsors and making the league the best in Africa. Already, Uganda will roll out the first league in East Africa.

“I am very honoured to be appointed as the league CEO. I have a lot of hope that the sport will blossom. I look forward to good work. We are starting from scratch, and I would like to attract sponsors to come on board, the local community. In three years, we want this to be the best league in Africa,” Ongodia hinted. “We want to develop a talent crop of players for

American Football from communities to join the national team, get bursaries, and also get bigger clubs in the USA and elsewhere,” Ongodia added.

This league is expected to kick off on 26th April 2025 and will last for at least 12 weeks. Henry Muwayire, a player with Wild Cats, revealed that they are preparing well as a team and cannot wait for the national league to kick off.

The American Football Federation of Uganda has been conducting key activities aimed at developing the sport in the country, including going to schools and preparing the national team for regional and international engagements.



Uganda Cranes regroup for World Cup qualifiers

By: Musa Kikuuno

Photography: COURTESY

Uganda's quest to partake in the world's football showcase, the World Cup, continues. Uganda Cranes head coach Paul Put summoned a 26-man provisional squad for the upcoming 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifiers. Uganda will face Mozambique on 20th March at Cairo International Stadium, Egypt, before hosting Guinea at Namboole Stadium on 25th March 2025.

Put emphasised a game-by-game approach, acknowledging the intense competition in African football. 'You cannot underestimate any African team. In World Cup qualifiers, opportunities are scarce, so we must be well-prepared. Our players understand that these chances are rare in their careers.' Uganda has three upcoming home matches against Guinea, Mozambique, and Somalia, and the coach wants his troops to seize the moment. 'Every game is crucial. You do not get many chances to qualify for a World Cup in your career. I have been close before, and when you are close, you want more. Uganda must push forward and stay focused.'

'I do not like to overthink. We performed well away in the AFCON qualifiers, and we should maintain that level. At home, we need to make a difference. The key is to focus on our game rather than stressing over numbers.'

Uganda Cranes head coach Paul Put is putting in the work to ensure the national team qualifies for the 2026 World Cup

"I think what we have to do is focus on our mentality, and it's what we have been doing so far. We should always be ready to play the best teams in Africa."

Put noted the limited preparation time, with some players joining the camp just days before the Mozambique match.

Squad summoned

Uganda Cranes head coach, Paul Joseph Put, has announced a 26-man squad for the upcoming World Cup qualifiers against Mozambique and Guinea. The team will face Mozambique in Cairo, Egypt, on Thursday, March 20th, before hosting Guinea four days later at the Mandela National Stadium in Kampala.

The Cranes are currently sitting fifth in Group G with six points, tied with Guinea and Botswana. Algeria and Mozambique lead the group with nine points, while Somalia remains winless. With crucial fixtures ahead, Uganda will be hoping to close the gap on the top teams and continue their push for World Cup qualification.



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

