

MARACHA DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



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WORD FROM THE EDITOR



I welcome you to the third edition of Maracha District Newsletter. All the thanks and praises go to God for preserving and sustaining us.

This issue looks at the developments in the District in the last two months (September and October). Several projects were commissioned in different sectors, the District hosted several dignitaries.

Thank everyone for the feedback. Some of the suggestions will be implemented overtime while the majority have been taken into consideration for immediate implementation.

Enjoy reading!



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Government boosts land tenure security in Maracha District



1,454 households in Maracha District have received customary land ownership titles under the land component of the Development Initiative for Northern Uganda (DINU) project supported by Government of Uganda and partners- European Union and United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF).

The beneficiaries of the project are residents of Kijomoro and Oluvu sub-counties. Under the project, a land recorder valued at 75 million shillings was constructed in Ki-

jomoro sub-county, the first land recorder to be commissioned in the country, and another under construction at Oluvu Sub-county Headquarters at the time of the issuance of the customary land titles.

Officials of Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development and partners pledged to ensure the construction works of the land recorder in Oluvu Sub-county are completed.



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Ms. Eunice Nabakwa, Principal Land Officer at the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development said that “the certificate has very important security features that can’t be forged. You must use this land in accordance to the laws that govern land”

Ms. Nabakwa assured the residents that no one would tamper with the land titles that had been issued.

“When a certificate of customary land ownership has been issued, you cannot issue another land title on it” she told the local residents.

Hon. Johnstone Moroga, Kijomoro Sub-county Chairperson, said that the District is struggling with land cases to which a lasting solution should be found.

“Maracha District is one of the Districts where most residents don’t have land titles, yet it is more populated. This has led to

many cases registered at police and local land council courts” he said.

Hon. Moroga pleaded the project be scaled to include other beneficiaries: “I request that the project be expanded so that many communities have customary land titles, many have missed in the first phase”

Hon. Moroga appealed to the beneficiaries to keep the land certificates safely.



Hon. Bosco Asea, Maracha District Vice Chairperson, appreciated the land management training component that came with the project.

“The capacity of the lower local governments to register land has been built. This project has enabled us to build the capacity of our District Land Committee” Hon. Asea said in his speech.



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Hon. Jennifer Driwaru, Maracha District Woman Member of Parliament, said land ownership is still a challenge for the rural women, but commended Government and partners' efforts geared towards increasing women land ownership.

"There few women who are owning land. I see many women have benefited from this land titling exercise" Hon. Driwaru said.



Hon. Lee Oguzu, Maracha County Member of Parliament, asked public institutions heads in Maracha District to work towards acquiring land titles for the institutions for them to easily benefit from infrastructural programs rolled out by Government and partners.

"These days Government cannot take any development project anywhere unless you have land titles" he cautioned.

H.E Caroline Adriaensen, Head of Cooperation European in Uganda, commended initiatives by Government to solve land conflicts by coming together with partners .

"I am happy to see that we have been working on customary land ownership. Land ownership is a source of conflict so we managed to look into it" she said.

"It is helping to reduce the number of land conflicts and also the use of land titles as collateral in the bank; it is a joint effort of development partners and Government of Uganda, it is also a result of partnership between central government and the local leadership" H.E Adriaensen added.

Mr. Dmitry Pozhidaev, Head of Country Office UNCDF, also said land was a critical factor for production.

Mr. Saul Olega, a beneficiary appreciated the project since the acquisition of the land title had provided him an avenue to access the financial lending market.

However, Mr. Anthony Namara, the commissioner for local economic development in the Ministry of Local Government, warned the beneficiaries against using their land to acquire loans without clear business ideas.



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“Now you have security on your land. Don't obtain loans where you have no business plans because it will put your land at risk” Mr. Namara advised.

Ms. Kotevu Koliba, Maracha District Deputy Resident Commissioner, asked area land committees to be transparent in the management of land transactions.



Hon. Kania Obiga, State Minister of Urban Development, who was the chief guest during the handover of the land titles and commissioning of the land recorder, said the project was part of interventions by Government of Uganda to extend services to vulnerable communities.

“This is a sign of good governance and the fact that our partners are here is good governance. We have to work to maintain this good governance “he said.

Hon. Obiga added that the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development was in the process of ensuring that more residents acquire customary land titles.

“More customary titles are to be processed by the Ministry with the support of the European Union targeting registered 1,775 families, indigenous communities and vulnerable communities within the next two years” Hon. Obiga revealed.





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State of Maracha District Affairs

Unspent Development fund as at 30th June, 2023

On Friday, September 29, 2023 Hon. Stephen Obitre, Maracha District Chairperson delivered the State of District Address for FY 2022/23 highlighting the achievements, challenges and way forwards. Below is the condensed speech he delivered.

The Rt. Hon. Speaker, in fulfillment of the Local Government Act, Cap 243, Subsection 13(5) and the Standard Rules of Procedures for Local Government Councils in Uganda, Rule 10, it is my pleasure to deliver the State of Maracha District Affairs Address to the District Council of Maracha for the financial year 2022/2023.

The report provides an overview of the performance of the sectors in line with the planned activities and highlights the key achievements, challenges and recommendations.

Mr. Speaker Sir, allow me to bring to your attention, some of our key achievements and challenges faced in the financial year 2022/2023.

FINANCE, PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION

The total receipts of financial resources for FY 2022/2023 was Ushs: 32,469,436,594 only representing 87% of the planned and approved budget of 37,466,713,684, compared to FY 2021/2022 where we received UShs. 29,203,741,000 only from different sources. The total unspent funds as at 30th June, 2023 was UShs. 1,770,490,293 consisting of UShs. 1,022,521,456 in wages and UShs. 747,968,837 in development grants.

N	Amount	Source	Remarks
1.	114,309,628	UGIFT	Upgrade of Odupiri HC & Staff house in Liko
2.	557,249,674	UGIFT	Construction of seed school at All Saints SS Oluvu
3.	53,339,527	UGIFT	Construction of seed school at All Saints SS Oluvu
4.	23,070,008	Dev't	PHC Construction of staff house in Amanipi HC

Mr. Speaker, as usual, we relied heavily on central government transfers since our local revenue base has not been adequate. Out of local revenue projections of UShs. 256,000,000, we collected UShs. 220,937,462 (86%). The markets have just started to pick up since COVID-19. However, markets like Malaba, Okokoro and others have never recovered since the COVID-19. Another key contributor to poor revenue performance has been the rampant evening markets that have disabled proper functioning of the tendered markets that operate during the day time. In addition, large markets have now been absorbed by Town councils, which by law do not remit revenues to the district.

As we emerge from the crisis, our efforts should be directed towards increasing revenue mobilization so that the revenue base is widened and actual collection increased.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we promoted and recruited new staff whereby most of the vacant



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positions critical to service delivery were filled. In total 378 staff files were reviewed as below:-

S/No.	DSC Interventions in 2022/2023	Mal	Fe- male	Total
1.	Study leave	01	03	04
2.	Transfer of Services	07	06	13
3.	Regularization of appointment	01	01	02
4.	Transfer within service	02	-	02
5.	Dismissal	01	-	01
6.	Abandonment of duty	01	-	01
7.	Lifting of Interdictions	04	01	05
8.	Rescind of appointment	01	-	01
9.	Retention of appointment	02	-	02
10.	Appointment on attainment of high qualification	04	02	06
11.	Confirmation	125	81	206
12.	Promotion	21	07	28
13.	Probation (New employees)	58	49	107
To- tal	Total	228	150	378

We shall continue to fill the existing vacant posts according to availability of wage to improve service delivery. The management

of the payroll and pensions has been streamlined, whereby salaries were paid timely and promptly.

During the financial year, we encountered a number of challenges. We had some challenges in attracting candidates for certain critical positions and we continued to lose marks during National assessments. In particular, Departments without substantive Head of Departments (HODs) include Engineering, Water, Natural Resources and Trade and Industry, and Local Economic Development. There were some delays in processing of pensions and terminal benefits due to delays by the beneficiaries to process letters of administration on time. There were also some discrepancies in recruitment, which attracted public attention.

Following the challenges encountered, I would like to recommend the following actions to improve service delivery.

- I urge the beneficiaries to process letters of administration on time.
- Substantive HoDs should be recruited to fill the vacant posts. We needed to attain all the points accrued from departmental heads.
- Critical supervision and appraisal of staff to ensure proper decisions and procedures were taken on recruitment, promotions and sanctions.

PRODUCTION AND MARKETING SECTOR

Mr. Speaker Sir, the production department continued to support government programmes through local sensitization and mindset change, distribution of inputs, technology transfer, coordination and identification of farmers, facilitation of farmer ap-



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plication processes, establishment of demonstration and farmer field schools, administration of matching grants, supporting irrigation developments, and monitoring and supervision.

The following support were key in empowering famers in 2022/2023 financial year: -

- 25,600 herds of cattle vaccinated against black quarter and anthrax
- 8,478 goats and sheep vaccinated against PPR
- 3,388 herds of cattle vaccinated against lumpy skin disease
- 34,131 chickens vaccinated against Newcastle disease
- 123 dogs and 17 cats vaccinated against rabies
- Procured 320 bags of NAROCASS1 and 40 farmers benefitted
- 20 PH Meters were procured for testing soil fertility by extension workers
- 99 KTB hives were procured for 8 farmers
- Procured 20,000 cat fish and 20,000 mirrorcap for 28 fish farmers

PARISH DEVELOPMENT MODEL (PDM)

In the area of implementation of Parish Development Model (PDM) 1,023 PDM enterprise groups were formed and trained 546 of them.

- 91 PDM SACCOS were formed, trained and registered. All the PDM SACCOS groups were functional.
- The 91 PDM SACCOS have received 9,640,064,512 for the last two finan-

cial years, representing 91% of the funds received.

- Shs.7,019,546,672 Parish revolving funds disbursed to 11,288 beneficiary accounts, representing 73% of the funds disbursed.



MICRO SCALE IRRIGATION PROGRAMME

- 3 Micro scale irrigation facilities established. The three irrigation facilities included one in Oluffe subcounty, One in Drambu subcounty and one in Yivu subcounty.

Key challenges

- The 15 PDM SACCOS groups of greater Oluvu subcounty have not received their Parish revolving funds for FY 2021/2022, since the Ministry of Finance did not select the groups for payment.
- Few agricultural extension staffs for effective implementation of PDM.



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- Inadequate and old transport equipment (motorcycles) for outreach activities of PDM.

WORKS AND TECHNICAL SERVICES

Mr. Speaker, Maracha District Local Government planned for Routine Manual Maintenance (RMM) of 272.7 Km, Routine Mechanised Maintenance (RMM) of 36.75 Km and Other qualifying works. Under this Sector we also planned to repair Bottle-necks (spot gravelling) on selected road sections and installation of culverts at selected spots in the district.

Mr. Speaker, we are indeed indebted to the Central Government for supporting districts in maintenance and rehabilitation of district roads, urban roads and Community Access Roads. Maracha District received US\$ 593,930,406 (89%) of the funding out of planned figure of US\$ 666,973,814. Mr. Speaker, with the little funds released, we were able to improve some critical road surfaces in the district including Nyadri – Tara; Ombere – Agii; Imve – Amaa; Egamara – Alikua, Ovujo – Oluvu; Urban and community access roads. We also improved conditions of roads through spot gravelling.

We opened road choke project at Alu bridge in Awiziru sub-county on community farm access road. The scope of works included construction of 2-span bridge on Alu Stream, installation of culverts, grading of 4.0 Km Farm Access Road and tree planting along road reserves. However, the project has stalled at foundation level since the contractor abandoned the site.

In the pipeline is the National Oil Seed Project (NOSP) which is at stage of engineering design. Maracha district submitted selected community access roads for reha-

bilitation including Odrua-Itia-Abara; Ojapi P/S - Aliamu-Olua CoU; Anyivu-Edree-Muniabar; Muniabar-Limica-Loinya P/S; Yoyoa-Egamara P/S; Alikua-Nyoro; and Alikua pyramid-Egamara.

In the course of the FY, we noted some challenges, which should be rectified to enhance effective service delivery. Therefore, I propose close follow up with the Ministry so that all the stalled road choke projects are completed within the required time. There should be close monitoring and Supervision of the planned interventions by both the technical and political staff. Finally, there is need to lobby for adequate funding for bridges and road construction to ensure that we improve the road networks, especially for providing access to services in particular Health Centres, Schools and market centres

WATER AND SANITATION

The Rt. Hon. Speaker, by statistics, latrine coverage in the district has increased to 89.0 %, safe water coverage at 86.2% and functionality at 85.6% as at 30th June, 2022. The sector received US\$ 439,312,240 (99.55%) for implementation of activities in the financial year.





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EDUCATION SECTOR



The district drilled 4 community boreholes under PAF and 3 of which were successful in the villages of Ambidro B; Ajira; and Madole (Arikia). The boreholes have been commissioned. One dry well was found in Obokoa village in Robu Parish, Awiziru subcounty. We would like to extend our great appreciation to ACAV for the commitment made rehabilitate 25 boreholes and additional 20 boreholes were rehabilitated under PAF, thanks to the government of Uganda. In the same vein, we also appreciate the Ministry of Water and Environment under Water and Sanitation Development Facility North (WSDF– for successful completion of the construction of Okokoro Rural Growth Centre (RGCs) piped water scheme. Under the same project WSDF-N, a public toilet was also constructed at Okokoro Trading Center. In the area of sanitation, one public latrine was constructed at Osidribiku Trading Center under PAF.

However, I wish to encourage all the stakeholders to support safe water delivery to communities by continuous sensitization of communities to change attitude towards ownership and co-funding obligations for operations and maintenance of these water sources. There is need to increasing latrine coverage for declaring Maracha District Open defecation free.

The sector consists of sub-sectors of Administration, Inspectorate, Sports and Special Needs. The mandate of this sector is to provide education services at all levels in the district.

Maracha district has a total of 114 institutions offering education services, with enrollment of 93, 797 learners, as in the Table below.

S/ No	Institution Type	Govern-ment	Community	Private
1.	Preprimary	00	07	11
2.	Primary	63	11	06
3.	Secondary	07	02	02
4.	Vocational institu-tions	00	02	00
5.	Health training institutions	00	00	03
Total		70	22	22
Total number of education institutions in the district: 114				
Table: Number of Learners				
S/ No.	Type of Institutions	%		
1.	Preprimary (nursery)	1,435		
2.	Primary	86,431		

Mr Speaker and Hon Members of the council, during the FY 2022/2023, Maracha District made the following interventions, with the help of partners and education lovers.

In line with the government policy of establishing at least one government aided secondary School in each Sub-county, the construction under UgIFT at All Saints Secondary Schools, Oluvu started is now at the walling stage.



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3. Secondary	4,818
4. Vocational institutions	276
5. Health training institutions	834
Total	93,797

S/N	Project Name	Location	Contract sum (UGX)	Status
1.	Construction of two classroom block with office at Bura P/S	Maracha Town Council	107,975,753	Completed
2.	Construction of two classroom block with office at Galia P/S	Agaii Town Council	107,963,363	Completed
3.	Construction of three classroom block with office at Ombinyiri P/S	Awiziru Subcounty	140,151,587	Completed
4.	Construction of 5 stance VIP at Odrua P/S	Tara Subcounty	29,870,610	Completed
5.	Construction of 4 stance VIP at Paranga P/S	Paranga Subcounty	22,672,100	Completed
6.	Construction of 4 stance VIP at Retriko primary school	Paranga Subcounty	20,475,400	Completed
7.	Supply of 3-seater infant desks to Egamara P/S, Kakwa P/S, Gbulukua P/S, Galia P/S, Bura P/S	Alikua S/C, Kijomoro S/C, Oluvu S/C, Maracha TC	21,000,000, 19,504,000	Supplied
8.	Construction of seed secondary school at All Saints S.S. Oluvu	Agaii Town Council	3,079,411,000	Completed walls

We have made significant progress in the education sector. There was improvement in teacher pupil ration from 1:98 to 1:72 by recruitment of 98 Education Assistants, 14 Senior Education Assistants, 08 Deputy Headteachers and 02 Headteachers. We have also recruited two staffs, that is, Senior Education officer and Education officer in-charge of guidance and counselling. The academic performance under Primary

Education in PLE has tremendously improved from 91.6% in 2019, 92.3% in 2020, 93.8% in 2021 to 94.3% in 2022.

We disseminated the Education Ordinance to all the 19 lower local governments. The Education Ordinance which was enacted in 2015 was not implemented due to lack of funding to disseminate the



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ordinance to the grassroots. The ordinance was disseminated at the district levels but not at the grassroots level. The department of education raised some little funds in the Quarter three of the FY 2022/2023 to facilitate the Executive Committee to disseminate the education ordinance to the communities in all the 19 lower local governments.

The district participated in the athletics was ranged 4th best in the country. We continue to support the children to compete favorably in the national games.

We are grateful to the government through the Ministry of Education and Sports for infrastructural development. However, there is need for concerted efforts to change education situation by continuous sensitization of the communities; intensifying advocacy on the roles of parents; implement the Education Ordinance; lobbying for more resources for infrastructural development in both primary schools and secondary schools to decongest the high pupil population; Timely and frequent Monitoring and Supervision of the schools; need to recruit more teachers to reduce on teacher pupil ratio

HEALTH SECTOR

Mr. Speaker, in bid to ensure good health service delivery, we undertook a number of Health Infrastructure development. Thanks to the Central government, the World Bank and other partners for upgrading Liko HCII to HCIII, Odupiri HCII to HCIII and furnishing and renovation of Curube HCIII and construction of Ekaligo HCIII at Ambidro. Mr. Speaker, below are the detailed development interventions under health.

SNo	Project Name	Contract Sum	Remarks
1.	Construction of semi-detached staff house with kitchen and shelter at Amanipi H/C II	216,508,817	Ongoing
2.	Construction of semi-detached staff house with kitchen and shelter at Liko H/C II	176,701,017	Ongoing
3.	Construction of an incinerator at Eli-ofe H/C III	8,254,620	Completed

Despite these efforts, we continue to register drop in development grant from 450,000,000 to 249,000,000, low enrolment of girl child in upper primary more so in secondary schools, high drop out rate by the pupils, high pupils latrine stance ratio, high pupil to classroom ratio, high pupil teacher ratio and high rate of pregnancy and child marriage in school going age.

Visit Maracha District Local Government website and provide suggestions to better interaction: www.maracha.go.ug



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SNo	Project Name	Contract	
		Sum	Remarks
1.	Construction of semi-detached staff house with kitchen and shelter at Amanipi H/C II	216,508,817	Ongoing
2.	Construction of semi-detached staff house with kitchen and shelter at Liko H/C II	176,701,017	Ongoing
3.	Construction of an incinerator at Eliofe H/C III	8,254,620	Completed
	Construction of placenta pit at Liko H/C II		

However, the health sector is faced with a series of challenges. The percentage (%) staffing levels for Government facilities was 90% under old staffing structure but 33% under the new staffing structure. This

means, if all the facilities were functional, there would be gross understaffing in the health sector. We experienced challenges in appraisal of health staffs in the facilities, where only 105 staffs were appraised and 186 staff were not appraised. In addition, there is high level of indiscipline cases and absenteeism.



Malaria still remained the major cause of morbidity and mortality (49%) among all the diseases diagnosed. We thank the government for taking steps in controlling this disease by various strategies such as Indoor Residual Spraying, distribution of treated mosquito nets, and use of test and treat policy. There is need for mass action against Malaria which is a major Health Problem in the district. We shall continue to lobby from the Central Government for increased Health care financing especially in the area of health promotion and disease prevention. We need to form and operationalize District Epidemic and Disaster Preparedness Task Force for response to disease outbreaks and emergencies.

4.	Construction of placenta pit at Liko H/C II	6,418,940	Completed
5.	Procurement of office furniture for Health Dep't, Nyadri S/C and Tara S/C	17,700,000	Completed
6.	Construction of Placenta Pit at Amanipi H/CII	6,265,600	Completed
7.	Furnishing and Renovation Works at Curube H/C III	19,123,650	Completed
8.	Construction of a new H/C III at Am-bidro in Kijomoro S/C	854,551,772	Ongoing
9.	Upgrade Odupiri H/C II to H/C III	606,966,721	Ongoing
10.	Upgrade of Liko H/C II to H/C III	625,249,650	Ongoing



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NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. Speaker, all eligible projects were screened for Environment and Social Safe Guard Compliance and certificates issued for some completed projects. The sector coordinated sensitization trainings on land management and physical planning for Okokoro, Ovujo and Agii Town Councils. We coordinated Physical Development Frameworks for the district through the process of Rapid Physical Planning Appraisal (RaPPA) framework.

Mr. Speaker, it is very unfortunate that this sector continued to be the least funded sector, hence we were unable to implement all the required environmental mitigation measures. The district continued to wrestle with land wrangles, encroachment on forest reserves and wetlands.

We need to take keen interest in the Rural Electrification programme. Some parts of the district with critical institutions and infrastructure have been left out. In this respect, there is need for high level lobbying for rural electrification to spur development in the rural

areas. We need to lobby for more resources from partners. Maracha District needs to formulate an Ordinance on Environmental Protection.

COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

Under community-based services a number of projects were undertaken. Under Youth Livelihood Programme, a total of 20 projects were generated from Tara, Yivu, Kijomoro, Nyadri, Oluvu, Ajira and Oleba sub-counties totaling to US\$171,000,000. The major challenge was that not all groups received project funds; repayments were not done by youth groups as expected; inadequate facilitation for operationalization and coordination of the program and a youth group in Maracha Town Council de-

clined to receive funds.

Areas of improvement include some groups have started complying to Financing Agreements and a moderate IPF for operations has been shared with us.

Under Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Program (UWEP), 4 subprojects were funded from Tara, Oluvu, Nyadri and Oluffe sub-counties costing US\$36,200,000. Since 2016, to 2023, the programme has disbursed US\$659,160,050 in communities, but there is still a challenge of overwhelming demand for the project and non-compliance to repayment and financing agreements.

Under Special Enterprise Grant for Older Persons (SEGOP), a total of 3 subprojects were generated from Nyadri South sub-county, Agaii Town Council and Oleba Sub-county at a cost of US\$15,000,000. There is overwhelming demand for the project against limited resources (project funds).

Under the National Special Grant (NSG) for persons with disability (PWD), 8 subprojects were raised in the sub-counties of Tara, Ajira, Paranga, MTC, Oluffe, Agaii TC, Okokoro Tc and Yivu, totaling to US\$44,839,500. Already there is inadequate budget for the project.

Under Social Assistance Grant for Empowerment (SAGE), 1,093 active beneficiaries were targeted but only 964 (88%) received benefits. Registered beneficiaries were paid in all the four quarters for FY 2022/2023. The major challenge faced included poor timing and location of payment points which were not



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friendly to some older persons; many eligible beneficiaries were captured as under age on their national IDs, alternative recipients continued to conceal status of DEAD beneficiaries and investigation has shown that some beneficiaries have since DIED but the alternative continues to pick the benefits; some newly targeted beneficiaries could not easily be identified, making it difficult to identify their status on the confirmation register; poor mobilization of beneficiaries in some sub-counties; and poor participation of newly recruited parish chiefs in the program hence the need to train them on their role in SAGE.

SECURITY

I need to echo the misuse of social media for dissemination of wrong and malicious information and for personal attacks. This is a big security risk. Those people who misuse the media are irresponsible and unprofessional. I therefore want to appeal to all my people who needs some information to approach the right persons to access the credible information before posting wrong information on the media.

Another security issue is that the police of Maracha have taken the role of URA to terrorize the people at border points. There has been the bad relation between the Police and the community. The Police needs to improve on their public relations.

CONCLUSION

As I conclude, Mr. Speaker, allow me to stress a few issues and draw your keen attention to the following:-

The poor local revenue collection due to low revenue base in the district remains a challenge we must confront. As part of the greater effort to improve the local revenue, there is need for more revenue mobilization and effective revenue supervision for better results.

Critical departments especially, works and technical services, health services and education still lack staff that are needed to effectively and efficiently manage departmental affairs thereby affecting service delivery to the public.

On issue of non-payment of council arrears in exgratia and allowances, we submitted a formal request with detailed information and made follow ups to the Ministry of Local Government and Ministry of Finance. A supplementary budget provision has been made in the current FY2023/2024. As we wait for funding release in Q2 of this financial year, I wish to appeal to the political leaders to remain calm as the Ministry handles the issue.

Finally, I wish to thank the partners, staff and stakeholders who have enabled us to realize this commendable performance. We recognize the challenges that still stand on our way to delivering the promise of quality service and leadership. I therefore call upon all stakeholder to embrace team work so as to steer the development of the district.

Thank you,

For God and my Country.



INTERNATIONAL DAYS

NOVEMBER

- 2 November - International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists
- 5 November - World Tsunami Awareness Day
- 6 November- International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War
- 10 November - World Immunization Day
- 10 November - World Science Day for Peace and Development
- 14 November- World Diabetes Day
- 16 November - International Day for Tolerance
- 17 November- World Philosophy Day
- 19 November - World Toilet Day
- 20 November - World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims
- 20 November- Africa Industrialization Day
- 20 November - World Children's Day
- 21 November - World Television Day
- 21 November - World Fisheries Day
- 25 November - International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
- 29 November - International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People
- 30 November - Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare

DECEMBER

- 1 December - World Aids Day
- 2 December - International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
- 3 December - International Day of Persons with Disabilities
- 4 December - International Day of Banks
- 5 December - International Volunteer Day
- 5 December - World Soil Day
- 7 December - International Civil Aviation Day
- 9 December - International Anti-Corruption Day
- 9 December - International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide
- 10 December - Human Rights Day
- 11 December - International Mountain Day
- 12 December - Universal Health Coverage Day
- 12 December - International Day of Neutrality
- 18 December - International Migrants Day
- 18 December - Arabic Language Day
- 20 December - International Human Solidarity Day
- 27 December - International Day of Epidemic Preparedness



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Multi-billion water project commissioned



Hon. Aisha Ssekindi, State Minister for Water, has asked officials of the National Water and Sewerage Corporation to reduce the cost of water, especially in rural areas to enable more citizens to access clean water. She was speaking at the commissioning of Okokoro Water Supply System and Sanitation facilities at Oribani Primary School, Maracha District on Thursday, September 08, 2023.

The facility was built by Ministry of Water and Environment through Water and Sanitation Development Facility-North with funding from the Federal Republic of Germany valued at Shs 3.687 billion.

Hon. Ssekindi said this was part of President Museveni's promise to increase water access in rural communities.

Eng. Richard Matua, Commissioner Ministry of Water and Environment said they targeted undeserved villages and town areas in terms of access to clean water. Eng. Matua said the cost for the water will be based on the expenses that will be incurred, which include power supply, staff wages and chemicals for water purification.

Geoffrey Aneko, a resident of Okokoro Town Council said the water supply system will help alleviate the challenge of water access in the dry season.

Mr. David Loew, Head of Cooperation, German Embassy, said the Federal Republic of Germany was also making great interventions in areas to conserve the environment and mitigate climate change.

The project is expected to benefit 19,800 residents of Okokoro Town Council. Works for the Water Supply System commenced in July 2022.





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Maracha District gets new CAO



Maracha District has received a new Chief Administrative Officer, Mr. Patrick Olila, who took over office on Wednesday, October 4, 2023, replacing the immediate former office bearer Mr. Paul Walakira. Mr. Olila came from Katakwi District Local Government which became Mr. Walakira's new duty station.

During the handover, Hon. Stephen Obitre, Maracha District Chairperson, commended Mr. Walakira for the commitment he exhibited during his tour of duty in Maracha District.

"I want to thank you for the distinguished service you have given to the people of Maracha District amidst challenges" Hon. Obitre said.

"In the shortest period you have been around you have done a lot, you have transformed a number of things. I hope the incoming CAO will pick up from your work and transform the District" Hon. Obitre added.

"We have been consulting each other where needed be. I am very happy with



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your team work” Hon. Obitre said.

Hon. Obitre assured Mr. Olila that the technical staff would render him all the support he need to better service delivery in Maracha District.

“The human resource we have is very embracing, they like their work, and they love teamwork” he pointed out.

On his part, Mr. Walakira appreciated the District leadership for the conducive environment accorded to him to execute his role as the accounting officer of the District.

“Allow me to appreciate the District Chairperson (Hon. Obitre), I don’t have words to express” Mr. Walakira said.

Mr. Walakira asked Maracha District Local Government staff to support Mr. Olila to settle in and also deliver on his mandate.

“My staff are very supportive, and please do this to the new CAO so that he continues. I know you will do that” Mr. Walakira said.

Mr. Olila called for team work for improved performance and effective service delivery in Maracha District.

“My door will be open 24/7. We need to work as team members, we need to consult

daily, there is no one perfect that is why we need to consult daily. I am a team player, I work with a team” Mr. Olila said.

Mr. Olila said he would tap into his experience in public service to make an impactful contribution to the growth of Maracha District.

“I am not strange to civil service. I work as a parent. We are here to declare the prime objective of my being here is to deliver services. We have to make sure the quality of services must improve daily” Mr. Olila also said.

Mr. Olila had kind words for Mr. Walakira: “Paul is a senior colleague. I am not surprised with the words Chairman (Hon. Obitre) has said. He is competent”

Mr. Olila said he would push for *barazas* as a way of promoting social accountability in the communities, but also as a platform to bridge information gap with the citizens.

Capt. (Rtd) Buga Matata, Maracha District Resident Commissioner asked Mr. Olila to perform his tasks and responsibilities, “Your work is to administer and supervise”

The handover was witnessed by members of the District Security Committee, elected leaders and technical staff.



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Maracha District rolled onto IRAS



Maracha District became the 113th district to be rolled onto the Integrated Revenue Administration system (IRAS).

During the launch on Wednesday, October 4, 2023, Mr. James Ojok, Human Resource Manager at Local Government Finance Commission said “we want to automate revenue collection in Maracha District”

Ms. Noerina Nakibuuka, an employee of Yoya Technologies Ltd, the company contracted by Local Government Finance Commission to run the system, said the system would transform local revenue collection in Maracha District. Ms. Nakibuuka said the system would ease the assessment of traders and also promote equity in taxation.

IRAS is an online and mobile application platform that enables local governments and cities collect revenue through registration, assessment, billing, payment awareness among taxpayers, and linking residents to local governments.

Payments for other non-tax revenues gathered by the Local Governments are registered using this procedure. They include the cost of registration, tenders, nominations, and medical care, among others.

Ms. Nakibuuka said they intend to enroll 124 local governments onto the system by the end of this year.

Mr. Paul Walakira, then Maracha District Chief Administrative Officer, said districts were asked to reach out to the Local Government Finance Commission for them to be enrolled on the system, it is against this backdrop that he wrote to them to have Maracha District put onto the system.

Mr. Walakira said the system would be a big boost in revenue collection in the District.

“They are here to set up the system so that we know all our businesses and all tax payers, the bottom line of the system is to know the tax payers.” he said.

“The issue of local revenue will be standardized, we shall know the base so that



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we don't estimate, we shall know the correct figures. I want you to support the program" Mr. Walakira added.

Mr. Issa Droma, Oluvu Sub-county Chief hailed the initiative to have Maracha District rolled onto the system as a great move.

"We needed this system yesterday than today. I am really grateful we are being rolled onto this system. I am hopeful that this system will benefit us like other local governments" he said.

Hon. Stephen Obitre, Maracha District Chairperson, asked lower local government leaders to embrace the system for effective revenue mobilization.

"Reforms come with positive and negative impact. I am happy that the staff of Maracha District Local Government have accepted this system. This system has a lot of opportunities. We should be able to embrace it and do the needful" Hon. Obitre said.

Mr. Patrick Olila, Chief Administrative Officer Maracha District Local Government, has withdrawn all receipt books from the lower local governments following the operationalization of IRAS.

Health information system scaled



The electronic community health information system management has been scaled-up in Maracha District. Under this project, more 400 Village Health Team (VHT) members will be enrolled onto the system and given smart phones for data collection and transmission. Currently the project has 100 VHTs engaged in electronic information management.

Ms. Priscillah Balirwa, Digital Health Manager at Living Goods, said the District Health Team will play a focal role in the training of the VHTs: "the Permanent Secretary (Ministry of Health) is focused on ensuring that the district teams train the VHTs"

Mr. Patrick Olila, Maracha District Chief Administrative Officer, said that VHTs have become important drivers of the health sector.



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“VHTs in the recent past have become important in the delivery of services to the community. VHTs should be handled separately and specifically” he said.

Mr. Olila also said the District should post good results in the implementation of the project.

“We need to demonstrate our ability of ensuring why we were selected. We need to do our best. Lets’ jealously guard what has been provided” he said.

Similarly, Hon. Stephen Obitre, Maracha District Chairperson, said the VHTs will be strictly supervised for the project to achieve the intended results.

“We are going to ensure that the VHTs offer their best, they allow themselves to be trained, they should be able to offer what is expected of them” he said.

Hon. Obitre appreciated Ministry of Health for choosing Maracha District for this project stating that the District had not been able to attract many partners amidst the need for their services.

“Maracha District looks like an orphan, several interventions that come are channeled to the refugee hosting districts. If we see ourselves benefitting from such a project we feel happy, we should ensure that the implementers get the desired results” he said.

Dr. Alex Candia, Maracha District Production Officer, appealed for the project scope to be expanded to look beyond the health sector.

“I hope this system will give real time information that could be shared with other stakeholders. It is my hope that the system captures other information that is not related to the Health Department” he said.

But, Mr. Sunday Cadribo, Maracha District Health Educator, said the data collection tool would be too big for the VHTs to handle if other sectors are included.

Mr. Godfrey Odama, Biostatistician Maracha District Local Government, said there was need to address the sustainability question of the project.

“It would be ideal we think together how we are going to sustain whatever we are going to take to the community” Mr. Odama suggested.

On sustainability, Dr. Paul Onzubo, Maracha District Health Officer, said developing a sustainability plan should involve all the stakeholders involved in the project.





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Dr. Onzubo said the system had proved to be effective in the conservation of the environment: “reviews have been done and they show the electronic community health information system is the way to go in terms of conserving the environment but also reducing the workload”

Dr. Onzubo also said VHTs have become key persons in the management of health sector data; “we had challenges of managing data. When wanted at a glance, information is obtained quickly”



Mr. Odama said there was need to share information across the board when transmitted by the VHTs.

“We should be able to share this information particularly with the Planning Department” he said.

Mr. Joshua Kananura, Maracha District Police Commander, assured the partners the Force would guarantee the safety of the mobile devices.

“We shall ensure that there is safety of the property that you will give us” Mr. Kananura pledged.

Capt. (Rtd) Buga Matata, Maracha District Resident Commissioner, said he was confident the District Health Team and the VHTs would deliver the project to the desired expectation.

“People in Maracha District are steady, they know what is being brought to them and they will understand. This program must go smoothly, we really appreciate it” he remarked.

This is a Ministry of Health project supported by Living Goods, BRAC Uganda, Medic and Global Fund.



The District Executive Committee (DEC) met on 26th September and deliberated on FY 2023/24 first quarter sector briefs from heads of departments.



MDLG NEWS

Households receive mobile devices



425 households in Maracha District have received PC tablets as part of Government's initiative aimed at extending ICT to the rural communities. The project by Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) is piloted in 30 districts of Uganda and Maracha District is one of them. The four villages of Abaa, Eyia, Yebia and Adimini in Mundru Parish, Oluffe Sub-county were picked to benefit from the project.

Mr. James Mpango, the UCC coordinator for the project appreciated Maracha District leaders for accepting to have the project in the District. Mr. Mpango said they

identified areas that had limited access to internet and ICT connectivity.

"UCC chose to do this project in under-served areas so we did not end up here accidentally. This project is intended to benefit households not individuals. I want to thank the local leadership for identifying the households, it was a shared responsibility" Mr. Mpango said.

Mr. Michael Efitre, the LC1 chairperson Abaa Village, appreciated Government for this project saying this will open up the residents to the world.



MDLG PICTORAL

"I am very happy it's my first time to handle a smart phone. I want to thank Government for bringing us this project. It will enable us to know what is happening" Mr. Efitre said.

Hon. Pontius Eyotre, LC3 Chairperson Oluffe Sub-county, advised the residents to keep the mobile devices safely and warned against selling them.

"These phones are not for sale. I will make a follow-up on these phones, let's keep these phones well" he counseled.

Mr. Patrick Olila, Maracha District Chief Administrative Officer, observed that the mobile devices will be a game changer in promoting effective service delivery

"When there is anything to do with service delivery, you can call the CAO. We have empowered you to inform the RDC about any security issues, this is going to improve the security of the area where you are" he said.

Mr. Olila challenged the beneficiaries to use the mobile devices to improve their livelihood.

Hon. Bosco Asea, Maracha District Vice Chairperson, said the identification of the project benefiting parish was not easy but added the District Executive Committee (DEC) members were objective in picking Mundru Parish out of the several parishes presented to them.

"It was not easy for us as to identify which village should benefit. I want to thank the technical team for simplifying our work" he said.

Ms. Koliba Kotevu, Maracha District Deputy Resident Commissioner, urged the residents to embrace using mobile devices in their day to day lives.

"Technology has been brought to you at the household level. Learning does not stop, you have to learn to operate these gadgets, I want you to learn using these gadgets so that they can improve your lives" Kotevu told the local residents.

Ms. Kotevu commended Maracha District Local Government staff for appropriately identifying the benefitting parish.

"I want to thank the District technical staff for analyzing data that is for planning. That makes work very easy, people are able to make critical decisions" Ms. Kotevu said.

The project beneficiaries underwent a digital literacy training to tip them on using the mobile devices.



MDLG NEWS

Sub-counties and parishes to receive physical plans



Seven sub-counties and 29 parishes in Maracha District are to benefit from a World Bank and Government of Uganda project in which their physical development frameworks will be upgraded to physical development plans. The sub-counties that will benefit from the project include: Oluvu, Oluffe, Oleba, Yivu, Nyadri, Kijomoro and Tara.

Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development received support from the World Bank under Competiveness and Enterprise Development Project-Additional Funding (CEDP-AF) under land administration component to improve security of tenure.

Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development will work jointly with Maracha Dis-

trict officials to engage the community through sensitization, data collection (spatial and socio-economic) to facilitate the process of updating the physical development frameworks into physical development plans.

Hon. Stephen Obitre, Maracha District Chairperson, appealed to the local leaders to work closely with the data collectors to have their input captured in the development of the physical development plans.

“If you don't guide them and they provide data, it will lead to a wrong methodology, you will not appreciate the results, ensure you guide the team very well.” Hon. Obitre said.

“Let's embrace the exercise and ensure that we cooperate with them and ensure physical development plans are developed in our areas” Hon. Obitre added.

Capt. (Rtd) Buga Matata, Maracha District Resident Commissioner, emphasized the need for the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development team to go to the grass root leaders and consult them in the development of their respective physical development plans.

Mr. Daniel Kaddu, physical planner with Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, said the lower local governments should take time and examine the physical development frameworks before they are upgraded.



MDLG BRIEFING

“When you get time interrogate them (physical development frameworks) so that we plan them. There is room for you to input, we want to produce a product that will work for you” he said.

Ms. Dora Atikuru, Maracha Town Council Physical Planner said once the physical development plans are completed the project will then move to the processing of freehold land titles .

“The freehold will be guided by physical development plans that we are going to develop” Ms. Atikuru revealed.



Ms. Pamela Drate, Senior Physical Planner at Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, said there was a grievance handling mechanism adopted in this project.

“Most of the grievances we shall handle are the ones social in nature, the ones that are capital, they will go to the courts” Ms. Drate said.



Ms. Drate challenged the local leaders to fully assume their role of planning for their areas, “ultimately this planning is your responsibility”. Ms. Drate said the request for more lower local governments included in the project would be forwarded to the higher offices for consideration.

Hon. Adrian Drakana , Maracha District Deputy Speaker decried the reducing land for settlement in the District due to over population and appealed for physical planning to address this challenge.

Competitiveness and Enterprise Development Project (CEDP) is a 5-year project funded by Government of Uganda with credit from the World Bank.



MDLG BRIEFING

Maracha Health Centre IV has new HUMC



Maracha Health Centre IV has new Health Unit Management Committee (HUMC) members after the team was sworn-in by Mr. Patrick Olila, Maracha District Chief Administrative Officer.

Mr. Ronald Cadribo, the Chairman HUMC Maracha Health Centre IV, commended Hon. Stephen Obitre, Maracha District Chairperson, for appointing them to serve a new term of office.

Mr. Cadribo said that a lot was not achieved in their first term due to inexperience and lack of resources, but pledged things would be better in the new term of office.

Mr. Cadribo said they will deliver on their

role of “ears and eyes of the community for effective service delivery”

Majority of the members sworn-in served in the previous term with the exception of 3 new members.

Mr. Cadribo said key in the new term was to kick start and accomplish the development of a strategic plan for the health centre. He said all should be done to have the health centre IV upgraded to a district hospital.

Hon. Dicky Alema, Secretary Social Services Maracha District, appreciated the members for accepting the responsibilities that they had been given.

Hon. Alema reminded the members the positions they were holding were voluntarily, but challenged them to be committed in monitoring the day to day management of the health unit on behalf of Government and the people of Maracha District.

Additionally, Hon. Alema tasked the members to make sure the infrastructural projects currently ongoing at the health unit are effectively monitored.

Hon. Stephen Obitre, Maracha District Chairperson, said the members performed their tasks adequately that is why they were given a new mandate. Hon. Obitre said the new HUMC members have to work hard for the



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facility to improve in offering services to the communities. Hon. Obitre called for teamwork and harmonious working relationship between the management of Maracha Health Centre IV and the District Health Team.

Hon. Obitre said the facility was operating beyond capacity attracting clients from neighboring districts even up to DR-Congo and South Sudan.



According to Ministry of Health guidelines, HUMC for Health Centre IVs shall have nine members, three of whom shall be women, with a minimum academic of Uganda Advanced of Education (UACE). The Committee shall consist of the following persons: i) A public of high integrity not holding a political position (Chairperson). ii) Staff representative (Member). iii) Assistant Chief Administrative in-charge of the County or Town Clerk in case of municipality (Member). iv)

Head of Nursing (Member) v) Four public members with high integrity, not holding any political position and shall include representatives of women, youth and other special interest groups. vi) Assistant Medical Superintendent (in-charge)

Roles of the Committee include: 1. Provide strategic direction for the health centre within the framework of the Health Policy. 2. Review and approve the work plans, budgets and any necessary reallocations within the budgets as presented by management. 3. Discuss and approve the health facility annual report before it is submitted to the Chief Administrative or Town Clerk. 4. Oversee the procurement, storage and utilization of all health facility goods and services as well as essential medicines and health supplies.





MDLG BRIEFING



Commissioners and technical staff of the Local Government Finance Commission held a productive engagement with Maracha District leaders on the bottlenecks to effective service delivery.



Maracha District commemorations of World Teachers' Day on Thursday, October 5, 2023 at Nyoro Primary School



Late September SESIL supported Maracha District Local Government with a van, 4 motorcycles, 2 laptops and office furniture



MDLG INDEPENDENCE



Lower local governments in Maracha District hosted their respective celebrations to mark Uganda's 61st Independence celebrations held under the theme: "Sustaining a United and Progressive Nation: Taking Charge of Our Future as a Free Nation." The District celebrations were held at Oleba Town Council Boma Grounds.

Ms. Koliba Kotevu, Maracha District Deputy Resident Commissioner said school dropout was high and completion rate in primary education was low in the District. Ms. Kotevu said the residents should double down their efforts to improve household income. Hon. Stephen Obitre, Maracha District Chairperson, said without unity the District can't stand. He called upon people hailing from Maracha District to invest in the local economy of the District. He warned against politics of identity and divisionism. Mr. Joshua Kananura, Maracha District Police Com-

mander, warned against reckless driving and riding on the roads. Capt. (Rtd) Buga Matata, Maracha District Resident Commissioner cautioned residents against engaging in criminality.





MDLG NEWS

Maracha TC call for PDM



Maracha Town Council held its budget conference with strong pleas to popularize the 7 pillars of the Parish Development Model (PDM) program.

Mr. Nickson Atiku, Maracha Town Council Clerk, said the budget conference was aimed at evaluating the performance of the lower local government in service delivery and strategic interventions for the coming financial year.

“We are going to look at the previous year’s performance. How much we have done. We are going to draw lessons for the coming financial year, of course there are lessons” he said.

Mr. Atiku hailed the technical staff for the

work done to make the budget conference possible, “Thank you my technical people you have been able to do a lot in the shortest time”

Ms. Margaret Emualea, planner, Maracha District Local Government said the budget conference was a culmination of several processes.

“This is the process that started with the inventory. We need to come up with all the issues collected to come up with the budget for the coming financial year” she emphasized.

Ms. Emualea said the leaders ought to create awareness about all the 7 pillars of PDM.

“Most people think of the financial inclusion pillar, they don’t think of the other pillars, what can be done to make PDM a success?” she remarked.

Ms. Dora Atikuru, Maracha Town Council Physical Planner challenged the leaders to consider environmental conservation by starting activities aimed at promoting mass tree planting. She cautioned leaders against planting fruit trees on the road sides because they pose a danger to motorists and pedestrians.

Mr. Joachim Obini, Maracha Town Council Deputy Town Clerk, said there had been general improvement in council performance, but pointed out there were some areas which needed improvement among



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which is time management on the part of the elected leaders.

Mr. Geoffrey Andama, Human Resource Officer Maracha Town Council, said it was necessary to fast track the completion of Maracha Town Council administration block to create enough office space for staff.

Eng. Godfrey Leku, Maracha Town Council Engineer, stressed the need to undertake maintenance of the roads that were opened by the Town Council

“We opened these roads sometime we have not gone to improve the roads. We need to do so in the near future to improve the existing infrastructure” he said.

Eng. Leku also said there should be concerted effort to lobby for capital projects .

Dr. Francis Arije, Senior Medical Officer Maracha District Local Government and In-Charge Maracha HC IV, said local leaders should involve the Village Health Team (VHT) members in curbing the misuse of mosquito nets.

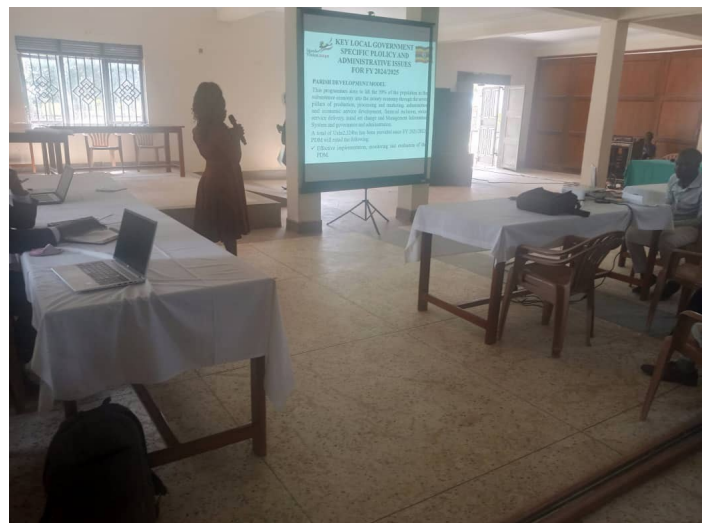
“As leaders it is your responsibility, you need to talk to VHTs, if you see things, you need to intervene” he said.

Dr. Arije appealed to the leaders to take interest in the daily running of Maracha Health Centre IV.

On her part, Ms. Josephine Inzikuru, Maracha Town Council Community Develop-

ment Officer called for massive awareness about government initiatives.

“When we create awareness, we make communities to own the projects, look at programs as their own programs and not government programs” she said.



Ms. Janet Enzaru, Senior Agricultural Officer Maracha District Local Government, said there should be recruitment of agricultural officers to offer extension services.

12% of the roads in Maracha Town Council are in the central business district.

For any feedback write to:

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MDLG NEWS

ACD closes in Maracha District



Maracha District elected leaders and technical staff attended the Agriculture Cluster Development Project (ACDP) closure review meeting. Under ACDP, farmer organizations accessed high-yield enhancing technologies and infrastructure for post-harvest management. The project intended to empower farmers to demand and access critical inputs for intensification of production with a resultant increase in marketable volumes. Mr. Caesar Draman, ACDP Focal Person, said “once a project is done we should be able to stand on our feet”

Mr. Draman revealed “It was difficult to use the e-voucher system in our region (West Nile), this was a system that uses internet”

“To work with Government you must have documents. All our input dealers are operating illegally. Let’s encourage our input dealers to widen their scope so that they can get these benefits” he added.

Most of the value addition plants that were established under the project have become idle, they are not utilized. Mr. Nickson Atiku, Maracha Town Council Clerk said “we need to mobilize communities to know the services taking place in certain places.

Ms. Koliba Kotevu, Maracha District Deputy Resident Commissioner, said there was need to track the number of farmers and their assets.

“We need GPS mapping of the assets of farmers so we are able to know our famers by location” Kotevu said.

Ms. Kotevu also said it was necessary for soil studies to be undertaken in the District to maximize productivity.

“We need specific soil study. Maracha District is small so the soil output needs to maximized” she said.

Hon. Stephen Obitre, Maracha District Chairperson, said t residents ought to be helped to add value to sweet potatoes for them to reap big benefits.

“Potatoes have become a cash crop in Maracha District, but there is no value addition. People need money that is why they sell at cheap price. As people fail to see



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money people, they look for the easiest way to get money" he said.

However, Hon. Obitre expressed concern that the rampant sale of sweet potatoes in the District could trigger famine.

ACDP was a 6 year implemented in 57 districts grouped in clusters based on the agricultural zones of Uganda coined under the Plan for Modernization of Uganda 2000.

Education Ordinance scrutinized



Maracha District leaders have been challenged to step up the enforcement of the Education Ordinance. During a review of the ordinance organized by Save the Children, the leaders wholly agreed not much had been done in the implementation of the Education Ordinance.

Lower local government leaders also said there were emerging issues that the Education Ordinance does not address, but were advised to come up with by-laws to remedy the challenges.

The Education Ordinance was passed by Maracha District Council on 16th October 2014, and gazetted in March 2015.

Officials of National Planning Authority and National Population Council early September met with DEC members and the District Statistical Committee members to disseminate performance indicators of demographic dividends, this as Government embarks on NDP IV.



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The Ordinance outlines several stakeholders in the promotion and standardizing of education in the District. These include school management committees, local leaders, head teachers, among others.

Mr. Wadia Modest, Maracha District Assistant Chief Administrative Officer, said there was no will to implement the ordinance. He called upon stakeholders to assume their responsibilities.

“We have enough manpower, the issue is will, who is willing to do it? These by-laws are useless if we can't take responsibility” Mr. Wadia said.



Most stakeholders observed that not much was done to create awareness about the Education Ordinance, besides, it was not also written in the Lugbara dialect for easy dissemination at the grassroots.

Mr. Wadia asked partners to support efforts to popularize the Ordinance in addition to

consultations on amendments.

Mr. Nickson Atiku, Maracha Town Council Clerk, said certain aspects of the Ordinance are hard to implement due to the unique situations that are presented.

“You don't need to be swift in enforcement, you will face challenges” Mr. Atiku advised.

Ms Kotevu Koliba, Maracha District Deputy Resident Commissioner, said massive sensitization about the Ordinance should be undertaken by all stakeholders.

“Let's go back and do mobilization, door to door approach. It is going to the household level” she said.

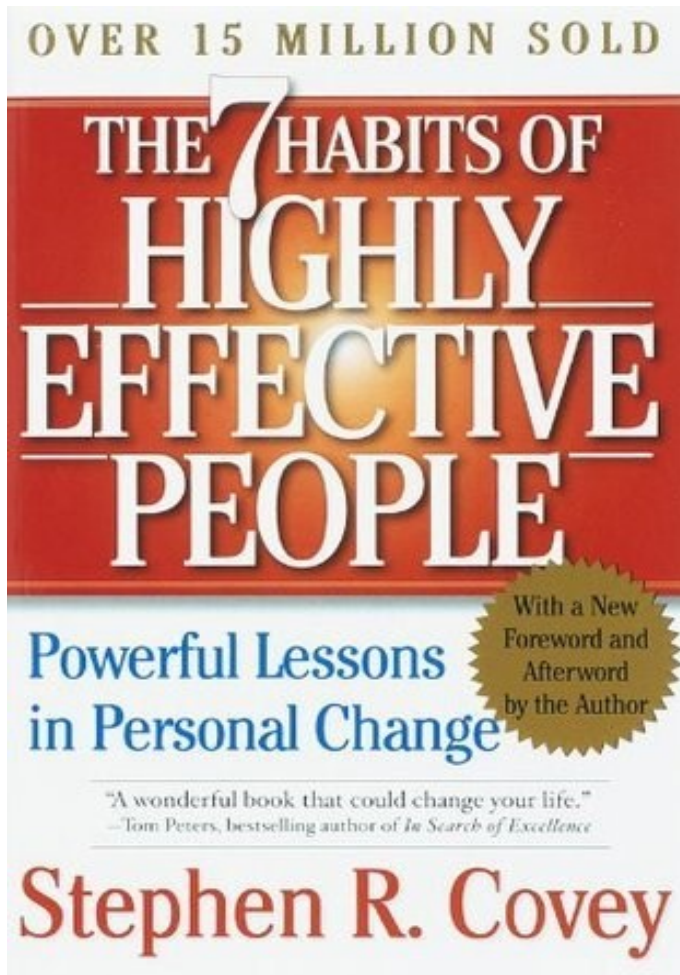
Mr. Raymond Vuchiri, UNFPA Programs Manager West Nile, advised that the office of the Clerk to Council take charge of the implementation of the Ordinance.

Mr. Vuchiri said recommendations formulated by the stakeholders should be implemented.

The Ordinance addresses issues related to disco, video and bar operations, child labor and also takes interest into issues of



BOOK REVIEW



Book Review by Alison Vidotto

I found this book to be a great point of reference when it comes to running a business.

Dr. Covey has written many books but this would be his most successful by far. The Seven Habits can be used as a guideline for your personal life as well for those who manage or lead others. It is both a personal and professional development tool.

It is a very pleasant read and the seven habits are clear and easy to implement. He explains each of them beautifully. I refer to them constantly and I'm never surprised to see them referenced in various professional development courses.

As a leadership trainer, I believe that Dr Covey was way ahead of his time when he published this book at least 25 years ago. Leaders were mostly authoritarians with the bottom line the major focus. This book opens up a whole new world of Leadership and relationship building.

Let me briefly discuss each of the seven habits, I will say that my summary is a very poor substitute for reading the real thing.

Habit 1 – Be Proactive.

How we respond to a situation will directly affect the outcome. There is a choice involved, we can sit back and let things happen to us or we can take a proactive stand to steer the course of events. We can choose to step outside of our comfort zone and respond in a way that will benefit us personally or our business. Be a cause rather than an effect.

Habit 2 – Begin with the End in Your Mind.

Dr Covey refers to this habit as one of self-leadership. Keeping the vision and goals in mind will ensure that you are not veering off course. Keeping the end goal in mind will increase productivity as you work your way along the road to success.



BOOK REVIEW

Habit 3 – Put First Things First.

Personal Management is Dr Covey's third habit. It follows on from Habit 2 which he refers to as the mental creation. To implement the end goals we need to be organised and focused to produce the physical creation.

Habit 4 – Think Win-Win.

We need to co-operate with others. Dr Covey refers to this habit as one of interpersonal leadership; it is very difficult to achieve success without the assistance of others. Dr Covey believes that if we remember that there is plenty for everyone and if we offer a win-win situation to those we want to engage, success will naturally follow.

Habit 5 – Seek First to Understand, and Then to Be Understood.

Communication is key. Dr Covey explains that we should give to others first. Work to develop and maintain positive relationships in both our professional and personal lives before we expect them to give to us.

Habit 6 – Synergize.

This habit is all about building creative co-operation – we should endeavour to see and acknowledge the contribution that

others make to a project or relationship. Dr Covey says that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

Habit 7 – Sharpen The Saw.

This habit impacted me most from the very first time I read the book, many years ago. Dr Covey calls it the habit of self-renewal. Get this habit right and it will support all other habits. If we don't take care of our self and recharge we will limit our growth, lose our effectiveness and ultimately burn out.

This is a book I am quick to pick up for a personal gift or to recommend as a reference text for any small business owner I'm working with. The seven habits are great to set a foundation built on integrity and strong values. Anyone can benefit from reading this book, I highly recommend it.

Visit Maracha District Local Government website and provide suggestions to better interaction: www.maracha.go.ug



Health & Wellness

STRESS MANAGEMENT



Effective stress management helps you break the hold stress has on your life, so you can be happier, healthier, and more productive. The ultimate goal is a balanced life, with time for work, relationships, relaxation, and fun—and the resilience to hold up under pressure and meet challenges head on. But stress management is not one-size-fits-all. That's why it's important to experiment and find out what works best for you. The following stress management tips can help you do that.

Tip 1: Identify the sources of stress in your life

Stress management starts with identifying the sources of stress in your life. This isn't as straightforward as it sounds. While it's easy to identify major stressors such as changing jobs, moving, or going through a divorce, pinpointing the sources of chronic stress can be more complicated. It's all too easy to overlook how your own thoughts, feelings, and behaviors contribute to your everyday stress levels.

To identify what's really stressing you out, look closely at your habits, attitude, and excuses:

Do you blame your stress on other people or outside events, or view it as entirely normal and unexceptional?

Until you accept responsibility for the role you play in creating or maintaining it, your stress level will remain outside your control.

What is stress management?

It may seem like there's nothing you can do about stress. The bills won't stop coming, there will never be more hours in the day, and your work and family responsibilities will always be demanding. But you have a lot more control than you might think.

If you're living with high levels of stress, you're putting your entire well-being at risk. Stress wreaks havoc on your emotional equilibrium, as well as your overall physical and mental health. It narrows your ability to think clearly, function effectively, and enjoy life.



Health & Wellness

Start a stress journal

A stress journal can help you identify the regular stressors in your life and the way you deal with them. Each time you feel stressed, make a note of it in your journal or use a stress tracker on your phone. Keeping a daily log will enable you to see patterns and common themes. Write down:

.

Tip 2: Cut out unhealthy ways of dealing with stress

Many of us feel so stressed out, we resort to unhealthy and unproductive ways to cope. A lot of these unhelpful strategies can temporarily reduce stress, but in the long run, they actually cause even more damage:

If your methods of coping with stress aren't contributing to your greater emotional and physical health, it's time to find healthier ones that leave you feeling calm and in control.

Tip 3: Practice the 4 A's of stress management

While stress is an automatic response from your nervous system, some stressors arise at predictable times: your commute to work, a meeting with your boss, or family gatherings,

When deciding which option to choose in any given scenario, it's helpful to think of the four A's: avoid, alter, adapt, or accept.

Avoid unnecessary stress

It's not healthy to avoid a stressful situation that needs to be addressed, but you may be surprised by the number of stressors in your life that you can eliminate.

Learn how to say "no." Know your limits and stick to them. Whether in your personal or professional life, taking on more than you can handle is a surefire recipe for stress.

Avoid people who stress you out. If someone consistently causes stress in your life, limit the amount of time you spend with that person, or end the relationship.

Be willing to compromise. When you ask someone to change their behavior, be willing to do the same. If you both are willing to bend at least a little, you'll have a good chance of finding a happy middle ground.

Be more assertive. Don't take a backseat in your own life. Deal with problems head on, doing your best to anticipate and prevent them. If you've got an exam to study for and your chatty roommate just got home, say up front that you only have five minutes to talk.

Find balance. All work and no play is a recipe for burnout. Try to find a balance between work and family life, social activities and solitary pursuits, daily responsibilities and downtime.

Adapt to the stressor



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If you can't change the stressor, change yourself. You can adapt to stressful situations and regain your sense of control by changing your expectations and attitude.

Reframe problems. Try to view stressful situations from a more positive perspective. Look at the big picture. Take perspective of the stressful situation. Ask yourself how important it will be in the long run. Will it matter in a month? A year? Is it really worth getting upset over? If the answer is no, focus your time and energy elsewhere.

Adjust your standards. Perfectionism is a major source of avoidable stress. Stop setting yourself up for failure by demanding perfection. Set reasonable standards for yourself and others, and learn to be okay with "good enough."

Practice gratitude. When stress is getting you down, take a moment to reflect on all the things you appreciate in your life, including your own positive qualities and gifts. This simple strategy can help you keep things in perspective.



Accept the things you can't change. Some sources of stress are unavoidable. You can't prevent or change stressors such as the death of a loved one, a serious illness, or a national recession. In such cases, the best way to cope with stress is to accept things as they are. Acceptance may be difficult, but in the long run, it's easier than railing against a situation you can't change.

Don't try to control the uncontrollable. Many things in life are beyond our control, particularly the behavior of other people. Rather than stressing out over them, focus on the things you can control such as the way you choose to react to problems.

Look for the upside. When facing major challenges, try to look at them as opportunities for personal growth. If your own poor choices contributed to a stressful situation, reflect on them and learn from your mistakes.

Learn to forgive. Accept the fact that we live in an imperfect world and that people make mistakes. Let go of anger and resentments. Free yourself from negative energy by forgiving and moving on.

Share your feelings. Expressing what you're going through can be very cathartic, even if there's nothing you can do to alter the stressful situation. Talk to a trusted friend or make an appointment with a therapist.

Tip 4: Get moving

When you're stressed, the last thing you probably feel like doing is getting up and exercising. But physical activity is a huge



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stress reliever—and you don't have to be an athlete or spend hours in a gym to experience the benefits. Exercise releases endorphins that make you feel good, and it can also serve as a valuable distraction from your daily worries.

Tip 5: Connect to others

There is nothing more calming than spending quality time with another human being who makes you feel safe and understood. In fact, face-to-face interaction triggers a cascade of hormones that counteracts the body's defensive “fight-or-flight” response. It's nature's natural stress reliever (as an added bonus, it also helps stave off depression and anxiety). So make it a point to connect regularly—and in person—with family and friends.

Tip 6: Make time for fun and relaxation

Set aside leisure time. Include rest and relaxation in your daily schedule. Don't allow other obligations to encroach. This is your time to take a break from all responsibilities and recharge your batteries.

Tip 7: Manage your time better

Poor time management can cause a lot of stress. When you're stretched too thin and running behind, it's hard to stay calm and focused.

Don't over-commit yourself. Avoid scheduling things back-to-back or trying to fit too much into one day. All too often, we underestimate how long things will take.

Prioritize tasks. Make a list of tasks you have

to do, and tackle them in order of importance. Do the high-priority items first. If you have something particularly unpleasant or stressful to do, get it over with early. The rest of your day will be more pleasant as a result.



Tip 8: Maintain balance with a healthy lifestyle

Eat a healthy diet. Well-nourished bodies are better prepared to cope with stress, so be mindful of what you eat. Start your day right with breakfast, and keep your energy up and your mind clear with balanced, nutritious meals throughout the day.

Reduce caffeine and sugar. The temporary “highs” caffeine and sugar provide often end with a crash in mood and energy.

Get enough sleep. Adequate sleep fuels your mind, as well as your body. Feeling tired will increase your stress because it may cause you to think irrationally.



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