

# MARACHA DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



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## WORD FROM THE EDITOR



I would like to thank you for taking time off your busy schedule to read Maracha District Newsletter, that I don't take lightly and pride in it. I would like to thank God for his grace and power of preservation.

The issues captured in the second edition of the Newsletter are a reflection of some of the issues that have transpired in the District in the last two months: July and August. The District accomplished a lot in the last two months (as you will read) amidst challenges that befall any entity. We celebrate what has been achieved, and as always; look forward to opportunities that lay in the challenges.

Your feedback to the content of the Newsletter is paramount. Your feedback will better the quality of content subsequently deliver the Newsletter to greater heights.

*Enjoy reading!*



# MDLG NEWS

## Maracha District registers tremendous improvement in service delivery



Maracha District was positioned 16th out of 154 Local Governments that were assessed in 2022 by the Office of the Prime Minister on service delivery performance.

Maracha District was ranked 6th country-wide in health sector performance and obtained the 8th position in the education sector performance.

The Local Government Management of Service Delivery (LGMSD) 2022 covered five

assessment areas 2, namely: crosscutting, education, health, water and environment, and micro-scale irrigation.

The Assessment Results had two dimensions, which are: (i) Minimum conditions (MCs) which are seen as core performance indicators, and focus on key bottlenecks for service delivery and safeguards management; and ii) Performance Measures (PMs) which are sectorial assessments and are used to evaluate service



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delivery in the Districts/Municipalities as a whole.

During the dissemination of the District results on Thursday, August 17, 2023 in the District Boardroom, Hon. Stephen Obitre, Maracha District Chairperson, appealed to the technical staff to take note of the areas where the District did not perform well and strategize on recording good results.

“Let's get back, let's look at assessment area by assessment area, lets looks at those areas and lets mange them” he said.

Hon. Obitre said the assessment should help in guiding the allocation of resources to the lower local governments.

“ A sub county that has 100% water coverage will still struggle for more boreholes, once we show this result to the District Councilors and we analyze these things, they will understand, next time when it comes to allocations our technical staff will not suffer” he said.

Mr. Paul Walakira, Maracha District Chief Administrative Officer, said that the District was ready for the mock assessment.

“Late September and October, we are getting set for the same exercise, we are ready we are going for reassessment “ Mr. Walakira stated.



According to the report, Health Departments across the country performed well in indicators related to; health infrastructure projects following standard technical designs by Ministry of Health (95%), health staff working in facilities of their deployment, health infrastructure projects meeting MoH designs, contract prices being within the Engineer's estimates, complete procurement files for health projects, and health projects being approved by the Contract's Committee before implementation all scoring 94%; and recruitment for the position of Biostatistician which scored 93% among the local governments.

On the other hand, the least performing indicators in the health sector included: Timely invoicing and communication of health facility transfers (15%); Timely submission of warrants for health facility transfers (18%), Health facility transfers being publicized timely (25%), timely submission of Result Based Financing invoices to Ministry of Health (36%), Corrective actions taken



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based on health facility worker appraisal reports (42%), Timely submission of Result Based Financing invoices to the District Health Officer (43%) and Timely submission of health sector budget performance reports and Recruitment of staff for all Health Centre IIIs and Health Centre IVs as per staffing structure each scoring 48%.



According to the report: "Education still performed slightly better than other areas because most LGs met the minimum conditions related to recruitment of critical staff (District/Principal Education Officers and School Inspectors); as well as environment and social safeguard issues in the 2022 assessment"

Ms. Koliba Kotevu, Maracha District Deputy RDC said, "We have to do more work. Let's put right our reports".

Micro scale Irrigation performance also "improved in the 2022 assessment from 47% in 2021 to 60%. However, results for the first piloted 40 LGs were considered since the indicators are progressively enrolled in the system and most of them were still not applicable to all LGs at the time of the assessment"

The best performed indicators under Water included; Water infrastructure investments incorporated in Annual Work plan and water supply infrastructure approved by the Contracts Committee before implementation each scoring 99%, complete water projects procurement file and accuracy of WSS facilities (97%), conducting Environment Social and Climate Change Screening (96%), water contract prices being within the Engineer's estimates 93%, and water infrastructure projects following standard technical designs (89%).

“

**We have to do more work.  
Let's put right our reports.**

Under water and environment assessment, the assessors observed "continuous slow progress in filling critical positions like District/Principal Engineers which impacted



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on crucial infrastructure developments both loan and Government of Uganda (GoU) funded”

The assessors observed annual performance appraisals for extension workers and corrective actions taken based on appraisal is still low. Though this has improved from 29% to 38%, it's still the lowest performed indicator. Collection, use of farmer cofounding and irrigation cofunding and allocations as per guidelines is still a big challenge, this stands at only 38% below the expectation.

“Attraction, recruitment and retaining of Senior Agricultural Engineer by Districts is still a problem, yet he/she is critical to the performance of the programme” the assessors observed.

Maracha District Local has been able to fill the position of Senior Agricultural Engineer.

Mr. Roland B. Taremwa, a Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, Office of the Prime Minister, and also a member of the national assessment taskforce, said the Lower Local Governments assessments were not considered country-wide because of quality issues of the data collected.

The report noted appraisal of education staff was a challenge in 2022 assessment. Only 25% of LGs conducted appraisal of all their secondary school head teachers; 57% of the LGs had all their primary school head teachers appraised; and 57% appraised other education staff like school inspectors. Late submission of warrants for schools' capitation grant. Only 19% of the LGs undertook timely submission. Late invoicing and communication of capitation grants to schools. Only 26% of the LGs met this requirement in 2022 assessment.

“Land ownership for education projects still remains a challenge with only 42% of LGs had proof of land ownership for school projects. Similarly the same trend was observed in the education sector where the “Implementation of health projects on land where the LG has proof of ownership such as; land title, agreement, formal consent, MoUs, etc. Only 49% of the LGs had proof of land ownership for the health projects”

“Recruitment of critical staff is still a challenge in most local governments. 47% of DLGs and MLGs do not have substantively appointed Principal Health Inspectors; 39% (53 DLGs) do not have substantively appointed District Health Officers. 63% (12 of 19 MLGs) do not have substantively appointed Principal Medical Officers” the assessors remarked.



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Mr. George Aporu, an economist with Ministry of Water and Environment and a member of the national assessment task-force, said there should be concrete steps taken by the District to improve on the weak areas outlined in the 2022 national assessment.

“Where we did not score we need to be deliberate and come up with performance improvement plans” he advised.

The assessment framework focuses on strengthening the following areas: .Central Government oversight and support of Local Governments; capacity of Local Governments in the management of services; and service delivery performance at Lower Local Governments and facilities.



On Thursday, July 6, 2023, Mr. Moses Akuma, Executive Director West Nile Development Association (WENDA), handed over WENDA branded T-shirts to Mr. Alfred Kato, Maracha District Senior Planner in appreciation after the District emerged 16th out of 154 local governments in the 2022 national assessment.

## LLG Assessment schedule

Timeline	LLGPA Activity
<b>August 2023</b>	LGs should reconstitute the assessment teams and study the LLG manual
<b>August –September 2023</b>	LLGPA Assessment (undertaking of the LLGPA)
<b>October –December 2023</b>	National assessment of Higher Local Governments Verification of the LLGPA Results by the OPM assessment teams

Visit Maracha District Local Government website and provide suggestions to better interaction: [www.maracha.go.ug](http://www.maracha.go.ug)



## Maracha District and Aru Territory leaders on peace mission



Maracha District leaders and their counterparts in Aru Territory in DR-Congo have resolved to iron out the deterrents to effective security and trade. A meeting held in Maracha District on 12th August was a reciprocal visit from their fellow leaders from Aru following a meeting held in Ariwara Town on 13th July. The Congolese delegation was led by Col. Richard Mbambi Kingana Kitabakulu, Aru Territorial Administrator.

During the meeting, Hon. Stephen Obitre, Maracha District Chairperson, said that the people of Aru and Maracha District are one community who are separated by the border line and commended efforts made to organise the dialogue meeting.

“This is to confirm that we are really together, it is just the border that has separated us.” Hon. Obitre said.





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Mr. Deogratious Kaleebi, the URA Regional Supervisor Customs West Nile, asked the Congolese nationals to desist from using illegal entry routes into Uganda.

“The use of porous borders should be discouraged because this is where you land into law enforcement officers and you are arrested” he cautioned.

In the same vein, Mr. Samuel Otim, in-charge immigration Oraba cluster, urged the Congolese citizens to seek for information from Ugandan authorities if they want to gain entry in the country.

“In case you don't understand what you are supposed to do, you move to the nearest custom point, you tell them what you want to do, where you want to go, then they will give you the requirements” he pleaded.

“The role of the traveler is to get to a gazetted immigration point where he/she gets clearance from. You might have many entrant routes you cannot just enter the country, you are supposed to present yourself before an immigration officer who will officially clear you” Mr. Otim added.

Mr. Kaleebi warned the Congolese nationals against numberless motorcycles and vehicles.

“You must use the gazetted points. Your vehicle or motorcycle must have a registered number plate. The law does not allow you to enter with a numberless motorcycle. For revenue reasons and security reasons you cannot enter with a numberless motorcycle” he pointed out.



Additionally, Mr. Kaleebi said that the Congolese nationals are allowed to move into a radius of 5km, but if they move beyond that, they must process the necessary documentation.

Mr. Otim said that DR-Congo recently joined the East African Community and is yet to enjoy some of the benefits of the regional integration, which he said would come with the integration fully operationalized.

“These are two countries with different laws to respect or follow. Recently our brothers



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from DR-Congo joined the East African Community, the integration has its phases and that is why the older members have gone far, they are not paying for visas, they are using the national ID, this does not mean that a Congolese national will come with a national ID and expect to be cleared” he clarified.

“There is no segregation in arrest, we equally arrest Ugandans who are crossing the border illegally or without travel documents” he added.

Mr. Otim revealed a new custom and immigration point will be opened in Birijaku in Koboko District in addition to the points in West Nile which include: Padea, Goli, Paidha, Vura, lia, and Odramacaku, among others.

West Nile leaders were given the opportunity to raise issues that needed to be taken note of and addressed by the Congolese officials. Mr. Kaleebi appealed to the Congolese officials to ensure that the border is opened at all times to propel easy movement of cargo between the two countries.

“Uganda operates all days of the week but on Sunday DR-Congo closes, this affects goods cleared on Sunday to cross to DR-Congo.” He remarked in issues raised to the Congolese officials.

“There are different log books and licenses issued by the Congolese officials which makes it hard to detect the counterfeit ones .Documents keeping on changing” Mr. Kaleebi submitted further.

Mr. Frantile Lwamusayi, West Nile Deputy Police Commander, called for collective security responses by Ugandan and Congolese officials, “We call for information sharing to effectively handle the security challenges and joint strategies to curb crime on the border”

Mr. Lwamusayi was optimistic the engagement would go a long way in addressing long security issues: “Today marks the beginning of a journey towards a safer, more prosperous future if our agreed strategies are fully implemented”





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Mr. John Mawa, the chairperson of the business community in Maracha District, decried the numerous taxes that Ugandan traders are subjected to when they cross to do business in DR-Congo.

“There are 5 taxes when an ordinary Ugandan crosses to Odramackau or crosses through Malaba. When these people come to Uganda these taxes are not there we only charge market fee” he said.

Mr. Mawa alleged that some Congolese officials are engaged in extortion: “When a Ugandan reaches a roadblock in DR-Congo, when you are not known, you are their source of income” he added.

Mr. Moses Obeta who spoke on behalf of the business community in Arua, said there is need to have a deeper consultative meeting involving all West Nile districts that border DR-Congo.

“This meeting needed to have been at a regional level because the DR-Congo border with Maracha District is very small and many of the businessmen who have come here are not bordering Maracha.” he advised.

Mr. Obeta further stated that there was need to fast-track the establishment of a

consulate in Uganda and DR-Congo for easy handling of any issues that come up in the relations between the 2 countries.

“Consulate’s office will be able to address issues raised here day by day, this is what we request our government to take up seriously, DR-Congo has a big market for our products and we should not play with our relationship with DR-Congo” Mr. Obeta said.

Hon. Emmanuel Wani, Maracha District Council Speaker, appealed for joint efforts to rehabilitate the 38km border line from Odramacaku to Malaba in Koboko District arguing that this will result into enhanced border security and trade.

“As Maracha District Council, we believe our friends in Congo you have money, we have equipment, what we lack is local revenue to be able to put fuel in the equipment. We can partner with you to ensure that the border is jointly maintained”

Hon. Jennifer Driwaru, Maracha District Woman MP, observed the need for continuous harmony between Uganda and DR-Congo. She said the two border communities should move beyond the dark past that might have engulfed nationals of the two countries.

Hon. Lee Oguzu, Maracha County MP, pointed out some of the items impounded by Congolese officials and are in their pos-



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session, and also a case of a missing person.

Col. Kitabakulu, the Aru Territorial Administrator through a translator asked the issues raised by Ugandan officials be included in the joint document for implementation. He said this would also permit him to bring the issues to the attention of officials in DR-Congo. He further said some of the Ugandan issues would be addressed through a regional meeting.

Col. Kitabakulu asked Ugandans who are faced with challenges to reach-out to his office instead of sometimes resorting to giving handouts to Congolese officials.

Hon. Daniel Baniyo, the Aru Territorial MP, pleaded for peaceful resolution to any misunderstandings that might arise between the border communities of the two countries.

In his closing remarks, Capt (Rtd) Yasin Buga Matata, Maracha RDC, commended the leaders of Aru Territory and Maracha District for honoring the invitation to attend the meeting which marked a good gesture.

"I am very happy to see that when I write people from DR-Congo are able to attend. The people of Maracha have really

supported me, whatever I have written they have supported that is why they are here" he said.

DR-Congo became the seventh member of the East African Community (EAC) on 11th July 2022 after depositing the instruments of ratification on the accession of the EAC Treaty. Thanks to the DRC's membership, the East African Community now extends from the Indian Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean. The expansion of the EAC will have repercussions for both the bloc and the DRC.

## **Uganda-DRC Informal trade**

The Informal Cross-Border Trade along the Uganda- DR-Congo border analysis and research brief commissioned and produced by the UNDP African Borderlands Centre in 2021 indicated Informal Cross-Border Trade (ICBT) plays a critical role for Uganda and DR-Congo. It acts as an essential source of livelihoods for traders and their families on both sides of the border; and also an important source of food security and the supply of other products in the border region, by linking up various markets across the border.

Over the last 10 years, ICBT between Uganda and DR-Congo has intensified. Informal exports from Uganda have almost doubled, from USD 143.2 million in 2010 to USD 269.8 million in 2018.



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## Health workers urged to improve services



Maracha District health sector review assembly concluded with strong pleas for team work and commitment to improve health service delivery. During the 2- day retreat on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> August, 2023, stakeholders were able to deliberate on the achievements and challenges that the health sector endeared in the FY 2022/2023.

In her welcoming remarks, Ms. Jessica Draru, Maracha District Assistant Health Officer (Maternal and Child Health) chal-

lenged the health workers to work as a team.

"If we stand together we can do better . We have enough staff" she remarked.

In addition, Ms. Draru asked officials in the lower local governments to work together with the district health team to improve service delivery.

"To the stakeholders in the lower local gov-



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ernments come close and let's work together" she added.

Ms. Draru commended Government of Uganda for investing resources to better the health infrastructure in Maracha District, "I want to thank Government for the several infrastructure developments "



Mr. Emmanuel Awio, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, appealed for proper utilization of resources that are given to the health sector in order for Government to realize value for money.

Hon. Bosco Asea, Maracha District Vice Chairperson, tasked the Health Department to emerge best in the national assessment 2023 after obtaining the 6<sup>th</sup> position in the 2022 national assessment out of 154 local governments assessed.

"When the next assessment is done you must be able to move from number 6 to number

one" he said.

Hon. Asea appealed to the health workers to appreciate the role that the political leadership plays in monitoring and supervision, and not look at it as witch-hunt: "we are doing an oversight role , if you are doing the rightful things down there we get the credit"

He appealed to the health unit administrators to act upon the recommendations that are stated in the health score card. He cited Ovujo Health Centre III that has in the past acted on the recommendations and realized a great improvement in performance indicators.

"Let us go to these facilities and inquire how they are doing?. How are you performing under this?" Hon. Asea said.

Mr. Sunday Cadribo, Maracha District Health Educator, said the Health Department will continue to deploy staff in private not for profit health units arguing that the people who get services from these facilities are residents of Maracha District.

"The people that St. Joseph's Hospital-Maracha is treating they are not private, they are not private, those are citizens of Maracha District, those staff in St. Joseph's Hospital-Maracha and Yivu Abea Health Centre III will continue to be there because they are serving our people" he stressed.



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Mr. Cadribo said all stakeholders should take interest in the quality of health service delivery: "Health is not for Health Depart-



ment, health is for everyone"

Hon. William Drimbaku, Chairperson of the Community and Social Services Committee tasked sub-county chairpersons to ensure that all the vacant Health Unit Management Committee (HUMC) positions are filled.

"The Council has tried its level best to approve a few submissions that have been made by Lower Local Governments. The issue here is some Lower Local Governments leaders have not acted, it is their mandate"

Hon. Drimbaku observed.

Hon. Drimbaku further cautioned leaders against harassing health workers when conducting their monitoring and supervision stating this sometimes draws resentment from the health workers.

"Us who go for monitoring, lets us improve our approach to the health workers. You may conclude that these are bad people (health workers) yet I have approached them in a bad way. Can we improve as people in authority." Hon. Drimbaku pleaded.

Hon. Dicky Alema, Secretary Social Services, commended the district health team for the efforts to deliver health care to the people of Maracha District.

"The fact that we were placed number 6 (Health Department) that means all of us are doing something" he said.

Hon. Alema called for strong collaboration between the Health Department and the health facility in charges" Can I kindly request that we work as a team at all levels"

Hon. Alema also appealed for collective monitoring of health service delivery at facility level arguing that the responsibility should not be left to the leaders at the District Headquarters.

"Can we go and start monitoring. Even the facility in charge you have a role to play, the HUMC, Senior Assistant Secretaries, LC3 Chairpersons, because me as the secretary I cannot be all over the district" he advised.

Ms. Koliba Kotevu, Maracha Deputy RDC, appealed to the health workers to direct more efforts towards disease prevention.



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“ We need to step up sensitization, we need to move down to the household level so that we are able to reach a big number, these things of talking at this level and in meetings is not adequate” she suggested.

Ms. Kotevu tasked the Health Department to share staff analysis on duty on monthly basis to promote efficient monitoring of attendance to duty by health workers.

## DISTRICT HEALTH STATISTICS (MALARIA AND HIV)

- Malaria remains the leading cause to morbidity contributing to 49% of the total diagnoses.
- 84% (193,751/230,656) of the persons attending OPD present with suspected Fever
- All (100%) the suspected Fever cases were tested and 66% tested positive for Malaria.
- Total of 131,477 malaria cases were diagnosed & treated and 2.5% ended up being admitted in the IPD.
- Malaria test positivity rate among those with fever/history of fever & were tested is 66% above the target of <40%.
- Use of test & treat policy, is 100%.
- Malaria deaths among those admitted is 0.0/1,000
- Mosquito Net distribution among pregnant women attending ANC1 is 92%.
- IPT3 coverage among pregnant women is 58%
- 79% (108) of the new HIV Positive Clients are aged 20-49 years and 3% (4) are

Cause of Death FY 2022/2023	Male	Female	Total
Neonatal Sepsis 0-7days (Deaths)	115	3	118
Pneumonia (Deaths)	17	13	30
Other Neonatal Conditions (Deaths)	13	16	29
Premature baby (as condition that requires mgt) (Deaths)	13	15	28
Anaemia (Deaths)	4	11	15
Septicemia (Deaths)	5	5	10
Hypertension (old cases) (Deaths)	4	2	6
Liver Cirrhosis (Deaths)	5	1	6
TB (Deaths)	4	1	5
Injuries - (Trauma due to other causes) (Deaths)	4	1	5
All others (Deaths)	31	27	58
<b>Total Deaths</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>310</b>





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## Maracha District gets new Deputy CAO



Maracha District in August received a new Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Mr. Robert Abia Owilli, who replaced Mr. Emmanuel Awio. Mr. Abia's previous duty station was Masindi District Local Government which became Mr. Awio's new duty station.

At the handover function on Friday, August 11, 2023, Mr. Awio called his short stay in Maracha District a 'stint' saying he had been in the district for less than a year. Mr. Awio expressed gratitude to the staff, the political leadership and the Office of the

RDC for the support rendered to him during his tour of duty in the District.

Mr. Wadia Modest, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer, thanked Mr. Awio for the service that he rendered to the District and wished him the best at his new duty station.

Mr. Wadia pledged the District's support to Mr. Abia: "We pledge support to the new Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, feel at home, this is your home".

Mr. Wadia urged Mr. Abia to help in lobbying funds for the completion of the District



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administrative block.

Meanwhile, Mr. Abia committed to serving Maracha District Local Government: “I have come to Maracha District to work and my principle is I put work first”

Mr. Abia further called for commitment to duty: “ We should offer our time and loyalty for effective service delivery”

The handover was witnessed by several technical staff who included: Mr. Cosmas Mukili, Principal Human Resource Officer; Mr. Paul Abiribale, Maracha District Internal Auditor; Ms. Nolah Avako, Natural Resources and Environment Officer; Mr. Norman Dokini, Senior Finance Officer. Others officers included: Mr. Eric Anguzu, Senior Procurement officer; and Ms. Margret Emualea, planner.

## **Maracha District CDOs tipped on GBV data entry**



Community Development Officers (CDOs) in Maracha District have been trained on data entry into the upgraded National Gender Based Violence Database (NGBVD). In his opening remarks on Wednesday, July 26, 2003, Mr. Paul Walakira, Maracha District Chief Administrative Officer, said that “you speak authoritatively when you have data on a subject”

Meanwhile, Mr. Sam Dramani , Maracha District Community Development Officer, said the data will be key in lobbying for partners support.

“ With this data at hand, we can be able to attract partners in areas we cannot. It will help us attract implementing partners depending on incidences recorded” he said.

NGBVD is a central depository for Gender Based Violence data collection, analysis, reporting and programs on the cases of GBV and FGM across the Country. NGBVD emerged as a result of emerging GBVMIS with more advanced modifications and user-friendly interfaces.

For any feedback write to:  
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[moses.atule@maracha.go.ug](mailto:moses.atule@maracha.go.ug)



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## Maracha District to get first surgical theatre



The construction of a surgical theatre at Maracha Health Centre IV has commenced with funding from Enabel Uganda. Enabel Uganda contracted Weko Engineering Consult Ltd to undertake the 6 months construction project that will cost 173,000 euros.

In his speech at the site handover on Thursday, July 27, 2003, Capt (Rtd) Yasin Buga Matata, Maracha RDC, appealed to the contractor to ensure that there is effective supervision of the project.

“Consultant you must not be tricky. Where

you talk issues like this you are not seen. You need to be with the engineers” Capt. Matata said.

Capt. Matata also appealed to Enabel Uganda to make timely release of the funds to the contractor to make the work completed within the project time. He further appealed to the contractor to adhere to the project design: “make sure this theatre is exactly what is drawn here”

Dr. Francis Arije, the in-charge Maracha



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Health Centre IV, said the construction of the surgical theatre will be a big boost in the management of surgical cases since the District has not been having any operational theatre.

“We have a poor community that cannot afford services to pay, you realize that most of the patients go to Koboko and also Arua. We hope this will stimulate further infrastructure development” he said.

Mr. Alex Amati, Director Weko Engineering Consult Ltd assured all the stakeholders that the company will deliver the project within the 6 months period.

“As Weko Engineering Consult Ltd we are ready to deliver what we committed to, we are ready to work ”

“We are ready to avail all the requirements to the consultants. We are also asking the District and the community to be part of this work and we are saying any time any day you are most welcome and ask relevant questions, you will get the answers” he added.

Mr. Amati said there were some employment slots that would be given to the local community.

“We are going to work with the local community meaning that the LC5 Chairperson must mobilize for us the people we shall work with, the youth, the women. This is a very big project, we don't want to mess it up” he said.



Hon. Stephen Obitre, Maracha District Chairperson, called for continuous involvement of all stakeholders in the implementation of the project to guarantee its perfect execution.

“We have all technical expertise. Enabel is having engineers, we have consultants, I was hearing construction engineer, electrical engineer and also the contractor had several engineers and the District is also having, when these heads are collaboratively put we shall expect a structure that is having technical integrity” he said.

Hon. Obitre asked the contractor to properly handle the welfare of the hired local labor force.

“Many contractors have requested people and we get them, at the end of it all they come back frustrated. Issues of nonpayment. Lets hope Weko Engineering Consult Ltd will work differently” he stated.



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Mr. Jonathan Musana, an official with Enabel Uganda, said they expect the contractor to deliver quality work going by the conditions that were set for the bidding exercise.

“We expect to see good quality work because Enabel looks at good quality. Those who were there during the bidding the conditions looked tough, whoever beats that then has to deliver good work.” he appealed.

Mr. Musana said Enabel works with communities and their leaders in ensuring that projects are developed with their approval.

“We like working bottom to top, what is the challenge, how are you going to intervene. Make sure that problem is solved” Mr. Musana added.

Mr. Daniel Musana, the project consultant, said the project will be delivered within the stipulated time frame. At the meeting, Mr.

Musana laid out what he required of the contractor.

Mr. Russall Okudra, Maracha District Assistant Health Officer (Environment), said the Health Department has a record of good performance and has been able to attract and maintain implementing partners.

“There is a scheme called Result Based Financing, you do the work qualitatively and quantitatively, they come and verify and they pay you that way we have been able to improve the quality of services in the district. As Maracha District, we are prepared for this project” Mr. Okudra assured implementers.

“

## You need to be with the engineers

Enabel Uganda funded the construction of the theatre once it got assurance that there was another partner to supply equipment to the surgical theatre. UNFPA will take on the role of procuring equipment for the surgical theatre following an MOU entered with the Health Department.

The site handover was also witnessed by Maracha Health Centre IV staff, Maracha District Local Government technical and political leaders, and the leaders of Maracha Town Council, among other people.



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## Sub-accountants in Maracha District retooled



Sub-accountants in Maracha District Local Government have been refreshed on their mandate. The one-day training that took place on Tuesday, July 4, 2023 in the District Boardroom covered several topics which included: Overview of general administration of local governments, financial management and accountability in local governments, financial reporting - The case for local councils. Other topics covered included: Financial reporting - The case for urban councils, and revenue mobilization for local governments.

The training mainly targeted newly recruited sub-accountants but also saw the old sub-accountants invited.

“Our focus was on the new staff, but the old staff will refresh their minds, share new

experiences” said Mr. Stephen Candia, Maracha District Chief Finance Officer.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Paul Walakira, Maracha District Chief Administrative Officer, appealed to the sub-accounts to conduct themselves in an organised manner when doing their work.

“Ensure all financial accountabilities are in place and are good. Put your house in order” he advised.

Mr. Walakira urged the sub-accountants to give their best service to the Government of Uganda : “When you join Government, you are joining a cadre. When Government employs you, they are hiring an expert. You must work with in the pillars of Government.”

“Are you satisfied? Are you improving the lives of people as you are doing your day to day work? Do you see yourself improving the lives of people you serve?” Mr. Walakira asked.

Mr. Robert Adriko, who delivered thanksgiving remarks on behalf of the sub-accountants, commended the Finance Department for the training and appealed for more trainings and capacity building opportunities availed to them.

“This should not be the last training. There should be more trainings” he appealed.

Mr. Candia appealed to the sub-accountants to embrace ICT in their work



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arguing that ICT is part of every profession. He further encouraged them to acquire the necessary academic qualifications to enable them grow in their career. He also appealed to the sub-accountants to work in harmony with other staff in their duty stations.

The facilitators of the training included: Mr. Walakira, Mr. Candia, Mr. Norman Dokini; Senior Finance Officer Maracha District, and Ms. Lillian Driwaru Nyakupayo; Senior Treasurer Maracha Town Council.

## SESIL program concludes



Strengthening Education Systems for Improved Learning (SESIL) program has closed in Uganda after a 5-year life cycle. The program is funded by the UK government and managed by Cambridge Education of the Mott MacDonald group.

SESIL launched in 2018 was aimed at improving the equity and quality of measurable learning outcomes for girls and boys in Uganda at the lower primary school level.

During the District exit meeting on Thursday, August 24, 2023, in the District Boardroom, Hon. Stephen Obitre, the District Chairperson, thanked the SESIL program for its role in improving numeracy and

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Are you satisfied? Are you improving the lives of people?



# MDLG NEWS

literacy among the learners and other community members, “the first beneficiaries of this program will be able to sit for Primary Leaving Examinations around 2025. Let’s track the learners of this program that is when we shall be able to fully appreciate this program” he said.

Hon. Obitre decried the low primary level completion rate in the District. He made a plea for parents to support the education of their children.

“ Parents have become very lazy, those days of graduated tax no one would want to relax, you start planning for you graduated ticket from January, parents have relaxed totally” he mentioned.

Hon. Obitre further called for concrete strategic interventions to sustain the undertakings of the SESIL program:” Lets come in and give support at various levels. Lets support those recommendations and ensure that the SESIL initiative is not forgotten”

“Let’s be prepared for the continuity of this program. We shall look for plan B, lets try to look at our side. Let’s come in and give support at various levels. Let’s support those recommendations and ensure that the SESIL initiative is not forgotten” he further appealed.

Similarly, Mr. Paul Walakira, Maracha District Chief Administrative Officer commended the SESIL program for the intervention: “ A project is a project when it has a time

frame. You helped us during the Covid-19 lock down. Our children were exposed to new ways of learning. Results have proved such kind of learning was effective. In the course of learning, parents learnt many things”



Mr. Henry Aniku, Maracha District Sports Officer, revealed the program helped to track school attendance by teachers.

“The teachers were always on their toes because this task on time helped to enhance attendance among the teachers. A teacher can be present at school but absent in class”

Mr. Aniku, said through the program school head teachers and their deputies, and School Management Committees (SMCs) members in Maracha District were trained on their management roles.

“SESIL officials built capacity of education officials. Those workshops were good in that we had our capacity enhanced” he said.





# MDLG NEWS

Mr. Sammy Musoke, the national coordinator SESIL, appreciated Maracha District leaders for embracing the program and the officials deployed to implement the program.

“When we came you opened the doors. Secondly you embraced the program. We are humbled by your good comments about this program”



Mr. Musoke further commended the volunteers in the community-led centers describing them the pillars of the program.

“These are the foot soldiers that have made this program to move. They have done a gone job” he said.

“Literacy and numeracy are the foundation. We say we are now teaching children to learn so that they can learn how to read. If you can't read then you can't learn” he added.

Mr. Musoke called upon all stakeholders to

take keen interest in monitoring the quality of education in order to raise the academic bar.

“Education is not a concern for educationists only, education is a concern for all of us. When the children do well the community will be happy. We don't learn from the classroom. We learn from an interaction between the learner and the teacher”

Capt ( Rtd) Yasin Buga Matata, Maracha District RDC, remarked that the project had an impact on education standards and appealed to the people running the community learning centers to ensure that the material left by SESSIL is kept well and put to proper use.

Apart from the community-led learning initiative, other interventions under the SESIL program included the Managing for Results(M4R) intervention and the radio learning program that was adopted at the height of the Coronavirus pandemic.





# MDLG NEWS

## **“You have no business in police cases”-appeal to religious leaders**



Save the Children's ANSWER project has concluded in Maracha District following a 3-year implementation phase.

During the exit meeting with religious leaders, Mr. Paul Walakira, Maracha District Chief Administrative Officer, commended religious leaders for accepting to be part of an initiative that is aimed at securing children: “We thank you for joining that group to save the children”

Mr. Walakira called for the extension of the project enumerating its benefits, “We are requesting for an extension, we still need this project”

Hon. Stephen Obitre, Maracha District Chairperson, applauded Save the Children for the move to involve religious leaders in this project, arguing that religious leaders are not part of most stakeholder engagements, and

this sometimes elicits discomfort from them.

“I appreciate Save the Children for recognizing religious leaders as stakeholders in development” he said.

Similarly, Hon. Obitre pleaded for another phase of the project recognizing the impact of the current phase of the project, “I am praying that we get phase two of the ANSWER project”

Hon. Obitre encouraged the District and other organizations to borrow a leaf from the Save the Children model of engagement in order to enhance stakeholder involvement.

“Lets copy organizations like Save the Children, engaging these people does not need resources” he observed.

Ms. Edith Kemigisa, Programs Manager Save the Children-Maracha, said that the religious leaders can carry on with their role under the ANSWER project without even the needs for funds.

“I think this is something they can carry on. For you it is not something hard to sustain” she remarked.

Ms. Kemigisa emphasized the pronounced role that religious leaders play in combating Gender Based Violence: “People listen to religious leaders, you have a big influence on the community”

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# MDLG PICTORAL



Maracha District political leaders and technical staff on Monday, July 17, 2023, attended a team building workshop. The engagement was aimed at team building between and among heads of departments, sections, and the political leadership.





# MDLG PICTORAL



Emphasis was laid on unity and teamwork during the team building workshop. The workshop was facilitated by Mr. Abdul Wahid Ijosoga and Mr. Stephen Edema Budra.





# MDLG BRIEFING



The District Roads Committee (DRC) chaired by Maracha District Chairperson Hon. Stephen Obitre met on Monday, August 14, 2023 and deliberated on specific road infrastructure. Maracha District Woman MP Hon. Jennifer Driwaru and Maracha County MP Hon. Lee Oguzu were in attendance.

## CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Mayor of Oleba Town Council, Hon. Apollo Amute Ezaa died in a fatal accident on the Vurra-Arua-Koboko-Oraba road on Tuesday, August 15, 2023. A special council sitting was held in Oleba Town Council to pay homage to the deceased mayor. Hon. Ezaa, was laid to rest on Friday, August 18, 2023 in Titi Village, Drambu Sub-county.





# MDLG BRIEFING



A team from the World Bank, Ministry of Health officials, and Maracha District Local Government leaders in July inspected civil works at Oluvu Health Centre III, which include construction of a new maternity and general ward, among other works.



Maracha District Local Government staff in early July took part in an exercise to develop the draft District Contingency Plan (DCP) under a project by Government of Uganda and the Government of Japan through Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The exercise also saw staff of Moyo District and Nebbi District get involved to develop DCPs for their respective districts.



The Archbishop of the Church of the Province of Uganda, Most. Rev. Stephen Kaziimba Mugal, on Friday July 7, 2023 commissioned Advent Church of Uganda-Oleba in Paranga Parish, Maracha Archdeaconry. Archbishop Kaziimba was on a pastoral visit in Madi and West Nile Diocese.



Maracha Resident District Commissioner, Capt (Rtd) Yasin Buga Matata, on Thursday, July 20, 2023 held a familiarization meeting with the District political leadership and technical staff.



# MDLG PICTORAL

Central government officials and Maracha District technical staff undertook a 2-day inspection and monitoring visit of UgIFT project sites and 3 Micro Scale Irrigation demonstration farmers. The visits were undertaken on 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2023





# MDLG BRIEFING



The Young and Adolescent Peer Support (YAPS) model was launched in Maracha District on Thursday, July 20, 2023. The model is a designed program targeting HIV positive adolescents and young people between 10-24 years. The HIV comprehensive partner is Infectious Disease Institute (IDI).



Households in Mundru Parish, Oluffe Sub-county were in late July registered for SIM cards as part of the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) access to ICT project. Each registered household will receive a compute tablet.



Maracha District Women Council held its general meeting on Friday, July 21, 2023. The meeting gathered chairpersons of women councils at the sub-county level. The general meeting mainly deliberated on improving the livelihood of women.



Maracha District Primary Schools Ball Games concluded with Kijomoro and Nyadri sub-counties dominating the games. Last month, Maracha District participated in the national ball games hosted by Mbarara City where the District emerged 3rd out of 139 local governments.





# MDLG BRIEFING



Maracha District Environment and Natural Resources Committee members on Tuesday, July 4, 2023 deliberated on several issues. One of the major discussion points was incorporating environmental protection into physical planning.



Head teachers of primary schools in Maracha District on Wednesday, August 30, 2023, held a meeting with the District technical staff on improving performance indicators under the Uganda Multi-Sectoral Food Security and Nutrition Project (UMFSNP).



Midwives and health assistants in Maracha District have been trained on early cases detection and referral of Clubfoot. Clubfoot can be treated before a child makes one year

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## Continued from page 26

She cautioned religious leaders against arbitrating Gender Based Violence cases that are under the management of police " You as religious leaders you have no business to be involved in police cases, yours is to offer psychological support" she told the meeting.

The ANSWER project was launched in Maracha District in 2020 and concludes on 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2023.



# MDLG PICTORAL



Maracha District Engineering Department undertook road rehabilitation in Oleba Sub-county. Frame 3 a community in Oluvu Sub-county addressing a clogged road infrastructure. Courtesy photos.



# INTERNATIONAL DAYS

## SEPTEMBER

**21 September** - International Day of Peace

**23 September** - International Day of Sign Language

**26 September** - International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

**27 September** - World Tourism Day

**28 September** - International Day for Universal Access to Information

**29 September** - International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste

**29 September** - World Maritime Day

**30 September** - International Translation Day

## OCTOBER

**1 October** - International Day of Older Persons

**2 October** - International Day of Non-Violence

**3 October** - World Habitat Day

**5 October** - World Teachers' Day

**8 October** - World Migratory Bird Day

**9 October** - World Post Day

**10 October** - World Mental Health Day

**11 October** - International Day of the Girl

Child

**13 October** - International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction

**15 October** - Global Handwashing Day

**15 October** - International Day of Rural Women

**16 October** - World Food Day

**17 October** - International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

**20 October** - World Statistics Day

**24 October** - United Nations Day

**24 October** - World Development Information Day

**27 October** - World Day for Audiovisual Heritage

**31 October** - World Cities Day

**31 October** - World Cities Day





# Health & Wellness

## How much water should you drink a day?



Reviewed by Howard E. LeWine, MD, Chief Medical Editor, Harvard Health Publishing

Most people need about four to six cups of plain water each day. But it may be surprising to learn that water intake is an individualized number.

While the daily four-to-six cup rule is for generally healthy people, that amount differs based on how much water they take in from other beverages and food sources. Also, certain health conditions, medications, activity level, and ambient temperature influence total daily water intake.

Unfortunately, many of us aren't getting enough to drink, especially older adults. We'll help you understand how much water you need to drink in a day to stay healthy.

## Benefits of drinking water

Water keeps every system in the body functioning properly. The Harvard Medical School Special Health Report 6-Week Plan for Health Eating notes that water has many important jobs, such as:

- carrying nutrients and oxygen to your cells
- flushing bacteria from your bladder
- aiding digestion
- preventing constipation
- normalizing blood pressure
- cushioning joints
- protecting organs and tissues
- regulating body temperature
- maintaining electrolyte (sodium) balance.

## How much daily total water do you need?

For healthy individuals, the average daily water for men is about 15.5 cups and for women about 11.5 cups. That might mean you need only four to six cups of plain water, depending on other fluid sources such as coffee, tea, juice, fruits, and vegetables.

Other factors that might mean more plain



# Health & Wellness

water include:

**Activity level:** If you're losing water through sweat because you're exercising, you should increase your water intake. Individuals participating in long stretches of physical activity, such as marathons, often need to replace both water and sodium losses.

- **Outside temperatures:** You should adjust your water level when the temperatures soar outside. In warmer temperatures, you might feel thirstier faster.
- **Overall health and medications:** It's possible to take in *too much* water if you have certain health conditions, such as thyroid disease or kidney, liver, or heart problems; or if you're taking medications that make you retain water, such as non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), opiate pain medications, and some antidepressants.

**Age:** Older people don't sense thirst as much as they did when they were younger. And that could be a problem if they're on a medication that may cause fluid loss, such as a diuretic.

## How to calculate how much water to drink a day

As there's no one-size-fits-all answer and water intake is individualized, you should check with your doctor about the right amount for you.

If you don't drink enough water each day, you risk becoming dehydrated.

Warning signs of dehydration include urine that's dark yellow in color, weakness, low blood pressure, dizziness, or confusion.

## Fluids to keep you hydrated

Water is not your only choice when it comes to hydration. All beverages containing water contribute toward your daily needs. And some people even tout the benefits of milk for hydration.

And it's a myth that caffeinated beverages or those containing alcohol are dehydrating because they make you urinate. They do, but over the course of the day, the water from these beverages still leads to a net positive contribution to total fluid consumption.

Of course, there are many reasons why water is still the better choice. Remember, sugary drinks can lead to weight gain and inflammation, which can increase your risk for developing diseases such as diabetes. Too much caffeine can give you the jitters or keep you from sleeping. And alcohol intake should be limited to one drink per day for women, and one to two drinks per day for men.

## Tips for avoiding dehydration

To ward off dehydration, drink fluids gradually, throughout the day. An easy way to do this is to have a drink at each meal, as well as socially, or with medicine.

And know that you also get fluids from water-rich foods, such as salads, fruit, and applesauce.



# MDLG BRIEFING

## Maracha District Local Government Socios and Website

 Maracha District Local Government

 Maracha District Local Government

 Maracha District Local Government

 Maracha District Local Government

 [www.maracha.go.ug](http://www.maracha.go.ug)