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Teso Post

From the Heart of Teso



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Dear Esteemed Reader,

As we bring you the 83rd edition of The Teso Post, this particular read centers on Ateker people exercising their democratic right to shape the future of their communities.

The local council elections have produced inspiring leaders ready to serve with dedication and vision. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all successful candidates.

As we come to the end of this month, Uganda as a whole celebrates a historic milestone as President Yoweri Museveni graced the 40th Liberation Day commemorations, a poignant reminder of the resilience, unity, and sacrifices that have shaped our nation.

In celebrating our freedom, we reflect on the strides we have made, we are reminded of the work still ahead in building a prosperous and peaceful Uganda.

In this edition, we bring you in-depth coverage of the Teso local council elections, highlights from the Liberation Day celebrations, government milestones and thoughtful commentary on the political developments shaping our region.

We remain committed to providing accurate, insightful, and engaging reporting that connects our readers to the stories that matter most.

Thank you for being part of our readership as we continue to chronicle the journey of Teso.

From Us,

The Teso Post!



President Yoweri Museveni.

FARE THEE WELL: PRESIDENT MUSEVENI PAYS TRIBUTE TO AJELENA AERO, MOTHER OF FORMER REBEL COMMANDER FRANCIS EREGU

Aluka Anna Constance- Guest Writer

President Museveni has formally paid tribute to the mother of former rebel commander Francis Eregu known widely by his nom de guerre, “Hitler” becoming a quiet but powerful symbol of forgiveness, resilience, and national unity.

At age 101, Ajelena Aero had witnessed a century of Uganda’s triumphs, trials, and transformations.

Her death on January

21st, 2026 at Soroti City Clinic after a prolonged illness marks the end of a remarkable life that bridged personal loss and national reconciliation.

Aero was laid to rest on Sunday, January 25, at her ancestral home in Arapai, Soroti City. The funeral drew family members, local leaders, and government representatives, reflecting her status as a respected elder whose influence extended far beyond her immediate family.



The Minister for Northern Uganda, Kenneth Omona (R) conveys his condolences on behalf of the President in Arapai, Soroti.

In a message read by the Minister for Northern Uganda, Kenneth Omona, President Yoweri Museveni expressed with profound, offering condolences on behalf of the Government and the National Resistance Movement (NRM).

The President referred to Aero as his “elder sister” and praised her dignity in the face of both personal and national trials.

Francis Eregu, Aero’s son, was a senior commander in the Uganda People’s Army (UPA), an armed group active in eastern Uganda during the late 1980s and early

1990s. The UPA fought government forces and contributed to insecurity in the Teso sub-region before its eventual defeat.

Despite this turbulent past, Aero became a symbol of reconciliation. In June last year, President Museveni personally visited her family at State House, extending forgiveness for past hostilities. The government also supported the construction of a home for Aero in her later years a gesture that underscored the administration’s commitment to healing

and unity.

Through her life, Aero embodied resilience and the power of forgiveness. She weathered personal loss, societal upheaval, and the scars of conflict with quiet strength. Her passing leaves behind not only her family but a legacy of courage and reconciliation that continues to inspire the nation.

Ajelena Aero’s century-long life was a testament to the possibility of bridging divides, showing that even in the shadow of conflict, humanity and compassion can prevail.

PRESIDENT MUSEVENI LEADS 40TH LIBERATION DAY ANNIVERSARY, OUTLINES NEW TERM PRIORITIES



President Museveni poses for a photo with some of the officials who received medals.

Aluka Anna Constance-Guest Writer Uganda

Commemorated the 40th anniversary of Liberation Day, celebrating the historic victory in 1986 when the National Resistance Movement (NRM), led by President Yoweri Museveni, came into power following a five-year guerrilla war.

President Museveni presided over national celebrations and a military parade on Monday, January 26th, 2026, at the Kololo Independence Ceremonial Grounds in

the capital, Kampala. The event, broadcast live across the country, honored Uganda's journey toward stability, self-determination, and national progress under the theme, "A

Tribute to the Patriots Who Ushered in the Fundamental Change."

Addressing the nation, Museveni, who secured a seventh five-year term in the January 15 general elections, outlined his government's priorities for the new term. These include inclusive wealth creation, free education, industrialization, poverty eradication, national



The President shares a light moment with some of the decorated officers in uniform.

unity, and strengthening governance discipline.

"We are going to do much more. We are celebrating a very big victory in politics. In the new term, our priorities are clear: safeguard peace and security, eradicate household poverty, strengthen unity, enforce discipline in governance, and support wealth creators to grow our economy," President Museveni said.

"Uganda will remain peaceful, stable, and focused on progress. I thank you all and wish you a happy Liberation

Day," he added.

During the ceremony, 33 Ugandan personalities

The celebrations drew thousands of ruling party members, supporters,



were awarded medals in recognition of their distinguished service and contributions to the country's liberation struggle.

dignitaries, and foreign diplomats, reflecting the enduring significance of the day in Uganda's national calendar.

REVIVING ITESO HERITAGE: SOROTI UNIVERSITY PLANS MUSEUM IN KATAKWI TO CELEBRATE CULTURAL IDENTITY



PAS giving her welcome remarks with the District Vice Chair next right and Prof. Ikoja center

Emukoki John Baptist, Communications officer-Katakwi

Soroti University has unveiled plans to establish a University Museum in Katakwi District aimed at preserving and promoting the rich cultural and traditional heritage of the Iteso people.

On 20th January 2026, a delegation from the university paid a courtesy visit to the Katakwi District Local Government leadership to formally seek permission and support for the proposed initiative.

The visit brought

together selected district officials and cultural stakeholders who were invited to share their views on the planned museum. Participants also proposed and documented key cultural identities of the Teso community, which will serve as an important reference for tourism

development and future education.

Addressing the district leadership, the Vice Chancellor of Soroti University, Professor Robert Ikoja Odongo, explained that the university intends to construct the museum on land that will be suitably allocated by the district. He noted that the primary purpose of the visit was to consult the leadership and secure approval for

gap that had existed for decades.

The Vice Chairperson of Katakwi District, Hon Ecuman Joseph, warmly welcomed the proposal and assured the university of the district’s full support toward the establishment of the museum and the tourism research center. He noted that, considering the university’s continued support

and interventions within the district, the project should be fully embraced and accepted with gratitude.

Similarly, the Personal Assistant Secretary, Ms Akwi Harriet Faith, expressed appreciation to Soroti University for its partnership with the district. She acknowledged that the collaboration has significantly improved

service delivery and local economic development, particularly through the contribution of student doctors and other development initiatives.

The proposed museum is expected to become a cornerstone for cultural preservation, education, and tourism development in Katakwi District and the wider Teso sub-region.

KATAKWI: INCUMBENT OMOLO GEOFFREY RETAINS LC5 SEAT IN CLOSELY CONTESTED POLL

Emukoki John Baptist, Communications officer-Katakwi

Hon Omolo Geoffrey has been re-elected as Local Council 5 Chairperson following the recently concluded LC5 general elections, securing a second term in office after a closely contested race.

The incumbent, who also won the NRM primary elections as the party flag bearer, was declared winner after polling 26,000 votes against 24,000 votes garnered by independent candidate Odaka Martin Omeedo. The results were officially announced at the

Electoral Commission offices by the District Returning Officer, Mr. Stephen Makubuya, on the morning of 23rd January 2026.

With the victory, Hon Omolo will continue serving as District Chairperson, having first held the office from

2021 to 2026, and now set to lead the district from 2026 to 2031.

Addressing voters after his win, Hon. Omolo thanked the electorate for renewing their trust in his leadership, describing the outcome as an expression of good leadership, a gesture he does not take for granted.

He committed himself to serving the district to achieve development and emphasized

collaboration, pledging to work together with stakeholders and government to reduce household poverty and improve their wellbeing by utilizing rightly government programs for group and individual income development.

He further highlighted education and service delivery as key priorities, noting that he would continuously engage government through the education department to draw strategies to improve the education standards in the district and ensure service delivery in the major sectors of education, health, community and roads.

Mr Omolo also cited achievements from his previous term and assured voters of improved performance.

“PDM and other government programs implementation is at 100%,” he remarked.

Meanwhile, District Returning Officer Stephen Makubuya, while announcing the results, expressed



Hon Omolo Geoffrey

concern over voter participation. He observed low voter turn up during the LC5 elections and encouraged citizens to fully turn up and vote during the LC3 elections to own up their power and the leadership of the district.

The elections saw a significant shift in leadership, with many incumbent LC5 councillors including members of the executive losing

their seats. Voting patterns reflected how candidates related with communities, as several special interest group leaders were replaced by new representatives.

Hon Omolo Geoffrey is widely recognized for his humility and leadership with a Christian background that twins him with integrity and honesty while serving the people.

Among those who retained their seats

were Hon. Abur Betty, councillor for Palam Sub County, and Ojakal Rapheal Mark, councillor for Usuk Sub County. Others either lost in the

elections or voluntarily gave space for new leadership by not contesting.

As the district prepares

to constitute the next council, the new leadership is expected to blend experience with fresh representation.

MOSES ORIADA SECURES OVERWHELMING WIN IN KALAKI LC5 POLL

Julius Odeke, Communication Officer for Kalaki

The National Resistance Movement (NRM) flag bearer, Hon. Moses Oriada, has won the Kalaki District Local Council V chairperson seat with a resounding victory in the recently concluded Local Council elections.

According to results declared by the Electoral Commission, Oriada garnered 20,146 votes across all the eight sub-counties and the two town councils of Kalaki and Otuboi. Oriada previously served as the Local Council III chairperson for Otuboi Sub-county.

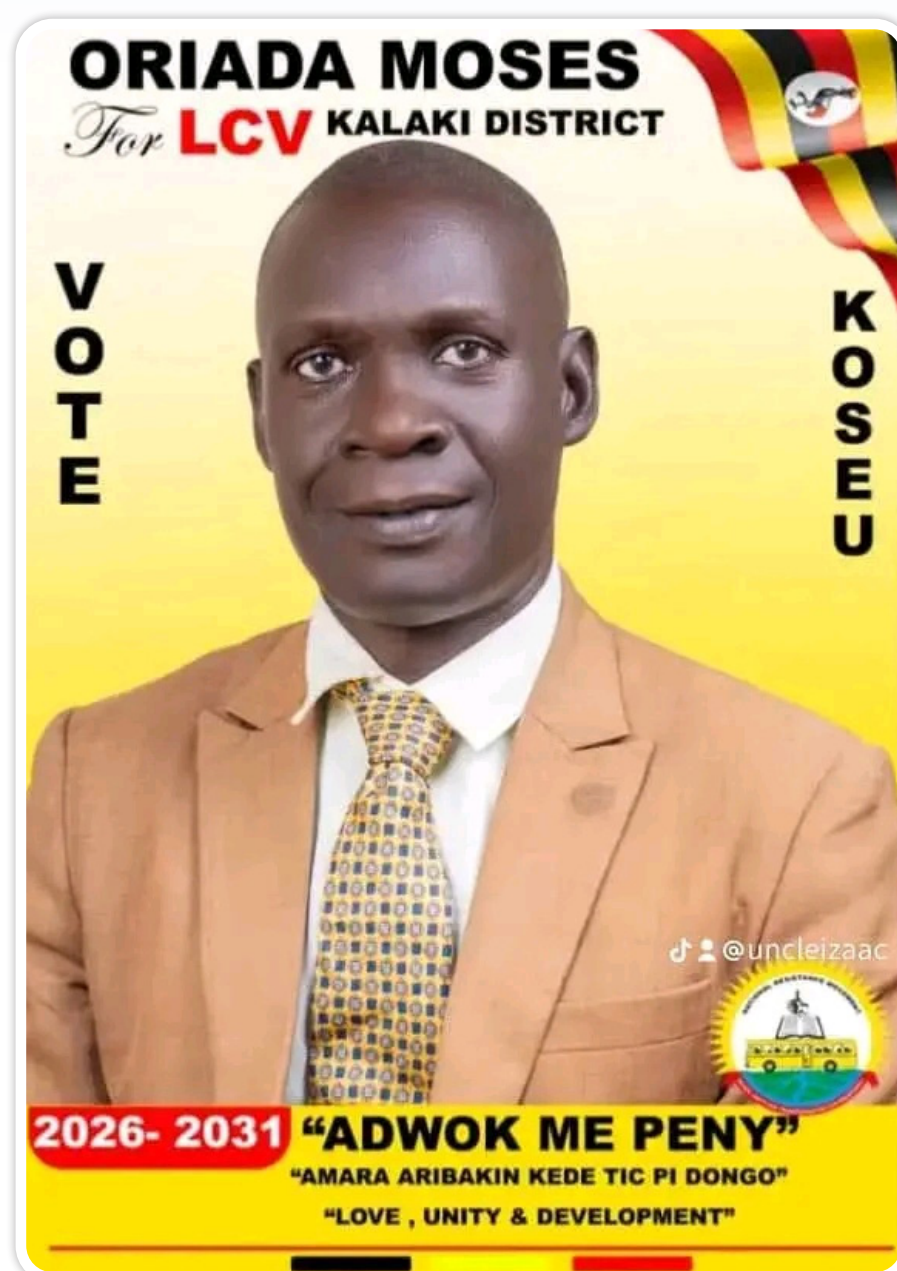
His closest challenger, Mr Patrick Eyangu, who contested as an independent candidate, came a distant second with 5,795 votes.

The Forum for Democratic Change (FDC) candidate, Mr Amos Odeng, a former

district councillor representing Otuboi Town Council, secured 3,195 votes.

He was followed by the Uganda People's Congress (UPC) candidate, Mr Thomas Ochan Ayei. The National Unity Platform (NUP) candidate, Mr Charles Ojwok, finished last with 527 votes.

While declaring the final results, the Electoral Commission Returning Officer for Kalaki District, Ms. Leontine Nsugwa, confirmed that the election was conducted in line with electoral guidelines and reflected



the will of the voters. She congratulated the winners and urged all candidates to maintain peace and unity in the district.

In his victory remarks, Oriada thanked the people of Kalaki for

the overwhelming mandate and pledged to prioritize service delivery, infrastructure development, and inclusive governance. He called on his former rivals to join hands with him in building the newly created district.

Kalaki District, one of Uganda’s newest administrative units, conducted its first Local Council elections amid heightened political interest, with voter turnout described as generally strong across most polling stations.

MAAIF, DISTRICT LEADERS DRAFT STRATEGIES FOR SUSTAINABLE LAND USE RESTORATION

Emukoki John Baptist, Communications Officer- Katakwi

As part of a commitment to enhancing sustainable land use in the district, the Production Department implementing the Uganda Climate Smart Agriculture Transformation Project (UCSATP) is engaging district stakeholders in community-led consultations to validate satellite-mapped data against actual field conditions. The exercise aims to identify land degradation hotspots and document existing indigenous soil and water conservation practices.

degraded vegetation and wetlands. The meeting focused on mapping the most affected areas and proposing interventions to regenerate the ecosystems.

Leading the MAAIF research team, Mr. Ogwang Francis Lecture,

An engagement held on Tuesday, 20th January 2026, at the District Council Hall brought together a technical team from the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) and district leadership to generate strategies for restoring



The Team, environment officer and Assistant Veterinary officer walk through an embarkment that supports the valley tank in ceele during the ground truthing field visit.



The first day of the sustainable land management engagement ground truthing exercise at the district Council chambers.

a soil science lecturer at Muni University, Arua, noted that increasing human pressure on natural resources has greatly affected the environment.

“There has been a lot of human pressure on natural resources which has resulted into changes in weather patterns and climate change,” Mr Ogwang said.

He explained that the ground-truthing exercise is intended to establish the reality on the ground in order to guide effective interventions.

“The ground truthing aims at ascertaining the facts on ground as they are, which will guide

on the interventions to try by far to restore the vegetations and ensure sustainable land use and conservation of the ecosystem,” he added.

While engaging communities across various sub-counties, the team used guiding questions to draw on local knowledge about ecosystem changes over time, community

expectations, and perceived causes of land degradation. Communities in Abela Parish in Getom Sub-county, Magoro, and Ongongoja expressed similar concerns and called for immediate interventions.

The community of Abela in Getom sub county, Magoro and Ongongoja in relation



District leadership administering a questionnaire in a group discussion.



Part of the dam degenerating to a well due to degradation.

to land degradation and sustainable land use had a similar perspective with clear expression of immediate interventions to save the situation. They gave scenarios and life testimonies of indigenous vegetations and proper land use for example the communal land use which provided for animal paths, grazing land most interestingly communal crop production which is not the case now.

Mr Osege George Justine, representing UCSATP, outlined the project's strategic focus areas.

"Among the many strategies of the project is to support sustainable land management practices, promote agroforestry, and enhance climate

information services," he said.

He further emphasized capacity building and research. "We provide training and skilling programs for farmers, extension agents and other stakeholders, and under research and development we support applied research and innovation in climate-smart agriculture," Mr Osege explained.

The District Vice Chairperson, Hon Ecuman Joseph, pointed out practices contributing to ecosystem distortion.

"There has been distortion of the ecosystem. Animals have been taken to the wetlands referred to as boarding and left gardens unfertilized with

dung as manure," he said.

He urged extension workers to guide farmers toward better practices.

"Extension workers should encourage farmers to return animals back home to restore the ecosystem and give value to every chain," Hon Ecuman added.

In his closing remarks, Assistant Resident District Commissioner Ongobe Lawrence emphasized coordination and knowledge transfer.

"There is a need for harmonization of value chains," he said. He urged extension workers to trickle down this knowledge to the local person to understand sustainable land management.

Following field visits by teams that split into three groups, Magoro and Getom sub-counties were identified as major degradation hotspots requiring urgent soil and water conservation interventions and restoration of vegetation and ecosystems.

NRM'S OWINY BOB TAKES SOROTI LC5 SEAT, PROMISES PEACE, UNITY, AND INCLUSIVE LEADERSHIP



LC V Elect Soroti Mr Owiny Bob.

Abraham Ekwaru, Communication Officer- Soroti

The newly elected Chairperson LC5 of Soroti District, Mr Owiny Bob, has pledged to promote peace, reconciliation, and unity among communities as he prepares to assume office.

Mr Owiny, the National Resistance Movement (NRM) candidate, was officially declared winner by the Soroti District Election Commission Returning Officer, Mr. Joseph Mukwaya, after securing 28,224 votes in a highly contested election. He defeated his

closest rival, Mr Enomu Vincent, an independent candidate, who garnered 20,504 votes.

Other candidates in the race included Mr John Michael Osegge, an independent, who received 5,242 votes, and Mr. John Calvin

Elenyu of the Forum for Democratic Change (FDC), who obtained 5,036 votes.

Speaking shortly after his declaration, Owiny emphasized that his leadership would be people-centered and focused on improving service delivery across the district.

“I want my leadership to be pro-people and centred on effective service delivery. I will



work to foster unity and reconciliation among all the people of Soroti District,” Owiny said.

He acknowledged the historical and social divisions that have at times strained relations between the Iteso and Kumam communities, noting that unity would be a key priority of his administration.

“There have been divisions along tribal lines between the Iteso and Kumam communities. I promise to work with all political leaders, technical staff, clan leaders, and local communities to promote harmony and accelerate development,” he added.

Owiny further called on

his former competitors and their supporters to put aside political differences and work together for the common good of the district, stressing that development cannot be achieved in an atmosphere of division.

The election was widely viewed as competitive, reflecting strong political engagement across the district.

Mr Owiny brings prior experience in local governance to the office. He previously served as the District Youth Chairperson and later represented Tubur Sub-county as a District Councillor.

KAPELEBYONG DISTRICT COMMISSIONS WATER PROJECTS, LAUNCHES 11 NEW SCHEMES FOR FY 2025/2026

Emmanuel Opio, Communications Officer-Kapelebyong

Kapelebyong District has successfully commissioned several water projects completed in the previous financial year while also launching the construction of 11 new water projects for the upcoming financial year 2025/2026.

Last week, the district inaugurated deep

borehole drills located in Asilo Village, Akoromit Sub County, Abota B Village in Obalanga Sub County, and Aturai Village in Kapelebyong Sub County. Each of these projects was



Mr Shaineh Nelson, DCAO handing over project site certificate to a contractor in Angatuny A village ready for construction last week.

valued at Shs21,962,160 (estimated 22million).

In addition to these deep boreholes, other significant projects were commissioned, including the drilling and installation of a production well at Amoni Rural Growth Centre in Okungur, a similar production well at Aberan Village in Alito Sub County, and the construction of a piped water supply system at Ajeleik Rural Growth Centre in Akum Parish, Acowa Sub County. Each of these projects has a value of Shs30 million.

Isaac Odima, the District Water Officer for Kapelebyong,

emphasized that the commissioned projects met all required standards and urged the community to actively participate in their maintenance. He called on the sanitation committees to prioritize hygiene and sanitation

in the projects under their management.

Mr Shaineh Nelson, the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, commended the Ugandan government for the timely release of funds, which enabled the successful and timely execution of these vital projects.

As part of its ongoing commitment to providing the community with access to quality clean water, Kapelebyong District also handed over the sites to the contractor for new water projects for the financial year 2025/2026 last week. The newly proposed locations for these projects include Aminit Cell, Okweny Village,



Mr Shaineh Nelson handing over project site certificate to a contractor in Olilia village, Aibet Parish Okungur SC last week.



Mr. Shaineh Nelson handing over Asilo Village borehole to the Community.

Ocito Cell, Ajeleik West, Atarukot Village, Aleplep Village, Olilia, Angatuny - A, Okepia, and Acanipi, where deep borehole drills valued at Shs25 million each will be established.

Moreover, the site for the construction of a piped water supply system at Alito Seed Secondary School, valued at Shs290 million, was also handed over to the contractor during this

ceremony. While presiding over the handover of sites, Mr Shaineh urged the contractor to execute the project with a focus on delivering value for money. He reemphasized the community's role in overseeing the operations and encouraged residents to report any concerns to the relevant authorities.

With these initiatives, Kapelebyong District continues to prioritize the provision of clean and safe water to enhance the quality of life for its residents.

NEW CAO AKILENG SETS FIRM STANDARDS FOR ETHICS AND PERFORMANCE IN KAPELEBYONG

Emmanuel Opio, Communications Officer-Kapelebyong

The newly appointed Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) for Kapelebyong District, Akileng Simon Peter, has pledged to uphold strong work ethics among his team as he assumes his new duty station.

Mr Akileng officially took over the office from the outgoing CAO, Ms.

Oroma Rhoda, during a handover ceremony on January 21st, 2026.

He emphasized the importance of adhering to the principles laid out in the local government act and other relevant legal frameworks that guide local governance. Having previously served as the CAO



The new CAO and the outgoing CAO accompanied by other dignitaries cut the cake last week.

in Luuka District, Mr Akileng brings with him a wealth of experience and a commitment to fostering a culture of integrity and accountability within the district's public service.

He has identified key areas for improvement, including time management, quality of work, and transparency, which he considers crucial for effective service delivery to the community.

“There are established public service guidelines which we are supposed to work within. Please, let's ensure that we don't deviate from such legal guidelines,” he stated.

Mr Akileng's

predecessor, Ms Oroma, who has been transferred to Amolatar District after a commendable tenure of two years and eight months, called on the staff to extend their support to the new

CAO. She expressed her willingness to be available for consultations and reflected on the rewarding time she spent with the team in Kapelebyong, stating that their cooperation



Mr Akileng Simon Peter receiving office from Ms Oroma Rhoda in the CAO's office in Kapelebyong last week



The new CAO and the outgoing CAO accompanied by other dignitaries preparing to cut the cake last week.

was integral to her success.

Mr Ojomi Augustine, praised the Government of Uganda for ensuring continuity in service delivery by promptly appointing a new CAO. He highlighted the

importance of fostering a harmonious working environment among staff while ensuring that government programs are executed efficiently and on time.

As Mr Akileng embarks on this new chapter,

he aims to leverage the dedication and commitment of the staff in Kapelebyong, who have shown resilience and determination in positioning the district as a leader in service delivery since its establishment in 2018. Notably, he is the fifth CAO to serve in Kapelebyong, a testament to the evolving leadership landscape within the district.

Mr Akileng has committed to promoting qualified staff and ensuring that they are equipped with the necessary skills and resources to meet the demands of their roles.



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- Kwanja
- Mbale
- Mbale City
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