

HE PROMISED TO ENGAGE SETTLERS ON OCCUPYING FOREST RESERVE

By Umaru Kashaka

President Yoweri Museveni has revealed projects aimed at boosting social and economic infrastructure in the districts of Nakaseke and Nakasongola.

He was yesterday in the two districts campaigning for re-election next year on the National Resistance Movement (NRM) party ticket.

At his first rally of the day at Nakaseke district headquarters grounds in Butalangu, Museveni told the crowd that the Kampala-Luwero-Gulu road had become old and had been reconstructed twice.

"We also constructed a new tarmac road from Matugga-Semuto-Kapeeka. It had become old and is now being reconstructed. We have also added the road from Kampala to Butalangu and we are going to extend it to Ngoma, up to Masindi (district). There is also a road that is supposed to start from here in Butalangu to Kapeeka-Nakwya," he said.

He, therefore, implored Nakaseke residents to urge the Members of Parliament they will elect on January 15, 2026, to listen to him when they join Parliament.

"So, tell the MPs you will elect to listen to my advice because my method of work is that of a guerrilla. For us, the rebels, we say one by one makes a bundle, but these ones touch this and that. I want you to advise them to stick to the issues of roads, electricity and wealth creation. We can add others, but those are the most crucial ones," he said.

On electricity, Museveni said Nakaseke is now connected to the national grid.

"Electricity has reached many areas in Nakaseke. It has not reached all the sub-counties, but it has reached many areas," he said.

Out of 15 sub-counties in Nakaseke, 11 are connected to electricity. In the next term, Museveni's government plans to extend electricity to the four sub-counties of Kinoni, Kapeeka, Semuto, and the town councils of Nakaseke and Semuto.

On access to safe water, the NRM presidential candidate said he was pleased to see that Nakaseke residents have boreholes and piped water.

Out of 442 rural villages in the district, 399 have access to a safe water source, representing coverage of 90%.

However, the water and environment ministry completed the Nakaseke town council piped water supply and sanitation system serving 12,022 people, another system in Kiwoko-Butalangu serving

MUSEVENI PLEDGES ROADS, POWER, HEALTH UPGRADES IN NAKASEKE, NAKASONGOLA

PHOTO BY EDDIE SSEJJJOBA



The President accompanied by Mrs Museveni (standing through car sunroof) waving to NRM supporters at a rally at Butalangu in Nakaseke district yesterday. (Scan image using the Vision Digital Experience to watch the video)

33,543 people, and is about to complete the construction of the Ngoma piped water supply and sanitation system in Ngoma town council.

This project is estimated to serve an initial population of 8,535 people by 2026, according to the NRM.

Museveni said Nakaseke is performing well in education and health.

Nakaseke has 71 parishes, with 48 hosting at least one government primary school, while 23 are still lacking. However, the district has a total of 114 government primary schools and 12 government secondary schools.

The Government is constructing four seed secondary schools in the district, and once completed, all sub-counties will have a government secondary school.

Regarding health, out of 15 sub-counties in Nakaseke, one has a government hospital, two have health centres IV and nine have health centres III.

However, the two sub-counties of Kitoo and Ngoma, and Kiwoko town council, do not have a health facility of either health centre III, health centre IV or a hospital.

He said, however, that although the Government has prioritised electricity, roads, and invested in schools, hospitals and services in Nakaseke, development without wealth creation is not sufficient.

"We must create wealth for our people," he said.

RESIDENTS SPEAK

FLORENCE NANFUMA, KIVUMU VILLAGE

We, the people of Nakaseke, are grateful to President Museveni for the modern tarmac road he has constructed from Luwero to Kiwoko, which has modernised our place. But we ask him to work on other murram roads leading to our villages which are impassable like the one from Kapeeka to Katale-Kammese to Kijobejo. We are also grateful for the piped water extended to our area.



BASHIR SSEKAMAANYA

We, the people from the remote areas of Nakaseke like Lwamawungu, ask for more schools. Our children walk long distances to access schools, many don't study during rainy seasons.

BUYING LAND FOR LOCALS

The President also responded to local issues, including those relating to land. He pledged that the NRM Government would buy land for *bibanja* holders and address veterinary issues.

Museveni said the Government would engage settlers occupying forest reserve land and allow them to use it under long-term leases of up to 49 years, provided they participate in tree planting and adopt sustainable land use practices.

"We are going to arrange to enable you to enter an agreement with the Government to give you a lease on that land for something like 49 years," he said.

He urged residents that as they engage in wealth creation

activities, such as commercial farming and animal grazing, they will be required to preserve the land by planting trees.

He clarified that the land in question had originally been set aside by the Government for forest establishment, but that forest restoration could still be achieved through the active participation of communities already settled there.

"If it was a traditional forest like Budongo, I would have chased you," the President told the residents.

Earlier, he told his enthusiastic supporters that Africa's problems have historically been shaped by working for enemies' interests instead of their own.

"The first brick the NRM has put on Uganda's house is

peace. Uganda was at war for many years, but the NRM has maintained peace for 40 years now. Since 1960, prioritisation has helped us win many wars," he said.

Nakaseke NRM district chairperson Hajji Mohammed Ggubya said before the bush war, towns such as Kiwoko, Nakaseke, Kapeeka and Semuto existed, but that the war destroyed them.

"Now they are back with storied commercial buildings," he said.

PLEDGES FOR NAKASONGOLA

Museveni later proceeded to Nakasongola and held his second and final rally at Wabinonyi playground.

"I feel happy when I come here and thank God for the work He has enabled us to do in the area," he said.

He pointed to Nakasongola's increased population of 226,074 people, attributing it to the immunisation programme he launched in 1987 to prevent six childhood killer diseases.

"You were just 50,000 people. All that has been achieved through health services. Children are growing up. They no longer die of diseases," he said.

He also said Buganda Kingdom and colonialists had suffocated Baruli culture by keeping the Baruli in servitude, stopping them from speaking their local dialect and grabbing their land.

"We ended all that. The Baruli can now build

themselves, especially through wealth creation," Museveni said.

In education, he said Nakasongola has a total of 114 government primary schools and 10 government secondary schools.

The Government is also constructing two seed secondary schools to reduce the number of sub-counties without a government secondary school from seven to five.

In health, Museveni said out of 15 sub-counties in Nakasongola, one has a hospital, two have health centres IV and nine have health centres III.

However, the four sub-counties of Kokooge, Migyera, Kazwama and Mayirikit town councils do not have a health facility of either a health centre III, health centre IV or a hospital.

To address the gap, he revealed plans to upgrade the health centres II of Batuusa and Kazwama to health centres III. He also said the Government plans to construct new health centres III in Migyera and Mayirikit town councils.

FIRST LADY'S CALL

The First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports, Mrs Janet Museveni, accompanied the President to both rallies.

She told residents in both districts not to be misled by the large rallies and assume victory was assured.

"On January 15, nobody should stay at home. All of you must go out and vote for the NRM. Your vote is your brick in building Uganda. The Uganda we are building for the future needs every vote from all of you," she told Nakasongola residents.

In Nakaseke, she urged voters not to forget Museveni and his work in the area on election day.

"And do not forget the NRM and the work of the NRM in Uganda. Vote for the NRM and it will continue to give you pride in the development that will come to Uganda and Africa," she added.

Museveni cemented his position in the 2021 general election in both districts despite the National Unity Platform wave that swept through the Buganda region.