

# Kiryandongo secures Shs1.1b for classroom infrastructures

**KIRYANDONGO:** The Kiryandongo District Local Government has launched a major education infrastructure project worth Shs1.11b aimed at easing congestion and improving the learning environment in public primary schools across the district.

The launch happened on January 3, at Kiryandongo District headquarters. This investment will fund the construction of new classrooms, pit-latrines, staff houses, and offices in some of the most overcrowded and under-resourced schools.

District leaders said the project comes at a critical time, as Kiryandongo continues to experience rapid population growth and hosts a large number of refugee learners.

Under the initiative, Bweyale Public Primary School will receive a new two-classroom block, while Kaduku Primary School will get a two-classroom block with an office and a store. Namulyango Primary School will benefit from a four-classroom block and a 10-stance latrine.

Additional works include the construction of a five-stance latrine at Ndamulye Primary School, a two-classroom block with an office and store at Mboira Primary School, and a staff house at Alarotinga Primary School to help attract and retain teachers. Construction at the various schools is expected to begin in February.

District officials said the new facilities will significantly reduce congestion, improve sanitation and hygiene, and create a more conducive environment for



The Kiryandongo District Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Mr Deo Kabugo, speaks at the launch of Kiryandongo District education infrastructure project on January 3. PHOTO/ISMAIL BATEGEKA.

teaching and learning.

Speaking at the launch, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Mr Deo Kabugo cautioned contractors against poor workmanship and delays, warning that the district would not tolerate sub-standard construction.

"Quality is not negotiable in Kiry-

andongo. We want strong classrooms that will last for many years. Contractors must adhere strictly to all required standards and specifications," Mr Kabugo said.

He also reminded head teachers that maintaining school infrastructure is their responsibility. He urged schools to

include maintenance costs in their annual work plans and budgets to prevent facilities from falling into disrepair.

"Government can build, but schools must also protect what has been built," he added.

The Kiryandongo District Chairperson, Ms Edith Aliguma Adyeri, con-

firmed the development and called on parents to play an active role, particularly by supporting school feeding programmes.

"Parents, I urge you to contribute food for your children as part of the school feeding initiative. When children are hungry, they cannot concentrate in class. Food keeps them healthy, active and focused on learning," Ms Aliguma said.

Currently, the district's average classroom-to-pupil ratio stands at 1:84, far above the national recommended ratio of 1:53. This means that one teacher is often responsible for an unmanageable number of pupils in a single classroom.

The situation is more severe at Bweyale Public Primary School, where some classes have a pupil-to-classroom ratio of up to 1:114. As a result, pupils are forced to sit on the floor, share desks, or attend lessons from outside through windows.

A retired education officer, Mr Munira Gahunba, said such levels of congestion negatively affect learning outcomes, discipline and individual attention to learners.

"Many children struggle to understand lessons, while teachers are overworked and unable to give adequate support to each pupil," Mr Gahunba said.

District leaders hope the new investment will mark a turning point in addressing overcrowding and improving the quality of education in Kiryandongo.