

Masindi District approves Shs1.16 billion supplementary budget

BY ISMAIL BATEGEKA

MASINDI. Masindi District Council has approved a supplementary budget of Shs1,162,259,577 for the 2025/2026 financial year to close funding gaps and accelerate stalled service delivery across key sectors.

The decision was reached during a special full council sitting at the district headquarters, where councillors from across the political divide unanimously agreed on the need for urgent interventions in education, production, health, and water services.

District leaders said the supplementary budget reflects realities on the ground, noting that original allocations proved insufficient amid rising costs, expanding needs, and urgent infrastructure demands.

The education sector emerged as the biggest beneficiary, receiving Shs707,324,868, more than half of the approved supplementary budget. District chairperson Cosmas Byaruhanga said the funds will strengthen access to secondary education, particularly in government seed secondary schools serving children from poor and rural households.

Capitation grants

“Out of this amount, Shs189 million has been allocated as capitation grants for four seed secondary schools: Kijunjubwa, Kinumi, St Paul’s, and St Andrea Kaahwa,” Mr Byaruhanga said.

He explained the grants will support day-to-day operations, including provision of instructional materials, utilities, co-curricular activities, and admini-

Shs 707m

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stration. An additional Shs518,324,868 will cater for Value Added Tax (VAT) related to ongoing construction at Kijunjubwa Seed Secondary School. According to Mr Vincent Mugasa, the chairperson of the Education Department in Kijunjubwa Parish, failure to clear VAT obligations had slowed construction, raising concerns about timely completion.

“This supplementary funding will ensure construction proceeds without in-

terruption, allowing learners to access proper classrooms,” Mr Mugasa said.

The production sector was allocated Shs394,845,875 to boost agricultural productivity and help farmers cope with climate-related challenges.

Of this, Shs340,345,875 will fund development activities such as extension services, farmer training, and support to priority agricultural value chains, while Shs54.5 million, sourced from local revenue, has been earmarked for micro-scale irrigation supplies.

“Small-scale irrigation is timely, especially as farmers continue to grapple with unpredictable rainfall and declining yields,” said the Masindi District Agricultural Officer, Mr Job Byaruhanga.

Council also approved Shs33,572,363 for rehabilitation works at Kisalizi Health Centre II, focusing on improving

the outpatients department.

Ms Pamela Nyakato, the district secretary for finance, said the facility requires urgent upgrades to improve working conditions for health workers and ensure patient safety.

The water services sector was allocated Shs26,516,471 to support ongoing construction of the Bulima piped water supply system, which will improve access to clean water for communities that have long relied on unsafe sources.

Ms Nyakato said the supplementary budget was necessitated by emerging priorities, cost escalations, and unforeseen obligations not captured in the original budget. District leaders expressed optimism that the additional funding will enhance service delivery and improve residents’ welfare across Masindi.