

Museveni directs minister to probe PDM fraud

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and Rhyman Agaba

President Yoweri Museveni has directed the Minister of Local Government, Raphael Magyezi, to investigate allegations of fraud and extortion under the Parish Development Model (PDM) in Iganga and Maracha districts.

On Friday, November 21, 2025, Museveni, while campaigning for a seventh term in different parts of the country, his address focused on the Government's seven development pillars, with particular emphasis on wealth creation at the grassroots.

At the centre of his message was the PDM, which the President described as a critical tool for lifting Ugandans out of poverty.

THE MONEY

He revealed that the Government had so far released sh12.9b to Iganga district, in addition to sh3.3b allocated to Iganga municipality.

Despite the substantial funding, Museveni said intelligence reports indicated that some PDM SACCOS leaders were extorting and defrauding beneficiaries. He vowed to take firm action against individuals undermining the programme.

THE PROBE

Following the rally, the President instructed Magyezi to probe the allegations. Over the weekend, the minister held meetings in Bokoona parish, Nakalama sub-county, and Namungalwe town council, engaging district leaders, PDM officials and beneficiaries.

Those present included resident district commissioner Pinto Hamwada, chief administrative officer Bukenya Sseguya, NRM district chairperson Abubaker Walubi, LC3 chairpersons, parish chiefs and SACCOS leaders.

During the engagements, beneficiaries shared mixed

experiences. George Isanga, a resident of Bulumwaki, said he had received PDM funds a day before the meeting but accused SACCOS leaders of selectively disbursing money in order to silence outspoken critics.

"Other members of our group are now worried they may not receive the money because I was given money in order to silence

me. Leaders are demanding money from us," Isanga said, drawing loud applause.

However, SACCOS chairperson Benon Bagiira dismissed the claims, saying Isanga had a long-standing personal dispute with him over the sale of sugarcane, which previously led to Isanga's arrest and payment of a fine.

In another

testimony, Fatuma Nakasolo of Bukanhoto-Nabikooto accused a man identified as Kazungu of extorting sh30,000 from beneficiaries as "facilitation" for SACCOS formation training. She, however, praised parish chief Erinah Mutesi for intervening and supporting the group.

ALLEGED BRIBERY

At Bokoona, Dalausi Byansi alleged that some SACCOS leaders escort beneficiaries to mobile money agents, demand at least sh100,000 after withdrawal and sometimes confiscate SIM cards over claims of network failure.

"They later change PIN codes and withdraw the money themselves," Byansi alleged.

Walubi urged parish chiefs and PDM leaders to "behave responsibly" and stop soliciting bribes.

Addressing the gatherings, Magyezi confirmed that Museveni had instructed him

to investigate PDM-related extortion in Iganga and Maracha following intelligence gathered while on the campaign trail last year.

He ordered those who fraudulently obtained PDM funds to refund the money before the end of January 2026, warning that strict action would follow.

Complaint record books will be placed at all sub-county headquarters, he said, to enable the public to report offenders who fail to comply by February 1, 2026.

"Today I may appear simple, but I will return in two weeks and use the Police to arrest those who have not complied," Magyezi warned.

The minister rejected calls to sub-divide parishes so as to attract more funding, clarifying that PDM allocations are based on household numbers, not parishes.

Meanwhile, former vice-president Dr Speciosa Wandira Kazibwe said the election cycle had left leaders in Busoga divided and appealed to Museveni to intervene and restore unity.

