

BARUGAHARA URGES YOUTH TO EMBRACE GOVT PROJECTS

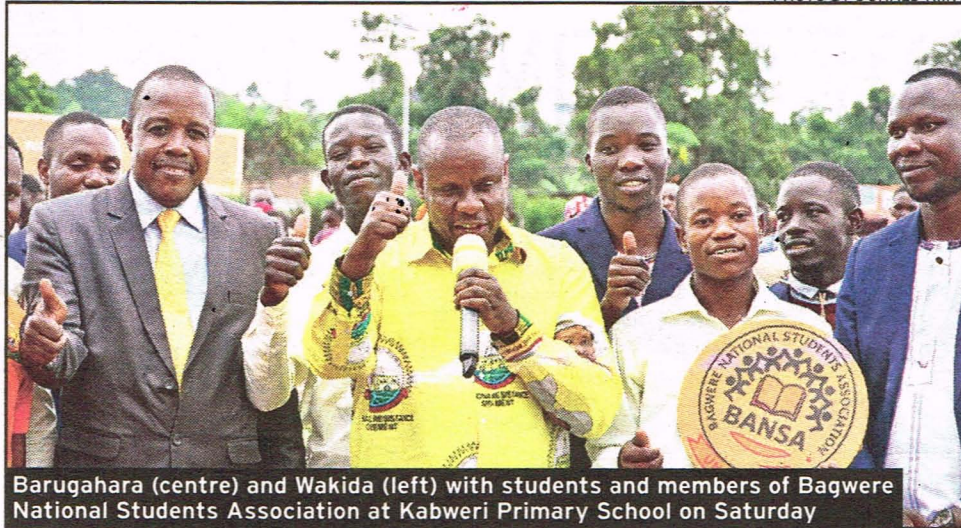
By Donald Kiirya
and Javier Omagor

The Minister of State for Youth and Children Affairs, Balaam Barugahara, has urged young people in Bukedi sub-region to abandon destructive habits such as alcohol abuse and sexual promiscuity and take advantage of government programmes aimed at socio-economic transformation.

Barugahara made the call on Saturday while representing the Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, Dr Monica Musenero, as chief guest at the handover ceremony of the Bagwere National Students Association (BANSAs) leadership.

The event was held at Kabweri Primary School in Kibuku district, where a new 17-member executive committee was installed.

Addressing students and residents, Barugahara emphasised that the Government has channelled substantial resources to communities through the Parish Development



Barugahara (centre) and Wakida (left) with students and members of Bagwere National Students Association at Kabweri Primary School on Saturday

PHOTO BY DONALD KIIRYA

Model (PDM).

"The President has sent close to sh5b to Kabweri constituency under PDM over the last three years," he said.

Barugahara said youth in the constituency are entitled to 30% of the funds, about sh4.5b, which should be invested in value-addition ventures such as brickmaking.

"The money is there to help

◀ **The President has sent close to sh15b to Kabweri constituency under PDM over the last 3 years.**

you get out of poverty. I urge you to fight corruption by reporting any officials who mishandle these PDM funds,"

he added.

Responding to concerns raised by the incoming BANSAs leadership over the high

number of students dropping out of school after Senior Six, Barugahara pointed to existing skilling infrastructure in the region.

He reminded the youth that the Presidential Skilling Centre for Bukedi, located in Tirinyi town council, trains about 400 students annually in vocational skills.

The minister also pledged to review the request for scholarships for vulnerable students and urged BANSAs leaders to formally submit their proposal for onward presentation to the President.

On the elevation of Kadama town council to municipality status, he promised to support the proposal when it reaches Cabinet, noting that the upgrade would attract hotel investments and improved infrastructure.

The MP-elect for Kabweri Constituency, Dr Patrick Wakida, who is also an alumnus of Kabweri Primary School, urged students to uphold discipline, punctuality and hard work.

PLANS OF NEW LEADER

The newly-elected Bagwere National Students Association (BANSAs) chairperson, Humphrey Mugalya, a bachelor of arts in education student at Kyambogo University, took over leadership from outgoing chairperson Samuel Mwede.

Mugalya outlined key priorities of his administration, including partnering with leaders to secure merit-based support for students stranded after Senior Six, as well as advocating for additional skilling centres in tailoring, mechanics and carpentry.

He also mentioned seeking government capital injection into the BANSAs savings and credit co-operative society.