

TRANSPORT

Three new ferries will ply Lake Kyoga and ease transport in Busoga, Lango and Teso regions

By Tom Gwebayanga and Donald Kirya

The Government plans to purchase three more ferries to ply Lake Kyoga and ease transport in Busoga, Lango and Teso regions.

President Yoweri Museveni said this will minimise transport costs, promote business and stimulate development.

Museveni made the revelation during the thanksgiving ceremony of Buyende Woman MP Veronica Kadogo at Buyende Township Primary School on Saturday.

Museveni said although the Government is upgrading the landing sites of Bukungu, Kagwara and Kaberamaido for the long awaited BKK Ferry in Buyende district, two more ferries are to be purchased so that the challenge of water transport on Lake Kyoga is solved.

"We have, through the Uganda National Roads Authority, finalised the purchase of the BKK Ferry, to anchor at Bukungu. To this, we shall add two more ferries so that the issue of water transport is permanently resolved," Museveni said.

The President added that once the ferries are operational, the communities shall not remain the same in terms of development, as the vessels shall be at their disposal to transact business and link up with associates at their convenience.

Museveni, who arrived amid chanting of National Resistance Movement slogans was received by district leaders led by the Speaker of Parliament who is also Kamuli Woman MP Rebecca Kadaga.

Universal education

The President warned headteachers in universal education schools who still demand fees from parents: "I am irked by this vice of sending away pupils. These schools are for the poor, that is why we established them. Those extorting fees from parents are saboteurs of government programmes," he said.

Museveni said what parents should provide is lunch for their children and not money.

"Let parents give their children food *entanda* (packages) for lunch, they can survive on that and read. In primary school, I also used to carry *entanda*," he said.

Museveni accepted having made many pledges to the people of Buyende, some of which have been fulfilled while others are still in the pipeline.

He added that all pledges shall be accomplished with time.

The President also commissioned a district administration block and

BUSINESS

The ferries shall be available to transact business to benefit residents



Museveni commissioning the Buyende town piped water supply and sanitation facility as Kadogo (centre) Kadaga (right) and Kabirizi (left) look on, on Saturday. Photo by Donald Kirya

Govt to purchase three ferries for Lake Kyoga



A ferry landing at Namasale from Zengebe on Lake kyoga

nine boreholes," under the New Hampshire Professional Chapter US, in conjunction with Busoga Volunteers for Community Development.

Kadogo thanked the President for honouring her invitation to celebrate her victory.

She reminded the President that the people of Buyende are

WATER PROJECT

Piped water supply and sanitation system will serve the residents in 14 villages in Buyende town council

Water project

Museveni also commissioned a sh2.4b piped water supply and sanitation system that will serve the residents in 14 villages in Buyende.

The project was constructed by the Government with support from European Union through the Austrian Development Agency and the German government.

Museveni urged the people of Buyende to take advantage of the water system to improve their farm production. The President also planted a mango tree at Buyende Township Primary School.

Eng. Aaron Kabirizi of the Directorate of Water Development said the system is designed to serve a population of 19,334 people.

Kabirizi added that the water system is comprised of two pump stations; one at Busuuyi I and another at Busuuyi II run by generators of 45KVA and 15 KVA respectively, a 1 km transmission pipeline, a water reservoir tank on a 20 metre high steel tower located in Busuuyi village and one chlorine unit at the reservoir site.

Other components include a distribution pipe network of 22km, seven public stand posts each with four faucets, 300 consumer connections and a fully furnished water office.

Kabirizi said the sanitation system comprises one water-borne toilet and 15 Ecosan toilets adding that the ministry assigned Eastern Umbrella of Water and Sanitation to operate and maintain the system.

Prior to commissioning the water system, Museveni first commissioned the sh860m administration block of Buyende district headquarters.

Enock Kalikwani, a resident in Buyende, told *New Vision* that they have been sharing water sources with animals, leading to acquiring water-borne diseases.

"I thank government for the water system it has launched in Buyende. This is going to improve our lives and save us from water borne diseases," Kalikwani said.

Rose Nakiyemba, a resident of Nabukalu village, said pregnant women have been suffering in hospitals due to lack of water and proper sanitation, adding that the new sanitation facilities constructed by the Directorate of Water Development are a blessing to residents.

She said the school-going children, women and some men have been trekking long distances to fetch water from boreholes, adding that this will be no more.

EXTORTION

The President warned headteachers who extort fees from parents for universal education

eagerly waiting for the long awaited tarmacking of Kamuli-Bukungu road, Nabirumba-Buyende-Nkondo road and Kamuli-Lyingo

road. The MP for Budiope West, Robert Musoke complained about harassment of fishermen by the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) who are deployed to check illegal fishing. "The UPDF may have done a good job but they simply arrest the fishermen minus checking the contents of the bisero (baskets). Before releasing them, the baskets have vanished," Musoke said.

The President donated sh40m to women and youth entrepreneurs in the area.

Museveni later headed to Bugaya sub county in Budiope East constituency, where he was received by the area MP, Geoffrey Dhamuzungu among other dignitaries. Museveni commissioned 31 co-operative societies and SACCOS which he supported with sh50m.

Additional reporting by Paul Watala and Geoffrey Namukoye