How UPDF Tarehe Sita activities have impacted Kigezi

BY ROBERT MUHEREZA

KABALE. Local leaders in Kigezi Sub-region have welcomed the decision to host this year's Tarehe Sita national celebrations, saying the event has brought lasting benefits through improved infrastructure in health, education and road networks across several districts.

The celebrations will be held tomorrow at the former National Teachers' College playground in Kabale Town under the theme: 'Defending the gains of the revolution and honouring the sacrifices of the freedom fighters: A call for national unity, peace and socio-economic transformation.'

According to the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF), the lead-up to the event has seen the implementation of multiple community projects across the region.

The UPDF Second Infantry Division Public Information Officer, Maj Kiconco Tabaro, said the UPDF Engineering Brigade constructed classroom blocks, bridges, modern toilets and latrines, boreholes and staff quarters at selected health centres.

"All these projects were implemented in selected sub-counties across the six districts of the Kigezi region—Kabale, Kanungu, Kisoro, Rubanda, Rukiga and Rukungiri," Maj Tabaro said.

He added that the celebrations were also preceded by medical outreach programmes, during which more than 40,000 people received treatment for various illnesses.

Kabale Municipality Mayor Sentaro Byamugisha said the town was grateful to President Museveni and other stakeholders for selecting Kabale as the host, adding that several projects undertaken ahead of the celebrations would have a lasting impact.

> What she says.
> **These include the construction of a pedestrian walkway from Kabale Town to Kabale Regional Referral Hospital, a modern latrine at Bugongi Market, renovation of Kabale Main Stadium and construction of the FRONASA monument at the stadium," Sentaro Byamugisha, Kabale Municipality Mayor**

"These include the construction of a pedestrian walkway from Kabale Town to Kabale Regional Referral Hospital, a modern latrine at Bugongi Market, renovation of Kabale Main Stadium and construction of the FRONASA monument at the stadium," Mr Byamugisha said. He added that the local business community, particularly hotel and lodge operators, had benefited from increased activity since November last year when the UPDF Engineering Brigade began implementing the projects.

Rubanda District chairperson Stephen Kasyaba said hosting the national event was an honour for the district, adding that pre-celebration activities such as the construction of classroom blocks, maternity wards, toilets and the organisation of medical camps would leave a lasting legacy.

"These developments will be remembered for years to come by the communities that directly benefited," Mr Kasyaba said.

Kisoro District chairperson Abel Bizimana described the decision to hold the celebrations in Kigezi as recognition of the region's contribution to Uganda's liberation struggle.

"Many people from this region fought alongside President Museveni, and although many lost their lives, their families feel honoured to have this day marked in their home area," Mr Bizimana said.

He added that while the number of prominent Kigezi leaders in top government positions has declined over time, hosting the celebrations presents an opportunity to position the region for future opportunities.

"Kigezi has capable individuals who can serve at national level when given the chance. We are grateful to the UPDF for the projects that will benefit our communities for generations," Mr Bizimana said.

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