

Shs100 billion needed to build Bunyoro varsity

BY JOSEPH KASUMBA
& ALEX ASHABA

HOIMA/KIKUUBE. The Bunyoro University taskforce has appealed to the government to allocate Shs100b in the 2026/2027 National Budget to kick-start the construction of Bunyoro Public University in Kikuube District.

The taskforce, instituted by the Minister of Education and Sports, Ms Jaster Museveni, is chaired by Prof Samuel Kyamanywa, who was appointed in June 2022. Despite earlier government pledges and a groundbreaking ceremony held last year, construction has yet to commence.

Groundbreaking ceremony

In March 2025, President Museveni, accompanied by the education minister, presided over the groundbreaking ceremony for the proposed university during his Parish Development Model tour of the Bunyoro Sub-region. The ceremony was held at the proposed main campus site in Buihamba Town Council, Kikuube District.

Speaking during a stakeholders' meeting in Hoima on Friday, Prof Kyamanywa said the university is technically ready to begin construction in the next financial year but lacks sufficient funding.

"We need Shs100b, and of this amount, 95 percent will go towards construction while five percent will cater for administrative costs," he said.

He explained that the funds would facilitate the construction of at least four buildings at the main campus. In the current 2025/2026 Financial Year, the government allocated Shs14b for the project, which he said is only sufficient to cover foundation works expected to begin around April.

Prof Kyamanywa urged Members of Parliament from the Bunyoro Sub-region to lobby for increased funding in the 2026/2027 National Budget to ensure the project takes off.

Phased establishment

Once completed, the university will comprise five schools: the School of Engineering and Earth Science, the School of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Science, the School of Computing and Information Science, the School of Science Education, and the School of Health Science.

However, due to limited resources, construction will initially focus on two schools, the School of Computing and Information Science and the School of Science Education.

The task force estimates that Shs365b will be required to fully establish all five schools, with construction to be undertaken in phases as funds become available.

Mr Asafu Alinitwe from the ministry confirmed that architectural and structural designs, as well as bills of quantities, have already been completed.

"The next stage is construction, which requires funding," he said.

Leaders in the sub-region emphasised that the establishment of the university is crucial for expanding access to higher education and fostering skills development.