

Proposed headquarters' building handover rejected

KABAROLE

By Jonan Tusingwire

Kabarole district leaders have rejected proposals to hand over the district headquarters building to Fort Portal City Council, insisting the property remains an important asset that should continue benefiting the district.

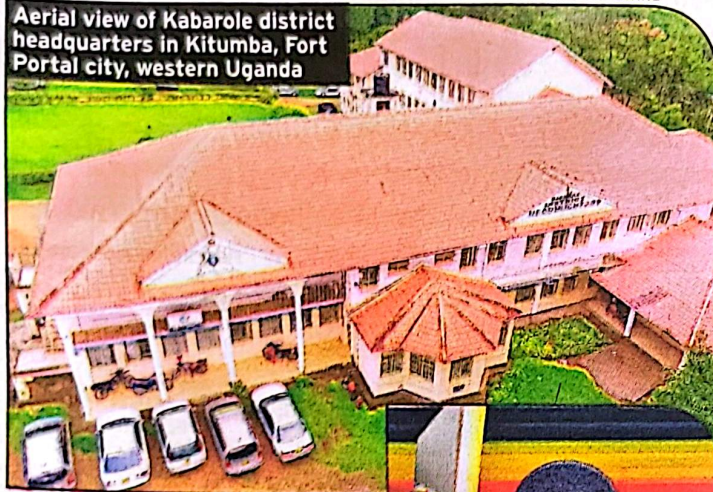
The issue came up on Friday during the swearing-in ceremony of Kabarole's newly elected leadership, where district leaders emphasised the need to protect district property despite administrative changes that followed the creation of Fort Portal city.

Kabarole district's headquarters, located in Kitumba, became part of Fort Portal city boundaries after Fort Portal was elevated to city status in 2020 and separated from Kabarole district. The transition left the district operating some of its facilities within the city jurisdiction, sparking discussions over ownership and management of the property.

REASONS FOR THE REJECTION

Speaking during the ceremony, former Kabarole district LC5 chairperson Richard Rwabuhinga

Aerial view of Kabarole district headquarters in Kitumba, Fort Portal city, western Uganda



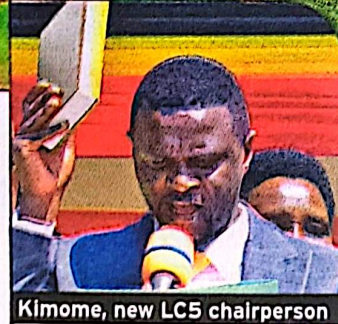
urged the new leaders not to surrender the district headquarters land and building to Fort Portal City Council. He argued that the property remains a key source of value and should continue generating revenue for Kabarole.

Rwabuhinga said although the district offices are to be shifted to other locations, the headquarters building should remain under Kabarole district ownership, just like other district properties still situated within Fort

Portal city.

"All the funds that were used to construct this building were the

PHOTOS BY JONAN TUSINGWIRE



Kimome, new LC5 chairperson



The property was constructed using Kabarole taxpayers' money long before Fort Portal attained city status.

funds of the taxpayers from Kabarole, independent from the Fort Portal Municipal Council as it was then. The people of Fort Portal did not contribute a single penny to the construction of this building," Rwabuhinga said.

He explained that Kabarole district still owns several assets, including buildings, land and sports facilities, despite Fort Portal being elevated to city status in 2020 and thus separated from the district. According to him, these properties are important not only for public administration, but

also as revenue-generating assets that can support district operations and service delivery.

Currently, Kabarole district owns a number of properties in and around Fort Portal, including office buildings, land and the historic Buhinga Stadium, which leaders say are part of the district's long-term investments.

Rwabuhinga warned that surrendering such assets would deny the district future income and weaken its resource base.

ASSURANCE GRANTED

Ruben Kimome, the new district chairperson, dismissed rumours that Fort Portal city could take over the district headquarters building once the district relocates to its new headquarters, assuring residents that the property legally belongs to Kabarole and will remain under district ownership.

He assured residents that the district leadership would defend the property. "I want to assure the people of Kabarole that the person they elected is a lawyer and this is our building; it is our property and it is going nowhere," he said.

Kimome also pledged to strengthen service delivery and improve accountability among district workers as he begins his tenure.