

14.7 percent have functional hand-

Residents of Kimengo cite a range of

Local leaders attribute this progress to

He urged communities to practice

Nakasongola kidnap and murder reawakens child safety debate

BY DAN WANDERA

LUWEERO. On March 26, 2026, a long search for a missing four-year old child ended with the discovery of her body dumped in a bush approximately 500 meters from her former school at Namaasa village in Nakasongola District.

The late Florence Nakibuuka, was a Primary One pupil at Namaasa Church of Uganda Primary School in Nabiswera Sub-county, Nakasongola District. She had on March 25, 2026 left the school compound via a familiar but bushy village path as she returned home at about 1pm.

While the school headmistress confirmed that Nakibuuka, just like her fellow pupils had left for home after school, her parents waiting for two hours for her in vain. The walk from school to the family home ordinarily takes 20 minutes.

"When I got home from Namaasa Trading Centre, my wife informed me

that Florence had not reached home yet and that attempts to find her had proved fruitless after the school teachers confirmed the time she had left," Mr Robert Kisinde, the father of the deceased child said on March 27, 2026.

A preliminary police investigation report released by Savannah Region Police Spokesperson, Mr Sam Twineamazima, shows that the four-year-old was kidnapped, sexually abused and killed by strangulation by an unidentified person.

Mr Sam Mbangire, the Nakasongola District Education Officer on March 26 described the incident as unfortunate and a wake-up call for both guardians and teachers to ensure young children do not walk to school or home alone.

Mr Sam Kigula, the Nakasongola District LC5 chairperson, in an interview with this publication on March 27, said the unfortunate incident at Namansa Village is almost similar to a case in 2025 in Kyangogolo Village where a three-year-old child was kidnapped

CRIME REPORT

According to the 2025 Annual Crime Report, 118 children were kidnapped in 2025 from 159 in 2024. The same report showed that 710 children were tortured in 2025 compared to 787 in 2024. Regarding child neglect, 2025 had 3,023 cases while 2023 registered 3,663 cases. Busia District registered the highest number of child-related offences (282 cases) followed by Mityana District with 273 cases.

from home. The only difference was that the kidnapper demanded for a Shs10m ransom.

"Security later coordinated the arrest of the suspect who was found in a bush hiding with the victim as he continually made calls to the victim's parents de-

manding for ransom," he said.

The suspect, identified by the Police as Erisa Asingwire, was arrested and successfully prosecuted. Agasirwe had cunningly separated the three-year-old from his five-year old brother at home by giving the older child Shs500 to buy biscuits from a nearby shop. On returning, his three-year old brother and the unidentified man were gone. This happened at the home of Mr Jameson Shaka in Kyangogolo Village, Nabiswera Sub-county, Nakasongola District.

Recent kidnaps

On March 8, 2026 in Mattuga, Wakiso District, police rescued a three-year-old from suspected kidnappers who had earlier demanded Shs40m ransom from the child's parents via Whatsapp. The two suspects were intercepted by police at Buwambo Ward in Wakiso District.

A four-year-old boy was kidnapped on March 9, 2026 in Mubende District

from his parents' home at Kiyonga Parish, Kiganda Sub-county. While the kidnappers had received Shs1m of the Shs6m ransom earlier demanded, they murdered the boy.

His body was found dumped in an abandoned pit-latrine at Naluteete Village. The suspect identified as Emmanuel Muwanguzi confessed to the crime on arrest by police and is facing kidnap and murder related charges before court in Mubende District.

Kidnapping cases are becoming common and call for alertness. The police explains when a child is reported missing, parents and guardians should immediately report to the nearest authority including the police.

For cases where the child is reportedly abducted, the parents are advised against directly engaging the abductors in direct negotiations for ransom without involving the police for child's safety and possible tracking of the abductors' whereabouts.