

Regional News

Banura, who was elected Kikuube's first district chairperson in 2021 and re-elected early this year, has been described as a visionary, passionate and strategic leader. He has also been eulogised as a man of faith and strong convictions, especially harnessing diversity for development and unity.

BY ALEX ASHABA

Peter Banura, the Kikuube LC5 chairperson, has left a legacy of a visionary leader who shaped the district's political and development foundation.

The 48-year-old leader died at the weekend after the vehicle he was travelling in was hit by a taxi in Butyamba Village on Hoima-Fort Portal Road.

His death comes at a deeply poignant moment, just days before he was due to be sworn in for a second term, following his re-election on the ruling National Resistance Movement (NRM) party's ticket.

The fallen leader is a son of Maj Gen (rtd) Matayo Kyaligonza. Maj Gen Kyaligonza was among the people who joined and fought in the National Resistance Army-led Bush War that ushered the current NRM government into power in 1986.

Mr Kyaligonza was also one of the 39 Historicals who were appointed as representatives of the expanded National Resistance Council (NRC), which served as Parliament at the time, and later served as the elected Member of Parliament for Buhanguzi Constituency in Hoima District before he was appointed to diplomatic missions including Kenya and Burundi.

Some sources said they saw bits of Maj Gen Kyaligonza's political acumen in Banura, who contested for the Buhanguzi MP seat but was not successful.

For several residents in Kikuube, Banura's passing is, therefore, not just the loss of a political leader, but of a unifier, strategist, and visionary who had become synonymous with the district's identity and aspirations.

A journey marked by persistence

Banura's political journey began before Kikuube District was carved out of Hoima District.

In 2010, when Kikuube was still part of Hoima District, he contested for the Buhanguzi County parliamentary seat that was once occupied by his father, but lost both the NRM primaries and the 2016 General Election.

Undeterred, he remained actively engaged in local affairs.

When Kikuube District was created in 2018, at the time, Banura was not a district councillor and therefore could not be part of the interim administration.

Being from the NRM party, he participated in the party's primaries, which he won, defeating Mr Vincent Opio, the councillor representing Kabwooya Sub-county at the time.

However, his first opportunity to contest in the general election was cut short after the Electoral Commission announced it had no funds to conduct the election.

Kikuube's architect dies at peak of leadership

The district then opted for interim leadership from 10 councillors who were from Kikuube District.

Mr Francis Kazine, who was a district councillor representing Kizirambumbi Sub-county at the time and is now the MP for Buhanguzi County, said Banura contested for the LC5 interim leadership slot in the NRM primaries and won.

Mr Kazine also mentioned that if the Electoral Commission had organised an election, he would have supported Banura because of his experience, exposure. He said he would have also backed Banura because he had won the NRM primaries.

He added that because Banura was not a councillor, he did not become a member of the interim leadership from 2018 to 2021, but because he had won NRM primaries, he was usually consulted during the district's planning meetings.

"When I became interim district chairman, I told my councillors that I would prepare to hand over the office in 2021. We wanted him [Banura] in that office because he was exposed, having served as a councillor at KCC. He came from a family of liberators, and we needed someone who could lobby for the district," Mr Kazine explained.

Mr Kazine said he usually invited Banura to attend district planning meetings because, together, they shared a dream of making Kikuube a model district in the country.

He added that, in these meetings, Banura contributed ideas that later shaped Kikuube's trajectory, and in 2021, in both the NRM and general elections, he supported Banura, together with councillors, and he became the district's first elected chairperson.

A leader who built bridges

Kikuube has long grappled with tensions between indigenous Banyoro and migrant communities, particularly the Bakiga from Kigezi Sub-region. But Mr Kazine said Banura stood out as a calm, thoughtful figure who deliberately worked for unity and development in diversity.

Mr Christopher Nkalu, the Kikuube District speaker, acknowledged that, in his entire political career, Banura never wanted to associate with people who promote tribalism.

"He never entertained tribalism. He was quiet, but very knowledgeable. In all the

elections he participated in, there was no tribal conflict."

He said during his five-year term, Banura focused heavily on laying the institutional and economic groundwork for Kikuube's future.

Some of his achievements

One of his most notable achievements was steering the district toward acquiring a permanent home. Through lobbying and strategic engagement, Kikuube secured funding under the Development Response to Displacement Impacts Project (DRDIP), under the office of the Prime Minister, enabling the purchase of land and construction of district headquarters.

He also successfully pushed for the establishment of a district road unit, improving infrastructure planning and service delivery.

Mr Nkalu said the deceased's most passionate cause was tourism, which saw him vouch for a change in management of Bugoma Forest from National Forestry Authority (NFA) to Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA).

"His heart was in tourism. In Kikuube, we have Bugoma Forest, which has been degraded over the years. He proposed that the council pass a resolution to transfer its management, a move we supported. The President had already

endorsed it, and we were preparing to celebrate what would have been a major achievement for the district," Mr Nkalu stated.

Beyond district politics, Banura brought a wealth of experience to public service.

He attained a degree in Accounting from Makerere University, served as a city councillor at Kampala City Council (present-day Kampala Capital City Authority/KCCA), and previously worked in the accounts department of the Uganda Peoples' Defence Forces Air Force.

In the 2026 General Election, he reaffirmed his political strength, winning both the NRM primaries and the general election with 37,455 votes, defeating his closest challenger, National Unity Platform's Phenekasi Timanyire, who

BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

Peter Banura Araali (pictured) was the third-born of a family of 10 siblings.

He was born on May 10, 1977 at Nsambya Hospital in Kampala.

He grew up in Kampala and Hoima. With a strong Catholic background, Banura was confirmed in late 1980's at Christ the King Cathedral.

He attended Buganda Road Primary School, Namityango College Senior Secondary School and Makerere University where he majored in Business Administration at the undergraduate level.

He worked in the accounts department of the UPDF Air Force, served as a councillor in Kampala City Council (present-day Kampala Capital City Authority) before becoming the first LC5 chairperson of Kikuube District after emerging winner in the 2021 General Election. He was elected on the ruling National Resistance Movement (NRM) party ticket.

In the 2026 General Election, Banura was re-elected on the NRM ticket. He garnered 37,455 votes while his closest challenger (Phenekasi Timanyire of National Unity Platform) got 6,230 votes, a margin of 31,225 votes.

Banura, who was a devoted Catholic, married Mable Ajuna in October 2010.

He is survived by a wife and three children aged 11 to 18.

They say...



Ms Anita Among, Parliament Speaker

"Araali was a keen mobiliser committed to improving the lives of his people—a remarkable life tragically cut short. My deepest sympathies go out to our elder Maj Gen Matayo Kyaligonza, the bereaved family, the people of Kikuube and Bunyoro, and all who knew him."



Dr Ruhakana Rugunda, Ex-premier

"His dedication to service and his promise of greater leadership marked him as a rising national—and indeed pan-African—asset. His premature departure is a profound loss to your family and to the nation at large."

garnered 6,230 votes.

"As a district, we are planning a special council sitting to honour his service," Mr Nkalu said.

He added: "He has been a pillar in ensuring better services and guiding the district toward progress."

National leaders mourn Banura

The Speaker of Parliament Anita Among, via her X handle, said: "Araali Peter Banura, a young, inspiring, and dedicated leader whom many of us relied on for guidance not only in Kikuube but across the Bunyoro Sub-region. Araali was a keen mobiliser committed to improving the lives of his people—a remarkable life tragically cut short."

"My deepest sympathies go out to our elder Maj Gen Matayo Kyaligonza, the bereaved family, the people of Kikuube and Bunyoro, and all who knew him. May God comfort us all and grant his soul eternal peace," she added.

On his X handle, Dr Ruhakana Rugunda, a former prime minister, said: "He was a young leader of remarkable foresight and immense potential, whose vision and energy inspired not only the youth but many Ugandans across the country. His dedication to service and his promise of greater leadership marked him as a rising national—and indeed pan-African—asset. His premature departure is a profound loss to your family and to the nation at large."

Burial programme

According to the tentative programme, a requiem Mass was held yesterday at Christ the King Church in Kampala, followed by a vigil at the family home in Kitiko Village, Kigo.

His body will today be taken to Kikuube District Council headquarters at 10am for a special council sitting, before a vigil is held at his ancestral home in Buhimba, Kikuube District.

He will be buried tomorrow in Buhimba.

editorial@ug.nationmedia.com

