



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

STATE OF AFFAIRS OF AMURIA DISTRICT

2023

**DELIVERED AT THE MEETING OF THE SITTING OF
AMURIA DISTRICT COUNCIL**

ON

11TH OCTOBER, 2023

BY

EMABU MOSES

DISTRICT CHAIRPERSON

AMURIA DISTRICT LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Mr. Speaker
Hon. Area Members of Parliament
Hon. Members of the District Executive Committee
Hon. Members of the District Council
The Resident District Commissioner
Chairpersons and Members of Boards and Commissions
Members of Security Organs
Leaders of political parties
The Chief Administrative Officer
Heads of Department
LCIII Chairpersons
Sub County Chiefs/Town Clerks
Religious and Cultural Leaders
Development Partners/NGOs/CBOs
Special Interest Groups
Ladies and Gentlemen

Preamble:

Mr. Speaker, In fulfillment of the Constitutional requirement, stipulated in Article 101 (1) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda and in accordance with the Local Governments Act, CAP 243 Section 13 (5), I am here to deliver the state of affairs of the district for the year 2023.

Mr. Speaker, before I deliver this address, I allow me to thank God the Almighty for the gift of life and good health that He has accorded us.

I also request that God grants eternity to our brothers and sisters that have not been able make it to date.

Mr. Speaker, in the course of the last final year as a beautiful Amuria we lost prominent persons in our district. Among the departed were; Mr. Oluka Lawrence, Mr.Imodot Rajjab (Former Members of District Service Commission) and Mr.Otiira Martin (former SACAO of Akeriau Sub county).

Mr. Speaker, through you may I request that we observe a moment of silence in remembrance of the souls of our departed brothers and sisters.

Mr. Speaker it is my honor and pleasure to extend our heartfelt appreciation to the citizens of Amuria for their endeavors and contributions to the growth and development of their district. As Council, we commend you for the leadership, oversight and sense of direction to propel our district to another level.

At this juncture, let me also take this opportunity on my behalf and that of our government to welcome our Chief Administrative Officer, Madam Angela Akurut and extend our appreciation to her and the technical team for all the work they are doing to deliver services to our people of Amuria

On behalf of our district local government, we pledge total commitment and support to create and sustain the enabling environment to them to deliver services to our people.

Mr. Speaker, my address for today will focus on the key strides that we have made and the current status of the district in line with the Vision 2040, the National and District Development Plans III and the National Resistance Movement (NRM) Manifesto. The address will also highlight the challenges and point out recommendations to improve service delivery in the district.

Mr. Speaker, our population has grown to 254,484, women make 51% of our population while 49% are male. The majority of this population is 17 years and below which implies that the dependency ratio is high and contribute less to the development of our economy. As the majority are the youth, Council should focus more on areas and interventions aimed at skilling and building capacity of the youth to propel growth of our economy. Our fertility rate has however dropped from seven (7) to (five) 5 children per a woman. This still has an implication on the human capital when the parents are unable to support the growth and development of their children. For this matter therefore, there is need for council to maintain the interventions being implemented for family planning to better the quality of our population.

Mr. Speaker, our district currently has an estimated 42,414 households with an average of six (6) members per household. This is fairly manageable if we are to emphasize the issue of attitude and mindset change towards work. Our population with about 85.5% have also predominantly remained in subsistence agriculture with an average landholding of 3 acres per household. Mr. Speaker, this therefore calls on Council to design measures that enable the population to optimally make use of the available land.

Mr. Speaker, in connection to formal employment, only 14.5% of our population are in gainful employment with close to 2,000 being formally employed and Amuria District Local Government being the main employer in the district and those in commercial farming. The above population has direct bearing on the demographic characteristics, available resources and services. Hence it impacts on the quality of services that we render to our people.

Mr. Speaker Sir, aware of the above challenge the Council therefore has a big burden to mobilize resources to meet the demands of our ever-growing population.

Mr Speaker, I therefore call on Council to design appropriate strategies to realize additional resources for effective service delivery if we are to harness the demographic dividends.

Security situation

Mr. Speaker, the security situation in the district is relatively calm and normal in comparison to other districts. However we have reports from Security Committee and District Police Commander which shows that cases of land wrangle, petty theft and con-men are common among the communities. These are especially targeted towards the elderly persons in connection to land, petty theft of cattle. The con-men normally target village saving associations/groups. There has also been cases of persons giving out quick loans with high interest; we caution and ask communities to guard against being duped into taking such loans. Drug abuse among the youth has continued to rise and become the source of insecurity within our communities.

Mr. Speaker, cases of suicidal and homicide murders have also been on the rise in the recent months. As Leaders we need to caution our communities against such acts and I also call on our communities to be vigilant and always report cases of strange persons within their communities.

Administration

Mr. Speaker, on Administration, the district has maintained the same number of administrative units; there are 14 sub-counties and 4 town councils. Staffing for the district stands at 77%; of the 1,435 posts approved, 1,104 positions have been filled leaving a staffing gap of 331 positions representing 27% mainly in health and education. This is a fair staffing level as compared to 75% that is the National level average.

Mr. Speakers, in the current financial year, Government has halted recruitment to allow for headcount by Auditor General and payroll cleaning.

Mr. Speaker, during the headcount a total of 1,402 staffs appeared for verification, 1,391 showed up for the physical headcount while 10 did not turn up and one (1) staff appeared for head count but was not on the payroll. 1,391 staff and political leaders were fully verified; 857 were partially verified because they did not fulfill all the validation requirements and 12 appeared for head count but did not satisfy the minimum requirements to qualify as a genuine staff on the payroll and this implies that the affected individuals may not be bona fide employees of Amuria District Local government and will be omitted from the validated payroll.

Mr. Speaker, we have 290 pensioners and are being paid by 28th of every month worth 115 million shillings as pensions, gratuity and arrears.

Mr. Speaker, one of the major challenge that we are currently faced with under administration is acute shortage of office space which is not

enough taking an example of Human Resource office one room is being sheared by 4 officers using old computers. On that note therefore, it should be a priority for Council to mobilize resources and have the office block under construction speedily completed.

There are also the newly created lower local governments of Abia, Olwa, Amolo and Ogongora Sub Counties that lack office premises and as of now they are still renting. It should therefore be among key priorities of the Council to look for resources and prioritize construction of offices for those sub counties including Asamuk and Orungo sub counties which have to leave their former offices for the newly created town councils.

Finance

Mr. Speaker, the district total annual budget appropriated for the current financial year is 30,114,147,000 shillings. The Local revenue share is 478,962,000 shillings representing 1.6%, Discretionary Government Transfer is 3,550,454,000 shillings representing 11.8%, Conditional Government Transfers share is 24,405,565,000 shillings representing 81%, Other Government Transfers share is 799.165 Million shillings representing 2.7% and External financing is 880 million shillings 2.9%. Out of the 30,114,147,000 shillings for this current financial year 2023/24; 17,296,194,928 shillings (57.4%) will be spent on wages.

Mr. Speaker, in financial year 2022/23, out of approved and revised budget of UGX 43,409,516,355 shillings, the district received UGX 31,910,934,688 shillings representing a budget performance of 73.5%. However, 5,944,678,329 shillings was returned to the consolidated fund due to various reasons.

Mr. Speaker, Local Revenue collection is important to note since the Council entirely depends on it. A total of 257,031,448 shillings was locally raised against 418,899,000 shillings approved by Council representing 61.4% performance, which was a justification for having Council approved plans not implemented to the dot. The performance was below expectation due to a number of factors, key among them was economic hardship.

Mr. Speaker, our current challenges in locally generated revenue performance includes;

- (i) Unreliable data on revenue sources for planning, budgeting monitoring and evaluation, partly due to the large informal sector in the district.
- (ii) Weak enforcement of the legal and policy framework for collecting local revenue in local governments compared to other tax laws being used by the central government, for example, Income tax

- (iii) The manual method of revenue management system in local governments is prone to leakages.
- (iv) Negative mindset on payment of taxes and other non-tax revenue.

Mr. Speaker, to address the above challenges, the district has adopted the following strategies;

- (i) Implementation of the local revenue enhancement plan 2021-2024/25
- (ii) Digitization of local revenue management system, instead of the current manual system.
- (iii) Continuous tax education, sensitization, and awareness creation
- (iv) Approval of revenue charging policy which shall include the various rate already approved in the local revenue enhancement plan.
- (v) Comprehensive revenue registers is being developed and revenue sources will be mapped.
- (vi) We have adopted the use of Integrated Revenue Administration System (IRAS) which has been rolled-out by government to address most of the challenges

Mr. Speaker, in the last Financial Year payment of salaries and pensions, were made timely ranging from 20th to 28th for most of the months. We are committed to maintaining the standard in the current year 2023-2024 amidst the challenges.

Statutory Bodies / Council

Mr. Speaker, the District Council is fully constituted and functional with four Council standing committees of a) Finance, Planning, Administration b) Committee of Gender, c) Education and Health and Community Based services d) Production Marketing, Environment and Natural Resources.

Mr. Speaker, the Council currently has 38 members comprising of 22 males and 16 females representing different constituencies. There are five members on the Executive Committee with four (4) male and one (1) female. The Committee is composed of the District Chairperson, Vice District Chairperson who also doubles as the Secretary for Production and lead of government business and there are Secretaries for Social Services; Health and Education, Gender and community based, and Finance, Planning and Administration.

The Council in the previous financial year 2022/2023 held the minimum number of meetings as stipulated in the Local Government Act, Cap 243.

Mr. Speaker, we acknowledge the challenge of financing that made it impossible to follow the Council calendar for financial year 2022/23 as planned. However, four Council meetings were held during the financial year 2022/2023 i.e. 9th May 2023, 30th May 2023, 21st December 2022, 29th March 2023. We therefore pledge our commitment to improve the situation in the current financial year 2023/24.

Mr. Speaker, the ex-gratia for the Deputy Speaker and all 38 District Councilors for all the 12 months last financial year were paid. This also applies for the case of LCIs, LCIIIs and the Sub-County Councilors.

Mr. Speaker, in the current financial year 2023/24, we have had challenge of IPFs that were not issued for ex-gratia and honoraria for political leaders across the entire country. I am however happy to report that the office of the Chief Administrative Officer has communicated the matter to the Ministry of Local Government and the Central Government has picked it up and a supplementary budget for the same has been allocated for the Local Governments.

Mr. Speaker, the District Land Board is fully constituted and is functional. There are five (5) members, three (3) are male while two (2) are female. 325 land applications were received and approved by the board. This indicates the low level at which our communities have taken up the matter of land registration. As leaders we need to mobilize our communities to embrace land registration.

Mr. Speaker, we still also have a challenge that some Area Land Committees for Sub Counties have not been rectified by the District Council which affects registration of land in those affected Sub Counties. I call upon the sub county chairpersons and SACAOs to ensure they make submissions to the district so that they are considered in the next Council sitting.

The District Service Commission is established in accordance with Article 198(1) of the 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda and Section 54(1) of the LGA, Cap 243 with the mandate and powers provided for in section 54(2) to appoint persons to hold or act in office including confirmation of their appointments and the exercise of disciplinary control over such persons and their removal from office in the Local Government. The Commission is currently not fully constituted with 4 members out of which two (2) are males while two (2) are females and the representative for Urban Councils is lacking.

The Public Accounts Committee is established in accordance with Section 88 (1) of the LGA Cap 243 with the mandate and powers to examine the reports of the Auditor General, District Internal Auditor and any reports of commissions of inquiry.

The LGPAC currently comprises of five members. Four (4) members are males and one (1) is female.

Mr. Speaker, Contracts Committee as established by Section 91 of the Local Government Act, Cap 243 as amended is not fully constituted. There are three members, one (1) being male while two (2) are females.

As a measure to ensure timely procurement, the district has gone ahead to advertise to solicit for bidders.

Health Sector

Mr. Speaker, in the health sector, our current establishment both public and private not for profit (PNFPs) remains 27 facilities comprising of 1 hospital, 12 HCIIIs, and 14 HCIIIs including Prisons' facility. The facilities in synergy provides all range of services for their levels through inter facility referrals facilitated by the two Ambulances at Amuria General Hospital and Orungo HC 111. Furthermore, their efforts are supplemented by the community health workers, with a total of 1,058 VHTs in the 528 villages within the district.

Mr. Speaker, our health workforce is also supplemented by partner staff and staff of PNFP facilities who collectively constitutes the district health workforce.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to report that in the course of the FY 2022-2023, the district joined the rest of the Country in the mass vaccination campaign against COVID-19 and Polio Disease with good service utilization. Above 90% of Children under five years of age were reached with the vaccine against Polio disease, and 68% of persons 18 years and above fully vaccinated against COVID-19 disease which changed the course of the disease in the district.

Mr. Speaker, the trend of maternal deaths in the district has continued to decline as we aim to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal 3.2. Interventions on maternal deaths are yielding results. In 2023, so far only 1 maternal death has occurred translating to 22 maternal deaths per 1,000 deliveries. The maternal mortality rate is 365 deaths per 100,000 population.

Mr. Speaker, the district is currently hit by an outbreak of malaria and by June, 2023, the Malaria Test Positivity rate (MAL) RDT was 63.8%. The outpatient attendance is dominated by the sick persons rather than those seeking health promotion and or disease prevention services, with Malaria accounting for over 40% of these attendances.

Furthermore, antenatal units attendance still further being teenage mothers and adolescents. Despite the good first antenatal attendance rate at 113%, only 54% of mothers receive these critical services within the

first three (3) months of pregnancy. Although there was an increment registered from 54% in the last financial year, this still has the effect on pregnancy outcome.

Mr. Speaker, the trends of these indicators threaten the future livelihood potentials. I therefore, call upon all the stakeholders including the political leaders, development partners, cultural and religious institutions to embrace community involvement and dialogues to promote health and prevent disease as well as substance abuse.

Mr. Speaker, our health infrastructures has continued to improve as follows;

- Phase 1 upgrade construction works in Abeko HC II & Golokwara HC II was done
- Medical Equipment procured for Abeko HC II, Golokwara HC II & Alere HC III
- Maternity ward constructed in Abarilela HC III
- Phase-1 construction of OPD in Amusus HC III was done

Mr. Speaker, our key health challenges continued to remain the inadequate human resource for health as the currently approved staffing norm cannot match the current population with increasing demand on quality service. The current staffing level in the health department stands at 61% which is below the National Average level of 75% for effective service delivery.

This is worsened by the shortage of some critical cadres like the Special Grade Doctors and Medical Officers.

Mr. Speaker, from the time of upgrade of Amuria General hospital from a HCV in the past years, it has established new OPD block, and the high dependent units, and all continue to rely on the old staffing norm. Further still, the poor health seeking behavior of our community has continued to affect health outcomes; delayed seeking medical attention when sick, self-prescription of medicines and limited health financing further straining the health staff to respond to emergency needs.

Mr. Speaker, it's therefore imperative that at personal and homestead level we embrace health promotion and disease prevention as curative and rehabilitative medicines is much more expensive than prevention. This strategy can best be employed through the parish model that clusters communities based on their specific health needs, therefore, the roles of the Parish Chiefs, LC1s, LCIIIs and VHT are key to create local demand from the health facilities and the District Health Office as well as the Lower Local and District Councils.

Mr. Speaker, funds allowing, Council should consider the following as a matter of urgency; lobby the Ministry of Health to construct Amuria General Hospital Store, rehabilitated mortuary and maternity ward

A number of health development and implementing partners have continued to offer off the budget support towards health care services delivery in the district. However, a number of health facilities still exist with dilapidated and inadequate infrastructure to offer health care services to the public and accommodate the health workforce for emergency health responses when need arises. Despite the government policy of every sub-county having a government health facilities ie HCIII, HC II and so on, Ogongora sub county lacks any government health facility not even PNFP facility.

Production Department

6.0 Agro Industrialization

We are all aware that agriculture is a major source of livelihood and under the National Development Plan III, agro industrialization will enable Uganda to embark on its long-term aspiration of increasing household incomes and improving the quality of life of the people The program will also address high post-harvest losses, minimize loses to disaster and stabilize prices.

Hon Speaker, under the department of Production, we have put in place several strategies aimed at transforming agricultural communities from peasant farming to modern and business farming practices with supporting development infrastructure. Among the strategies are:

1. Strengthen the agricultural extension system
2. Increase access and use of water for agricultural production
3. Increase access and use of agricultural mechanization
4. Establish and strengthen farmer organizations and cooperatives
5. Strengthen systems for management of pests, vectors and disease
6. Promote sustainable land and environment management practices in line with the agro-ecological needs
7. Undertake strategic recruitment of extension staff
8. Increase access and use of agricultural finance.

As part of efforts to implement the above strategies we were able to conduct farmer trainings, farm visits and set up demonstration gardens in Sub counties.

Hon. Speaker, in the last financial year we offered advisory services in livestock, fisheries and crop services where a total of 13,138 households were reached while 24,003 farmers attended farmer trainings as shown in the breakdown below

Advisory services in livestock Fisheries and crop services

S/no.	Farmer advisory services.	Crop farmers.	Livestock farmers.	Fish farmers.	Apiculture farmers.	Total.
01.	Farm visits.	574	663	429	59	1,727

02.	Number of households reached.		4,965	4,996	2,921	256	13,138
03.	Number of farmer trainings.		376	475	265	25	1,141
04.	Number of farmers Attending training.	Males	3,338	4,947	764	49	10,109
		Females	3,962	5,287		28	11,105
		Youths	623	884	332	46	2,473
		PWDs	114	119	69	14	316
		TOTAL	7,728	11,825	1,668	151	24,003
05.	Number of households reached during training.		11,779	5,285	1,882	112	19,058
06.	Number of demonstrations.		70	50	36	10	166

NB; During the farm visits a total of 13,138 households were reached while 24,003 farmers attended farmer trainings.

Disease Outbreaks and Control Measures

During the year the major disease that was reported to having broken out is Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) which was reported in the sub counties of Asamuk, Willa, Amuria Town Council and Kuju. A total of 41 cases were reported in the said sub counties. The control measure carried out was vaccination of a total of 30,000 heads of cattle and goats against foot and mouth disease in the district. Further vaccinations included 1,168 dogs and cats on rabies, 50,287 Chicken on Newcastle disease, 8731 chicken on Gumboro Disease and 1,578 cattle on black-quarter.

The other diseases reported are the common tick-borne diseases which are endemic in the district.

No major outbreak of crop pest and or disease was reported in the year other than Cassava Brown streak and cassava mosaic in all the sub counties. Below are some of the measures we undertook to control pests and disease prevalence.

Pests and disease control measures in crop

S/no.	Control Measure.	Number conducted	Number of farmers reached.	Number of HHs reached.
01.	Routine survey and surveillance.	7,227	11,369	6,927
02.	Case attendances.	1,652	21,387	12,624
03.	Strategic sprays.	4,346	11,039	2,110

04.	Capacity building trainings.	339	5,020	5,981
05.	Demonstrations – water harvesting, irrigation, nursery bed establishment, proper spacing and manure application, pests and disease management in citrus and passion fruits.	A total of 162 demonstrations were conducted in the course of the quarter by the different extension workers in the sub county with focus on pests and disease management. Details of the demonstrations are highlighted in the statistical report attached.		
06.	Plant clinic.	00	00	00
07.	Bye laws/regulation enforcement visits	38	351	672
08.	Exposure learning visits.	58	199	152

Vaccinations returns

S/no.	Control Measure.		Number of livestock involved.	Number of HHs reached.	
01.	Vaccinations.	a.	Rabies.	1,168	860
		b.	NCD.	50,287	2,104
		c.	FMD.	4,022	446
		d.	Gumboro	8,731	323
		e.	CBPP	947	72
		f.	Black quarter	1,598	24
02.	Animal prophylaxis-samorin treatment.		3,535	524	
03.	Strategic sprays/dipping.		3,392	747	
04.	Capacity building trainings.		1,070	4,705	
05.	Deworming.		9,461	1,330	
06.	Tsetse fly surveys conducted.		1,792	388	
07.	Animal disease surveillance/routine surveys.		8,380	4,173	
08.	Quarantine Restrictions (This was for 1`Akeriau sub county only).		0	0	
09.	Others (specify) - Trainings.		0	0	

6.1 Implementing partners and projects in the production sector

The district has a number of non-state actors that are supporting the district in the provision of extension services, farmer advisory services and farmer support through various approaches.

a) . Micro-scale irrigation program

Mr Speaker, in the financial year 2022/2023, the district also implemented Micro-scale Irrigation Program in the roll-out phase of the program. The micro-scale irrigation program is a program implemented by the Government of Uganda under the Uganda Intergovernmental Fiscal transfer (UgIFT) program. The program aims to support individual farmers to acquire and use irrigation equipment. The major achievements so far registered were in the areas of mass awareness creation about the program to the different stakeholders including political and technical leaders, Sub County political Leaders and technical staffs, parish and community level farmers. These awareness meetings were attended by 9,040 members.

- The awareness creation raised interest for the program, 372 farmers expressed interest for support however only 310 expressions were successful.
- To further increase on awareness and expression of interest, radio talk shows and spot messages on the project and farmer learning visits were conducted.
- Preparation for farm visits and actual farm visits are being conducted by agricultural officers and the sub counties.
- Hon. Speaker, Social and Environment safeguard activities for the Demonstration sites were conducted. We also established three (3) demonstration sites in Wera seed secondary school in Wera town council, Canaan Farm in Wera sub county and Ejeu Tom's farm in Akeriau sub county.

b).Development Initiative for Northern Uganda (DINU)

Hon Speaker, Amuria District as you may be aware is one of the beneficiary districts of the Development Initiative for Northern Uganda (DINU) Programme. Through the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)/DINU funding under the Local Government Excellence Fund Grant, Amuria district received funds and implemented two market infrastructure improvement related projects. The projects are Wera Livestock Market Improvement Project in Wera Town Council and Amuria Central Market Improvement Project in Amuria Town Council. I am glad to report that the two projects were successfully commissioned by the Minister of State for Teso Affairs, Hon. Kenneth Obote Ongalo on August 28, 2023.

The district received close to UGX 1.375 billion from UNCDF/DINU for the construction of the two markets [944.8 million for Amuria Market and 430.6 million for Wera Market]. Meanwhile the District Local Government of Amuria provided UGX 226 million as counterpart funding for Wera market. The district local government together with Amuria Town Council local government are together providing counterpart funding amounting to UGX 156.18 million to the Amuria Market. So far only UGX 80 million has been provided in the current budget.

In Amuria Central Market Project in Amuria Town Council we have been able to put in place facilities that include:

- Four market shades of 24 stalls each,
- One block of 10 butcheries equipped with refrigerators,
- A breast-feeding house
- A value Addition house
- A management Office
- One block with kitchens, restaurants and a multipurpose hall,
- Renovation of waterborne toilets and
- A waste bunker as well as other installations.

In the Wera Livestock Market the following facilities were commissioned

- Two rumps for loading and offloading animals from trucks
- A perimeter fencing and subdivisions for different categories of livestock
- One revenue and veterinary office,
- One inspection crush,
- Pit latrines and
- water troughs
- A livestock weighing scale
- A solar powered water well; and
- A vendors' shade with stalls
- Renovation of a house to serve as breast feeding house

The objectives of implementing the two projects were among others: To improve the marketing infrastructure in Amuria Town Council; To strengthen institutional and management capacities of the stakeholders for better market management; To enhance employment /income earnings of women and young people engaged in trade in the market. Following the commissioning of the projects, we hope that the objectives will be realized and our people reap the maximum benefit from them.

Hon. Speaker, the district this time round received rains that were not evenly distributed, hence planting period in some sub counties were affected. This led to late planting that may affect the yields. Where there were heavy rains, it was associated with disaster and hailstorms which affected crops.

Mr. Speaker, we encourage them to plant short term crop to avert the looming hunger.

We also procured 3 motorcycles to support extension services and 2,200 Kuroiler chicken for demonstration. The funds also supported agricultural extension advisory services in all Sub counties and Town Councils majorly in building capacities of the 99 PDM Enterprise groups on good agricultural practices, how to access loan from PDM SAACOs, agribusiness development and Farmer Institutional Development.

Mr. Speaker, our major challenges in the production sector has remained the bad weather conditions, prevalence of crop and animal diseases and pests. Extension services are also inadequate since the ratio of extension staff to farmers is still low which makes it virtually impossible to reach all the farmers. The situation is worsened by the poor attitude of our farmers towards practicing modern farming methods as opposed to traditional practices. Furthermore, majority of the Extension Workers have transport challenges.

To address these challenges, we intend to encourage farmers to practice climate smart agriculture and embrace micro-scale irrigation. We shall also undertake continuous sensitization and training of farmers on pests and disease management and other good agricultural practices. The district will also recruit more extension workers when recruitment ban is lifted by Central Government.

Education and Sports

Mr. Speaker, the number of Government Aided education institutions in the district still remains at 77. There are currently 7 Secondary Schools. The number will further rise in the new future when Asamuk Seed Secondary School is completed and operationalized. There are currently eleven (11) privately and community owned secondary schools.

The district has got Ten (10) vocational schools i.e. two (2) government Aided and eight (8) private/community owned and sixty eight (68) Government Aided primary schools.

Mr. Speaker, the District currently has 99 privately owned primary schools and 110 Pre-primary schools.

Ladies and gentlemen, amidst all sorts of constraints we have been able to register some good progress in the education sector in the course of implementation of programmes/projects. In the last financial year

2022/23 we had a number of capital projects that we approved in our plans to implement in the department of education. Mr Speaker, I am happy to report that the following was achieved:

- In terms of infrastructure, the district in the financial year 2022/2023 constructed 8 new classrooms (at Ongutoi P.S, Ajaki Asinge P.S, Abuket P.S and Akeriau P.S).
- Constructed 2 blocks of 5-stance lined pit latrine at Amolo P.S and Awelu P.S
- Asamuk Seed School structures and facilities under construction are being roofed; 3 blocks of 2 classroom each, multi-purpose science laboratory, an administration block, a multi-purpose Hall, an ICT and Library block, 3 blocks of 2-in-1 staff houses with detached kitchens and a 2-stance latrine for each block, 2 blocks of 5-stance for learners and a 2-stance lined pit latrine for staff, a playground not yet started.
- Wera Seed Secondary School structures and facilities, Phase 3, constructed; a multi-purpose hall, a 2-in-1 staff house with detached kitchen and a 2-stance latrine, a 2-classroom block, a playground-grass being planted, fencing was done.
- Mr. Speaker, the Development Partners like IDI, World Vision, Welthungerhilfe supported the district and constructed and/or rehabilitated classrooms or latrines in some schools.

Based on the current enrolment of 59,451, and the national standard that each classroom should accommodate 53 pupils, the district requires 1,122 classrooms. However, the district has 595 classrooms only existing. This implies that the district currently has a gap of 527 classrooms. As part of the measures to address the challenge of classrooms the district shall continue to construct more classroom prioritizing schools in dire need.

Enrolment

Our current enrolment is 59,451 while in secondary school the current total enrollment is 3,194 students.

Mr. Speaker, whereas the district has that enrollment, our major challenge is the high dropout rate and low completion by the learners. It is therefore incumbent upon us as leaders to mobilize the different stakeholders to ensure that we address these challenges.

Primary Leaving Examinations.

Mr. Speaker, I would therefore, like to highlight the PLE results of 2022, a total of 4,229 i.e 3538 UPE and 691 Non UPE pupils were registered for Primary Leaving Examinations (PLE) and 4155 sat for PLE as 74 did not turn up for the examinations. The district registered 95 in first grade of which 30 were girls and 65 were boys, 1508 in second grade of which 74 were girls and 834 were boys. This current year 2023, we have

registered 3,465 candidates which indicates a lower number as compared to last year's total number.

Scholarship and Bursary Opportunity

Mr. Speaker, under the District Quota admission to Public Universities, I am happy to report that six (6) students (2 females and 4 males) from our district have been admitted on the scheme. We received 3 scholarships from ACORD i.e. 3 girls for a nursing course. Kampala International University and Kampala University have also continued to offer scholarships to our learners. The Office of the District Chairperson has been giving letters of recommendations for learners that have expressed interest. I implore you to mobilize learners within your communities to benefit from these scholarships.

Inspectorate

Mr. Speaker, the Section of Inspectorate under Education Department has been reinforced and we currently have three (3) Inspectors of Schools. This enabled us to inspect all the schools in the financial year 2022/2023. Mr. Speaker, we are hopeful that this will go a long way to improve performance in our schools.

Sports, Music, Dance and Drama

Mr. Speaker, Amuria District Football Association registered a total of 6 teams in 4th Division League, 8 teams in 5th Division League, 3 teams in the 3rd Division League this season but only 17 teams participated. Mr Speaker, our district also participated in the national primary schools ball games 2023 that was held in Mbarara District and our district emerged number 62 out of 133 districts that participated in soccer under 14 and number 48 out of 133 districts that participated in netball under 12 were merged 19th out of 133 but overall position under netball we merged 79 out of 133 districts.

In football, under 12 years category we merged the 11th in position ranking out of 133 districts, and in the general performance we were ranked the 47th out of 133 districts. Handball games for under 14 years for boys we merged the 8th position and overall performance we emerged the 21st out of 133 districts.

Mr Speaker, in the overall performance for all the games, we emerged 62nd position out of 133 districts that participated.

Mr. Speaker, during term one, the district also participated in National Primary Schools Kids Athletics' Championship 2023 in Luwero but those results have not been released till now, but we managed to secure two (2) medalists i.e. Aseno from Moruina P.S and Otuwasi from Agwara-kuju P.S. for special needs. Under 14 we were ranked 16th position out of 161 districts and under 12 we were ranked 45th position out of 161.

Mr. Speaker, we also trained primary teachers on ball games.

Mr. Speaker, for Music, Dance and Drama the district was not represented because of limited funds to facilitate the activity.

Challenge

The major challenge to the education sector has remained the overwhelming demand for infrastructure i.e. Construction of classrooms, latrines, teachers houses and supply of desks and instructional materials which affects learning and impacts on performance of learners.

Another big challenge that affects sports is limited funds allocated to games and sports.

I urge all of us to have it as a collective responsibility to ensure that we support education of our children as well as sports, music, dance and drama.

Works and Technical Services

Mr. Speaker, Amuria District has a total road network of 710 km of which district routine manual and mechanized maintenance is on 282.8km and 313km is community access roads (CARs) under the sub counties. The following roads were worked on in the last financial year, Orungo-Morungatuny-Obalanga road (20km), 14Km of Asamuk-Wera road and 12km of Amucu-Arou under mechanized interventions. Rehabilitation and emergency culvert installation on Otiido bridge in Abia S/C, Aojakitoi Bridge in Kuju S/C, low cost sealing (0.3km) in Amuria-Asamuk road.

Mr. Speaker, other Government programs with interventions on roads are; the National Oil Seed Project (NOSP) implemented by Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAIF) will work on Acedayapo- Akore (21km) and Orungo-Atirir (17km). The roads have been assessed and designs reviewed already.

Mr. Speaker, under Community Agricultural Infrastructure Improvement Project-Phase 4 (CAIIP-4), district selected and prioritized Asamuk-Aooja (11km) as well as Asamuk-Abarilela (14km) community access roads.

I wish to thank the State minister for works and transport, Hon. Musa Ewewu for supporting the district. Through his ministry seven (7) roads have been or are being rehabilitated by the Ministry of Works and Transport.

Mr. Speaker, in the current financial year 2023/2024 the district is set to received additional 1 Billion funding from Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development for roads and it will be undertaking mechanized maintenance/rehabilitation of 13 district roads. The district is waiting for the guidelines from the Ministry of Works and Transport and Uganda Road Fund.

Mr. Speaker our challenge has however been the inadequate funds against increasing road length, lack of planning for emergencies like force majeure, overloading of the equipment because it is being shared with Kapelebyong leading to frequent breakdowns. Overall, our road condition in the district currently is fair compared to previous financial years but still the roads require maintenance.

Water

Mr. Speaker, access to safe water in the District stands at 67% that is below the National average of 75%. Functionality is at 97% and equity is at 85% considering that the national statistic stands at 85% and 121% respectively. The current total number of boreholes is 493 with 454 functional while 39 are non-functional. During the last financial year we planned and successfully constructed 5 boreholes i.e. Ongaroi in Orungo S/C, Moruina P.S in Ogongora S/C, Takaramiem P.S in Apeduru S/C, Alira Obedo in Amolo S/C, Apeiulai in Ogolai S/C and Ominaita in Kaju S/C. The district rehabilitated 4 boreholes in Asamuk Health Centre III, Asamuk Town Council, Orungo HCIII in Orungo Town council, Atapara and Oboke villages in Olwa Sub County. Construction of Piped Water Supply System – Extensions. Piped water extension at Wera Seed Secondary school. Completion of Oikiik well that was drilled in FY2021/2022. Due to the low ground water potential in most parts of Orungo county, the well was drilled at a depth of 126m and the static water level was realized at 72m while dynamic water level was at 90m. This scenario, called for a more intensive approach/technology to draw water for the community since the well doesn't allow for the installation of a hand pump. It is on this background that the district water office carried out motorization of the well and a tap installed. We have also renovated the Water Office.

The district in collaboration with Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) technical staff carried out In-house Design of Piped Water System for Wera Town Council. So far, the following activities have been carried out. They include Reconnaissance survey, desk and field appraisal, socio-economic survey and topographic survey completed. The designs and tender documents have been developed.

In a bid to improve the staff gap in the Water office, the District Water Office has been seconded with the following staff: Assistant Water Officer in charge Mobilization and Assistant Water Officer-hygiene and sanitation from the Community-Based Services and Health departments respectively. This will reinforce the District Water Officer and Assistant Engineering Officer (Water) who are substantively appointed.

The low coverage are attributed to poor ground water potential in the affected sub counties such as Orungo SC, Apeduru and Akeriau

SC Mr. Speaker, to address challenges of low water coverage, the following strategies have been put in place; extension of piped water.

Mr. Speaker, in connection to Water Sector, I wish to extend our appreciation to the following WASH partners like SOCADIDO, Welthungerhilfe, World Vision, IITA/DINU for the WASH interventions they made in the district.

Mr. Speaker, in current financial year 2023/2024, Council approved the drilling of 4 deep boreholes in Mesopotamia in Amolo S/C, Odebe village in Apeduru S/C, Aojangur in Amuria TC and Acanipii in Akeriau S/C. There will also be the drilling of a production well will be in Morungatuny Seed Secondary School. Borehole rehabilitation in 4 water points. Construction of VIP latrine in Opaiyeng Trading centre in Abia S/C.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to inform you that, we shall be able to implement budgets and work plan as approved by this honorable house.

Environment and Natural Resources.

Mr. Speaker, as part of the routine measures to protect and safeguard our ecosystem, the district has been raising 6,300 tree seedlings annually and the Council has continued with the establishment of wood lots at individual and institutional levels through funds from OPM, we procured 4,666 Indigenous trees and planted 10 acres of woodlots in 7 institutions after training them in tree growing.

Amuria district has a total gazetted forest estate of 660 hectares which constitutes about 2 percent of Amuria District land area. 220 hectares of the total area under forests constitutes the central forest reserves.

Mr Speaker, on environmental protection, sensitization & training on wetland management and demarcation was done in Asamuk S/C. Wetland demarcation was conducted in wetlands of Orungo, Ogolai, Willa & Amolo. 50 pillars per sub-county equivalent to 25 km of wetland was demarcated.

On physical planning, district land was demarcated into blocks to ease its use.

Hon Speaker, on the issue of land management, one (1) District Land Board meeting was held quarterly as well as routine technical guidance to the LLGs and other stakeholders was done.

The district also held one (1) Physical Planning Committee meeting, 3 files handled in Wera Seed SSS, Olwa Seed SSS, Opam Police Station in Amolo S/C.

5 Land application sites were verified in Wera seed SSS, Olwa seed SSS, Opam police station, Ajaki parish land in Apeduru S/C and Aritei Health Centre in Abarilela S/C

Mr. Speaker, Amuria district is experiencing impacts of climate change as exhibited by the trends in average temperature and rainfalls. The district has been experiencing seasonal variations which are affecting productivity and production hence impacting on livelihood. The negative impact of climate change is expected to escalate as evidenced by long dry-spells, floods, heat waves which have significant impacts to the livelihoods of local communities that predominantly rely on rain-fed agriculture.

Community Based Services

Mr. Speaker under Community Based Services; the district is implementing a range of interventions targeting the vulnerable and special interest groups such as the elderly, women, children and youth.

Elderly

Mr. Speaker, currently 1,588 elderly have been enrolled by Centenary Bank and are benefiting from the Social Assistance Grant for Empowerment (SAGE). There are 1,039 females and 549 males paid for the period of January-March, 2023 money amounting to 178.45 Million shillings.

Youth

Mr. Speaker, the youth are being supported under the Youth Livelihood Programme (YLP).

The projects are generated by the district and are submitted to and for funding by the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development.

From inception of the program in the financial year 2013/2014, the District funded 469 groups with 2,108 members (Males - 1,258, Females - 850)

Mr. Speaker, UGX 1.094 billion shillings was disbursed to the different groups and UGX 316,409,550 has so far been recovered, leaving an outstanding balance of UGX 681,483,050.

Mr. Speaker, our challenge has continued to be the low recovery of the funds advanced to the youth groups. This undermines the chances of other potential beneficiaries to receive the funds. For that matter I call upon all stakeholders to support efforts to recover funds from the youths who were advanced monies.

Women

Under the Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme, since its inception in 2014/2015, 85 sub projects/women groups have been funded amounting to UGX 528,271,800 (five hundred twenty-eight million, two hundred seventy-one thousand, eight hundred shillings only) The current

beneficiaries are 1,050, but some of these groups went to Kapelebyong District.

Hon Speaker, the district trained the beneficiaries before they access funds for their implementation.

The district received 528,271,800 Million shillings and we recovered 145,126,385 from the beneficiaries as of 2016-2023. Details of the beneficiary groups and recovery status as per attached Recovery rate from 2014-2023 is at 65%

Hon. Speaker, some of the groups that completed repayment of funds that they received include Golokwara Women Bull Fattening – Amolo Sub County which received 7,965,000/=, Okao – Ogolai Women Piggery Group – Ogolai sub county received 5,650,000/=, Oboliai Women’s Livestock Buying and Selling – Asamuk Sub County received 6,500,000/=, Akumangor Women Whole Sale Trade – Asamuk Sub County received 4,500,000/=, among others. We commend these groups for honoring their obligations.

Hon Speaker, I am happy to report that this program has enhanced Women’s household incomes. Women have sustained livelihoods at their households using proceeds from the program funds received by the groups and also their saving culture has improved hence increased household incomes.

Hon Speaker, 7 UWEP groups were submitted for funding at the end of the financial year 2022/23 as shown below.

S N	GROUP/PROJECT NAME	ACCOUNT NAME
1	Jalam Women's Livestock buying and Selling Group	Jalam Women's Livestock buying and Selling Group
2	Dokolo Womens Bull Fattening Group	Dokolo Womens Bull Fattening Group
3	Abuket Women Goat Fattening Project	Abuket Women Goat Fattening Project
4	Ajota United Mothers Bull Fattening Group	Ajota United Mothers Bull Fattening Group
5	Kelim United Women Value Addition Group	Kelim United Women Value Addition Group

6	Arute Women Goat Rearing Group	Arute Women Goat Rearing Group
7	Otingai Central Value Addition Group	Otingai Central Value Addition Group

Mr Speaker, Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme just like Youth Livelihood Programme has faced the same challenge of low/poor recovery.

For that I also call on all stakeholders to join hands to ensure recovery of this funds.

Disability

Since the inception of the District Special Disability Grant in the financial year 2014/2015, a total of 42 projects have been funded to the tune of 116,412,537 shillings. This intervention has benefited 572 persons with disabilities, 217 being males while 301 are females.

From the inception of the National Grant for Persons with Disabilities in the financial year 2020/2021, a total of 28 groups have been funded to a tune of 129,829,000 shillings, benefiting 208 persons with disabilities, 104 being males and 104 being females.

TILED

Trade, Industry, and Local Economic Development is focused on promoting Enterprise Development Services/Micro Small, Medium Enterprises and promotion of Market Linkage Services. The department is also charged with mandate of conserving, promotion of wildlife and tourism in the district. The department is also at the forefront in the implementation of especially Pillar three (3) of the Parish Development Model that deals with the financial inclusion aspect.

Parish Development Model (PDM)

Mr. Speaker, Parish Development Model (PDM) is the development approach conceived under the Third National Development Plan (NDPIII) that aims at the parish as the epicenter of government service delivery.

Under the third pillar of the PDM, by 21st September, 2023 we had disbursed 2,248,000,000 shillings to 2,248 beneficiaries out of 10,597,000,000 shillings that the district had received. This is intended towards capitalizing the subsistence households with Parish Recovery Fund (PRF) for effective economic transformation.

These funds have been loaned out to the SACCO members at a uniform rate of UGX 1,000,000 each.

Mr. Speaker, Parish Development Management Information System Financial Inclusion System (PDMIS-FIS) training has been completed for the district level staff and the Sub County.

Mr. Speaker, we are also faced with the challenge of lack of gadgets, tools and internet data and access for use by the CDOs, Parish Chiefs/Town Agents.

In the FY 2022/23 the main activities by the extension staff were to prepare the parish Enterprise Groups in anticipation of disbursement of the funds. The extension workers took the enterprise groups through best agronomic practices, good animal husbandry practices, cost benefit analysis of the various enterprise, business planning and group dynamics among others. At the end of the year a total of 13,174 farmers participated in the trainings that were conducted by the extension officers. These farmers are now ready to apply for loans from their SACCOs. Below is the PDM level at the end of the year 2022/23

- a) Number of SACCOs is 99.
- b) Enterprise groups formed 1,554
- c) Total amount received so far received by the SACCOs Ten Billion Five hundred ninety-three million shilling only 10,593,000,000
- d) Amount disbursed so far is nine hundred eighty-one million shillings only (981,000,000/=)
- e) Beneficiaries approved and pending to receives is three thousand one hundred twenty-five beneficiaries 3,125

Emyooga

Mr. Speaker, Emyooga, is a presidential initiative on wealth and job creation is intended to finance targeted micro and small enterprises through the formation of association-based Emyooga SACCOs. In Amuria county, 17 Emyooga SACCOs were mobilized and registered, 16 of which received supplementary seed capital of UG X 30 million each, while one local leaders' SACCO received UGX 50 million from the Government. Overall, 530 million was disbursed by the government to the 17 SACCOs initially, plus a follow-on disbursement of UGX 20 million recently to the PWDs' SACCO, enhancing the total disbursed to 50 million to date.

Mr. Speaker, some of the groups have used well the funds that they received as some have equally not been well utilized. The SACCOs that have been on the spot light for mismanagement are the ones for Youth Leaders, Persons with Disabilities.

APPEALS

Honourable colleagues, as we strive on with the district's development agenda, one area of great concern is that of the conservation of the natural

environment that we have. It is to be noted that the President of our country has continued giving directives, on various occasions, urging local authorities to ensure that we conserve the environment especially the forests and wetlands in order to mitigate the negative effects arising from climate change. It is a growing concern that our wetlands and tree vegetation cover are getting diminished by the day as people keep encroaching on wetlands and cutting down trees on an increasing scale. We have all experienced the negative effects of climate change – the extended droughts, excessively stormy rains and attendant health related issues. All these are attributed to most of our actions that have threatened the water bodies – swamps and rivers in our case. We therefore need to protect our wetlands and forests. We need to stop cultivating right in the heart of our wetlands and also cut trees unnecessarily. I encourage all of us to plant as many trees as possible including in inhabited areas. I urge the Natural Resources department and all of us to heed to the directive of the President on environmental protection. I am encouraged by the attempts of the Natural Resources department at demarcating wetlands within the district and educating rice farmers to seek alternatives of cultivating rice and other crops outside the wetland areas. The department has also been raising tree seedlings and receiving some form other partners for distribution to farmers. We need to support this effort as it benefits us all.

Conclusion

Mr. Speaker and members as I conclude, we have an enormous task before us to ensure that we fulfill our respective duties and mandate of ensuring the welfare of the people we are called to serve. We should work in unity, respecting each other and aiming for the common good. Once again I thank the CAO, and the civil servants for the tireless effort they put in ensuring that we absorb the budget for FY 2022/2023. I welcome the new CAO, of Amuria and I appeal to her to join forces with us to work for the development of Amuria district. At the same time, I want to thank the out gone CAO, Canon George Adoko for working with the council to achieve the things we were able to achieve since year in office. I would like to extend our appreciation to our Development Partners. The list of partners is endless but allow me to mention a few; World Vision, Welthungerhilfe, IDI, KIDO ACORD, UNFPA, HEIFER, DINU, and BRAC, SOCADIDO, TEDDO

All these partners have in special ways made tremendous contributions to supplement our efforts to deliver services to our communities whom we have been called upon to serve.

On behalf of our Government/Council I pledge commitment and support to work with Partners to transform our district and the lives of the people we serve.

I say all these,

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY

EMABU MOSES

DISTRICT CHAIRPERSON AMURIA