

## **MASAKA CITY STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS FOR THE FY 2022/23**

As you are aware, according to the Local Government Act, sec 13(5) "The Chairperson / Mayor shall make a report to the Council on the State of Affairs of the City at least once a year."

Masaka - City is among the ten newly created cities. The city was formed by annexing 2 parishes from Lwengo District, 2 parishes from Kalungu District, 15 parishes from Masaka District to the then Masaka municipality. This resulted into an increase in area from 46 sqkm<sup>2</sup> to 362.4 km<sup>2</sup>.

On 25th January, 2021, the people of Masaka City elected me as their Mayor. Where there is no vision, the people perish (Proverbs 29:18), on 18th May, 2021,

I together with 15 councilors took oath to serve this great city. As City Mayor, I made a commitment to the people of Masaka city as detailed in my inaugural speech.

### **IMPLEMENTATION FOR 2022/2023**

#### **1. CITY LEADERSHIP AND ADMINISTRATION**

On 1st March 2023, we received a new city town clerk, Mr. Okurut Vincent and his deputy, Mr. Mugisha Richard. I am confident that the duo will reform the city to desired progress.

#### **2. CITY STRUCTURE**

As you may be aware, the City is 362.4sqkm from the 46sqkm of then Masaka Municipality. This calls for adequate human resource for proper functioning but unfortunately staffing levels have not changed much. It is regrettable that MoPS recently issued a road map for recruitment process of staff in LGs including cities but at the same time halted all recruitments in 2022/23 & 2023/24 FYs. Staffing levels are only at 28% of the city structure, this greatly affects service delivery especially with the absence of key staff including heads of department.

#### **3. CITY HEADQUARTERS**

The need for office space, direction and proper coordination cannot be overstated. Issue 8 of the communique from the Attorney General on operationalization of newly created Cities guided that immovable assets pass on to cities. In this regard, council resolved to have Masaka City Headquarters established at KITABIRO. Consultancy services for the design and supervision of City headquarters were awarded to Oubuntu Consulting Limited who on reaching the site, were brutally manhandled by Masaka district leadership. Since the MoLG has not guided on asset sharing, it has been a daunting task to have headquarters constructed. We identified council property at plot 2-10 with no encumbrance and designing works started in the third quarter of the financial year. The town clerk will update us on the progress.

#### **4. BUDGET THEME & REVENUE GENERATION.**

The Theme of the National Budget Strategy for 2023/2024 is: Full Monetization of Uganda's economy through Commercial Agriculture, Industrialization, Expanding and Broadening Services, Digital Transformation and Market Access.

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The four key strategic interventions include:

1. Enhancing Security, Good Governance, and the Rule of Law
2. Boosting Economic Recovery and Enterprise Resilience
3. Facilitating Economic Growth and Competitiveness
4. Promoting Social Development and protecting Vulnerable Communities
5. The theme for Masaka City Budget Strategy for 2023/2024 is:
6. A highly liveable, clean and green City.

The key strategic interventions will be among others protection of the natural environment, waste management, infrastructure development and maintenance, trade order and enterprise development, promoting health, education and social development, implementation of the City Physical Development, embracing Government programs such as PDM, Emyooga, UWEP and YLP among others;

The City intends to implement the following projects;

1. Rehabilitation of Masaka Recreation Grounds
2. Construction of the City Headquarters
3. Upgrading and rehabilitation of identified roads to bituminous level such as Elgin Street
4. Construction of facilities at Kaddugala Secondary School
5. Construction and rehabilitation of classroom blocks and latrines using School Facilitation Grant.
6. Retooling of offices with furniture and ICT equipment such as laptops
7. Production of a detailed physical Development Plan for Matanga trading Centre
8. Upgrading of Kyabakuza Health Centre II.

SN	FINANCIAL YEAR	BUDGET	PERFORMANCE	PERCENTAGE (%)
1.	2021/2022	4,625,254,101	2,117,333,238	46%
2.	2022/2023	4,625,254,101	2,667,621,252	58%
3.	2023/2024	6,370,873,577		

I note the meagre funds collected from local revenue, but the following measures have been put in place to address this concern;

With the introduction of IRAS (Integrated Revenue Administration System) which is an automated system of revenue collection, leakages and excesses arising out of unethical conduct of some officials have been minimized. All division collection accounts have been closed to have all monies through IRAS to the consolidated fund.

With support from USAID, Knight Frank Uganda LTD was contracted to compile the property valuation roll for the City which has been completed and fully loaded on the IRAS ready for implementation.

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- The city has managed to set up a data base for all the revenue sources on the electronic system (IRAS) where they are continuously updated on a regular basis.
- The City has also engaged a consultant (YOYA TECHNOLOGIES LTD) to help in the upgrade of the revenue system, mass registration of all tax payers in the entire city, establishing the reserve prices for all revenue sources, cleaning the revenue database system to eliminate duplicates.
- Integration of the Trade Licensing Amendment Tool Instrument 2017 no.2 from the Ministry of Trade with the charging policy to eliminate subjectivity during Assessment.

It is now our job as Council to intensify sensitization of taxpayers to use this new mode of payment (IRAS)

The city is in the process of reforming the tendering system from the traditional conventional method to commission agency arrangement which allows creativity and innovations during the implementation. In this new arrangement, the city will have resident consultants working together with city revenue staff on a daily basis.

It is also important to note that the city is intending to create with effect from the new financial year separate revenue division at both the center and in the divisions largely independent of the mainstream finance department. This will make it possible for the revenue division to concentrate purely on revenue generation the same way URA does at the National level.

## **5. INFRASTRUCTURE**

a) Roads As you have witnessed, the City center has had a facelift. Several roads have been rehabilitated and others reopened. These works include paving 250 meters of Kikuubo lane, rehabilitation of Katwe Bypass (0.646km), Baines Terrace (0.393km), Birch Avenue(0.110km), Alexander road(0.407km), Hill Road(1.450km), Circular Rise(0.188km), Circular road(1.41km) under USMID-AF. China railway No.3 is rehabilitating Elgin street, Nyendo market Circular road, Nyendo market Loop. M/s Armpass was sub contracted to rehabilitate Kooki street and associated storm water drainage from Total fuel station.

Rehabilitation of Nyendo – Kitovu cathedral – Kitovu hospital – Nakayiba road, Villa road (Nyendo stage – Mbarara bypass), Old Kumbu road, Somero/ Mutesa 1 royal University, Kako Link has been completed. When constructing Mutukula road, a section of Villa road from Villa Maria- Nyendo will be worked on as well.

I thank residents for exhibiting high levels of patience and integrity when works are being done in the city

### **b) Street lights**

Solar street lights have been installed so far along Kitovu, Nyendo, Speke road, Section of Masaka -Kampala highway, Masaka- Mbarara highway, MasakaMutukula highway and in satellite trading centres. Major installations are 244, Kimaanya- Kabonera division has a total of 564 solar street lights while Nyendo Mukungwe has 572

These street lights have improved security and increased on the business working hours. It's unfortunate that cases of vandalism of these lights have been reported but I urge communities to take the responsibility to protect these installations



UNRA rehabilitated Nyendo- Masaka Town- Kijabwemi Road (7.3km). However, I, together with residents were not satisfied with the quality of lights installed. I sought police investigation into this matter and the findings are explained in the attached report wherein the contractor was instructed to replace the substandard lights with good quality lights.

Eventually, these poor quality lights were taken down and we await better replacements.

#### **c) Masaka Central Market**

Under MATIP-2, M/S Multiplex- Alshams was contracted to construct Masaka Central Market who handed it over on 6th January, 2023. It was a long time coming for the vendors who had endured poor working conditions since 2018 but it was until the President assented to the Markets Bill that paved way for vendors to occupy the new market. I commend the allocation committee headed by the deputy town clerk for the tremendous work they have done in the attempt to resettle 926 registered vendors, I also thank the vendors for patience. It is our duty now to ensure trade order and eliminate roadside vending and hawkers roaming the city.

#### **d) Masaka Recreation Ground**

Masaka Recreation Ground renovation was listed among priority projects. The city engaged a consultant M/s Cornerstone Design and Engineering Ltd to undertake design and construction supervision at a cost of UGX: 1,453,882,720 VAT inclusive. The consultant has submitted the inception report, and the draft design report which are currently under review. Relatedly there's need to acquire more land for expansion of the facility from plots 2-4,6-8 &10-12 church road, discussions with concerned stakeholders are ongoing.

### **6. HEALTH**

Works for the upgrade of Kitabaazi HCIII have been completed now pending recruitment of health workers to become functional. The scope of work to upgrade Kyabakuza HC II to IV is on steady progress and I pray that upon completion, should be well facilitated to reduce dependency on the overstrained Masaka Regional Referral Hospital. We have had two successful mass immunization campaigns for Polio and Measles Rubella, I urge the community to participate in the ongoing distribution of treated mosquito nets campaign to fight malaria in our communities.

I welcome partners like KOFIH, BAMA Foundation and Living Goods for extending health services to Masaka City. I implore you to use the city validated list of VHTs and to constantly update management with reports.

### **ENVIRONMENT**

As a legacy goal, I have purposed to make Masaka City a clean, green liveable city. Together with stakeholders like POKINO, MTN and Centenary Bank, we conduct an end of month general cleaning activity where we also raise awareness to behavioural change towards garbage disposal, plant trees(750 trees planted so far). Like Edward Avenue, am glad that streets are becoming cleaner and greener. I instituted a scout team whose operations ensured an end to loitering animals that grazed in the city. We leveraged celebrations for the International Women's Day to plant 200 trees in

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open spaces like the golf course and our goal is ultimately to forest the city as our response to effects of climate change.

On this note therefore i wish to thank and recognize the general manage corporate, communications and marketing Mrs. Beatrice Lugalambi for having launched a tree planting project for our city on the women's day of this year 2023. she planted the mother tree at the golf course which we are guarding jealously. Furtherstill, on the issue of keeping our city clean, I thank both centenary bank and MTN for having donated to us an assortment of tools that we use during the communal work (bulungi bwansi ) program.

Our endless thanks also goes to the Buddu county chief (Omwaami wa Kabaka ow'essaza lye Buddu) Pookino Owek. Jude Muleke and the entire leadership of buddu county for having accepted to work with us on the Bulungi Bwansi project.

I thank the city education department for implementing the greening policy, 1650 trees have been planted in schools with a ban on the use of polythene bags in schools. Educators are advised to emulate St. Maria Gorret Mpugwe primary school.

On 14th April, 2023, Masaka city launched the piloting of garbage collection to TUMACAS and YAMAC where a moderate fee would be paid by the generator, this arrangement is still under review.

Wetland Restoration efforts are ongoing through sensitisations and evictions, approximately 45 acres of Ndyabusole wetland have been restored in Bulayi and Kabagabo cells In conjunction with Ministry of energy the Department has successfully carried out a waste flow study to develop the most appropriate waste to energy technology suitable for the type of waste for Masaka City

## EDUCATION

In the last two years the city has registered great improvements in performance at PLE, UCE and UACE. This improvement has been largely due to our increased supervision, stake holder engagements and improved school infrastructure especially at primary section level where the city is directly responsible However, absenteeism of both teachers and learners has always been the major factor affecting performance of Government schools. I am glad that all government schools in the city were given TELA machines for monitoring teachers' attendance except Kirowooza and Namagoma Primary schools. Teacher Effectiveness and Learners' Achievements (TELA) is an automated system of monitoring teachers' attendance.

Head teachers were trained in harmonization of TELA and TRAP (Teacher Report Assessment Package) for effective management of schools.

We are hopeful that grades in government schools even in rural areas will improve in subsequent years. I call on parents to enable learners by providing for their feeding Latrine facilities were constructed in Kiziba Primary School, Butende Primary School and Kiyumba primary school, Two class blocks were completed at Ssenya Primary School, The first phase of renovating Kaddugala Primary school classroom block is ongoing and is to be completed in financial year 2023/2024, we thank partners of The Church of Jesus Christ for their generous contribution to the renovation of Hill Road Primary School.

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## **PRODUCTION**

The Parish Development Model was launched and rolled out to the community. 25 Parish SACCOs were formed. 618 Enterprise Groups were established. Out of those, 293 Groups are from Kimaanya-Kabonera City Division and 325 Groups are in Nyendo-Mukungwe City Division. In these groups, the total number of membership is 13012; out of them the Male are 469, Female are 7856, Youth 2992, PWDs 293. Enterprises selected included; Coffee, Piggery, Poultry, Banana, Maize, Dairy farming and Passion fruits.

Challenges affecting PDM implementation are:

- 1) Lack of a provision for operational costs.
- 2) PDM implementers lack tools and gadget to do electronic PRF transactions for efficient payments and tracking of performances.
- 3) The youth category has not expressed major interest yet they have a huge allocation of 30% equivalence of PRF provisions.
- 4) The delay in implementation has caused community frustration.

## **MASAKA REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL HUB**

The establishment of the industrial hub is a unique life changing opportunity for the youth in this region, adjustments should be made for learners to be trained for a whole year instead of six months to ensure that they have a thorough understanding of these courses so that after completion, they are either employable or job creators, and if funding allows, learners should leave the hub with working tools (tailoring machines, tool box, ovens, etc so that they are not hindered for lack of capital to join the work world immediately.

My prayer is that local leaders be involved in the selection process of beneficiaries, this oversight also happened during the release of covid- relief funds, the activity was only assigned to technical officers. Elected leaders have the mandate of the people and shouldn't be over looked. This will ensure an all stakeholder involvement and ownership of the hub.

## **PROPERTY AND ASSETS OF THE CITY**

After assuming leadership of Masaka City, we found out that the status of many properties of the city especially land had alot of anomalies and encumbrances, accorging to ther board of survey of 30th June 2020! A number of certificate of titles were missing and there was alot of interferences on the

masaka city council land. I therefore decided to write to the minister of Local Government on 4th November 2021 requesting for an audit to be carried out on a number of land property. The letter was also copies to the Inspector General of Government. Its unfortunate that we havemnt recieved any response to this concern!

Furtherstill, I call upon all investigative arms of government to come and probe into all past and current land transactions in Masaka City. If that is done all facts on land property in our city will be found and all culprits will be brought to book.

## **PARTNERSHIPS**

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It is my desire to see Masaka city established as a hub for economic and social activity in the region hence the need for collaboration with development partners. We are grateful to USAID for developing our website ([www.masakacity.go.ug](http://www.masakacity.go.ug)), we are working with Strong Cities Network which supports programmes to avert hate, extremism and polarization, AMALI is a leadership forum for mayors, support is given to mayors to shape and deliver on the vision of their cities, Idrak Technologies will develop tailor made technological solutions and tools for our city, Kenitra Morocco and Masaka City partnership will support in raising awareness of violence against women and girls and the corresponding protection and prevention actions. We are grateful to Centenary Radio of Masaka Catholic Diocese for having accorded us airtime, for our program "Agafa Ewa Mayor" every Tuesday from 7:30pm – 8:30pm.

#### **ON GOING PROGRAMMES**

- Masaka City procured M/S Stanfield Property Partners as service provider for the City Physical and detailed development Plans. The 1st Draft of the Physical Development Plan has been presented to the Stakeholders. MoLHUD will review as well for technical input and NPPB for final approval and gazette.
- The Parish Development Model has been launched in the City , I ask technical officers responsible to continually offer all the necessary guidance to have more groups benefit from this programme in progressive FYs .

#### **CHALLENGES**

- Delayed completion of projects due to delay in releasing funds coupled with a hybrid procurement causing delays in implementation.
- A narrow local revenue base leading to financial over-reliance on the Central Government as the Public Finance Management Act makes it so that all locally generated revenue is first remitted to the consolidated fund.
  - Lack of workspace for both political and technical staff which leads to poor coordination and supervision.
  - Understaffing compared to the scope of work and low pay to LG staff yet the cost of living has significantly increased.
  - In addition to destruction of the city yard by fire, there is a broken part of the perimeter wall which puts a risk to the property therein.
  - Under-utilization and loss of revenue from Nyendo Market, lock ups are closed
  - yet vendors continue to work on streets.
  - High City status service delivery expectations. The city was formed by annexing rural areas which require better service delivery especially roads but unfortunately the budget for Masaka city has been maintained as that of the former Municipality. With a maintainable road network of 678km, the city
  - requires an own road unit which we currently do not have. The Road Fund uses the Force Account Mechanism of Procurement on the assumption that an entity has a Road Unit and this causes reliance on Masaka District equipment.
  - The City has no means of transport to monitor service delivery and ensure efficient enforcement that would generate own source revenue.



- Lack of updated assets register.
  - Un realised start- up funds for cities. In this new FY year, the city intends to achieve the following and I am optimistic with the support of all stakeholders, our performance will be much better than that of the previous year;
  - The legal Department is still lacking to follow up on a backlog of cases.
- USMID ROADS.
  - CITY HALL.
  - REHABILITATION OF MASAKA RECREATION GROUNDS.
  - LAND FOR DUMPING SITE.
  - CAR FOR REVENUE ENHANCEMENT.
  - PIG ABATTOIR.
  - HOLDING GROUND FOR IMPOUNDED ANIMALS.
  - UPGRADE OF HEALTH UNITS ESPECIALLY KYABAKUZA HEALTH CENTER.
  - MAYOR'S GARDENS.
  - CITY BEAUTIFICATION AND TREE PLANTING.
  - KUMBU FOREST REGENERATION.

In conclusion, I have purposed to make Masaka a clean green liveable city, efforts to actualize this are evidenced in our tree planting campaign which we launched on 31st March 2023 on Masaka City International Women's Day celebrations. I wish to commend our worker's councilors for organizing the Symposium to commemorate the International Labour Day on 23rd June 2023.

On behalf of the executive and my own behalf, I thank;

The residents of Masaka city.

Masaka City Development Forum.

All councilors of Masaka City Council for the work done in committees.

The speaker of Masaka City Council for fairness and integrity during council sittings.

The City Executive for initiating policies that upon proper execution will transform the city.

The Divisions Mayors and Town Clerks for joint efforts and plans to develop the City

The City Town Clerk and his technical team for implementing Government programs

and decisions of council and for your relentless efforts to achieve set goals.

The City Roads Committee.

Masaka District Administration.

Masaka Police Force.

The Resident City Commissioner

Hon. Members of Parliament of Masaka City.

POKINO

Special thanks to;

•HIS MAJESTY THE KABAKA OF BUGANDA.

•Office of the Prime Minister.

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- The Minister of Local Government.
- The Minister of Works and Transport.
- The Minister of Lands, Housing and Urban Development.
- The Ministry of Agriculture.
- The Ministry of Health
- The Ministry of Education and Sports.

I thank you.

HON. NAMAYANJA FLORENCE  
CITY MAYOR, MASAKA CITY.