



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

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PRESS RELEASE

AN OUTLOOK ATBCD PERFORMANCE IN 2024

The Busoga Consortium for Development (BCD) was established in April 2017 as a sub-regional cooperation framework by the 12 Local Governments of Busoga to steer the socioeconomic transformation of Busoga to middle-income status. To actualize this aspiration, a 10 (ten) year Busoga Development Agenda (BDA) **2020/21-2030/31** was launched in September 2020 by H.E the President in Jinja under the executive guidance of H.R.H William Gabula Nadiope IV, Kyabazinga of Busoga Kingdom. https://youtu.be/dZpjcJJEf-w?si=86AivaNd_yv8s--W

During the year 2024, the BCD set out to continue implementing the BDA through the 3rd year work-plan registering the following key achievements.

- 1. Bilateral Relations.** Busoga Consortium for Development (BCD) began the 2024 financial year by H.R.H the Kyabazinga Dr. William Gabula Nadiope IV together with the Busoga Ministerial team guiding the establishment bilateral relations with the Liaoning Province of China on 8th July 2024. This is the 1st international provincial cooperation under the China-Africa Cooperation framework. He led a high-level delegation to three provinces Liaoning, Guangdong, and Guangzhou in China during which Busoga Signed the 1st Provincial Cooperation Agreement between China and Africa. According to the 2023 China National Bureau of Statistics report, Liaoning registered a GDP of US \$112.9 billion and has a population of 41.97 million people. With the executive guidance of H.R.H the Kyabazinga, the BCD Political leadership, the Office of the ED NPA & others, exchanges are underway on the full operationalization of the cooperation to the benefit of the people of our two Countries.
- 2. Village Agricultural Model (VAM).** BCD Successfully launched the Village Agricultural Model (VAM) and the Young Rural Entrepreneurs Program

(YUREP) initiative on 9th August 2024 as a flagship program for leading rural transformation in Busoga. The village agriculture model and Younger Rural Entrepreneurial Program (VAM & YUREP) are being pioneered by the Busoga Consortium for Development (BCD) in collaboration with China Agricultural University (CAU) and Tencent Holding Co Ltd of China. 3 (three) Villages including Namayombe in the Namayingo District, Mashaga (B) in the Mayuge District, and Busana in the Kamuli District were selected to pioneer the VAM initiative with a plan to expand to 7 (seven) in 2026 and 12 (twelve) by the end of 2027.

3. **Human Resource Development.** After the launch, the Busoga Consortium for Development (BCD) selected a 22 member delegation of Local Government leaders, the Secretariat, and OBB leaders who visited China for specialized training in poverty reduction focused on the village model. The team led by the Director General BCD Anthony Mula and others led by the BCD Governor Bishop Frank Tibagendeka gained a variety of skills to be helpful in the rolling out of the VAM initiative.
4. **The 2024 Busoga Prayer Week.** BCD in collaboration with the Busoga Inter-Religious Council and the Office of the Vice President of Uganda and Busoga Kingdom successfully coordinated the 3rd edition of the Busoga Prayer Week on the theme *“Deepening Regional Cohesion as Foundation for Household Transformation”*. This was held on Sunday 20th October 2024 at Luuka District ceremonial grounds. The key highlight of the Regional congregational prayers was the proclamation of one Parliamentary caucus following the reconciliations of the faction leaders and reaffirmation of a one strong and united Busoga by the Bulamongi Katukito.
5. **BCD Leadership transition.** Witnessed a successful change of the BCD leadership on Sunday 20th October 2024 from Mr. Wakaze Simon who was Governor BCD 2023/24, to Bishop Frank Tibagengeka as Governor BCD 2024/25.

Bishop Frank Tibagendeka is the current District Chairperson of Mayuge Local Government. He is deputized by Mr. Kuwembula Mugude Charles Maxwell of Kamuli Local Government as Vice Governor.

6. **Regional Cohesion.** BCD facilitated enhanced regional cohesion in support of all matters of interest to Busoga. This was witnessed at all levels of Governance including Ministerial, Local Government, Parliamentary under one caucus, technical, etc, hence strengthening Busoga leaders' capacity to effectively negotiate opportunities for Busoga.
7. **Busoga University.** In collaboration with the Busoga University Task Force headed by Prof. John Tabuti as Chairperson, facilitated the formal handover of Busoga University Ltd Assets and Liabilities by the Church of Uganda to the Government of Uganda on 17th December 2024 at Statehouse, Nakasero. This paved the way for the commencement of necessary infrastructural developments at the University campuses in preparation for the opening of the University during the next academic year.

International and Diplomatic Relations

8. **Technical Cooperation.**
 - BCD facilitated the establishment of educational collaborations between Shenyang Polytechnic College and 5 Busoga technical institutes, Jinja School of Nursing and Midwifery with Shenyang Medical College, and Jinja City with Shenyang City.
 - BCD also consolidated cooperation with China Agricultural University (CAU). 10 members of the BCD attended a poverty reduction training program from 4th to 14th November, facilitated by Tencent Holding Co Ltd and hosted by CAU.
9. **Embassy of China and BCD Relations.** Relations further deepened as more commitment was demonstrated by the Chinese Ambassador to supporting Busoga's transformation through facilitating China-Busoga relations.
10. **Foreign delegations hosted by BCD.** In promotion of people-to-people relations and facilitating Busoga China relations, several high-level delegations

from China were hosted by BCD including H.E Liu Guozhong Vice Premier of the P.R. China in January, CAU delegations in April and October, Provincial delegation from Liaoning People’s Government led by H.E Yu Tianmin Vice Chairperson Liaoning People’s Political Consultative Conference and Chairperson Liaoning Law Society, among others.

11. Relations with China People’s Association with Foreign Countries were initiated on November 14th, during a Busoga delegation courtesy call on the Director General of Asia and African Affairs. The delegation was led by H.E Oliver Woneka Uganda’s Ambassador to Beijing and Mr. Mula Anthony Director General BCD.

At the BCD, we appreciate all Busoga Stakeholders and friends who participated in steering BCD’s quest to realize her Vision of ***“a socially and economically empowered Busoga”*** in 2024.

We wish to particularly mention H.E Maj. Rtd. Jessica Alupo Vice President of Uganda and National Patron of the Consortium Program, H.R.H the Kyabazinga of Busoga Dr. William Gabula Nadiope IV, Rt. Hon. Dr. Rebecca Alitwala Kadaga Patron BCD, Rt. Hon. Hajjat Nakadama Rukia Isanga Chairperson of the Busoga Ministerial Committee (MCC) and all MCC member distinguished Ministers, Owek. Dr. Muvawala Joseph Prime Minister Busoga Kingdom and his entire kingdom cabinet, the Governor Emeritus of BCD Mr. Wakaze Simon, the Director General BCD Mr. Mula Anthony, Hon. Daudi Migereko coordinator of Opinion leaders, Dr. Aggrey David Kibenge Chairperson of Busoga Public Officers Forum, Ambassador Agnes Kalibala Chairperson Busoga Education Initiative, Prof, Dr. Waiswa Peter Chairperson Busoga Health Forum, among others for the roles played.

As we close 2024, we remain optimistic about an action-packed 2025 as the implementation of VAM commences in January 2025.

“Busoga Okwisannia.. na’ amaani”



Mula Anthony
DIRECTOR GENERAL, BCD