



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

# **STATE OF AFFAIRS OF NEBBI DISTRICT FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2014/15**

DELIVERED AT THE MEETING OF THE SESSION OF NEBBI  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

ON

TUESDAY 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH, 2015

BY

HONOURABLE OKUMU ROBERT,  
DISTRICT CHAIRPERSON  
NEBBI DISTRICT LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Hon. Speaker
- Hon. Members of Parliament
- Hon. Members of the District Executive Committee
- Hon. Members of the District Council
- The Resident District Commissioner
- Members of Boards and Commissions
- The Chief Administrative Officer
- Heads of Departments
- LCIII Chairpersons
- Sub county Chiefs
- Religious and Cultural Leaders
- Development Partners/NGOs
- Ladies and Gentlemen

**Preamble:**

Madam Speaker as per the provision of the Local Government Act, CAP 243 Section 14 (5) the District Chairperson is required every year to make a report to the council on the state of affairs in the district. Upon this background it is therefore my honor and pleasure to make a report to this Council sitting today 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015.

Madam Speaker, before I proceed to present the report, permit me to thank the Almighty God for the good health and having kept us alive. I would like to commend the entire Council – political and technical for the enormous contributions made in your various capacities and the cooperation exhibited in the Council. Your invaluable efforts and commitments to provide services to our people cannot be over emphasized despite some challenges.

Special appreciation goes to the Central Government for their tremendous support both financial and technical without which the achievements and the current socio-economic, political and stability would not have been possible. I also commend the Non Governmental Organizations and Civil Society Organizations in our district for their support for which as a council we would have not been able to bridge the gaps that they have ably done to improve service delivery. The religious and cultural institutions have also been quite handy and their contributions cannot go without mention.

Madam Speaker, my presentation shall highlight salient sector specific issues, key achievements in line with the Vision, Mission and Goals of the National and District Development Plans, the NRM Manifesto, challenges and recommendations to further improve service delivery in the District.

Madam Speaker, for us to attain the vision of the district of “***A transformed community of Nebbi from a peasant to a modern and prosperous District within 40 years***” our focus has been and shall continue to be on the following sectors;

- Health

- Production and Marketing
- Education
- Road and technical services
- Water
- Natural resources
- Community services

Madam Speaker, these are sectors that are critical in the transformation of socio-economic and wellbeing of our population.

Madam Speaker, Nebbi district at the moment has a total population of 385,220 according to the provisional results of the recently concluded National Population and Housing Census 2014. The results further indicates that Nebbi currently has 184,507 male and 200,713 female implying that 48% of our population are male while 52% are female. 57,335 of our population are living in urban areas while 327,885 are living in the rural areas. The District has 382,712 households while 2,508 of our people are non household.

Madam Speaker, the increase in the population and the demographic characteristics has an implication on the resources, the nature and quality of service that we render to our people yet we are aware that our population growth is not commensurate with the increment in our resources.

This is a big challenge to this Council as we are supposed to mobilize resources to provide services that meet the demands of the people. From the aforementioned, it is therefore incumbent upon this Council to design appropriate

strategies to realize additional resources for adequate, efficient and effective service delivery.

## **Finance**

Madam Speaker, from the financial year 2011/12 to 2014/15 our financial position has steadily increased from 19 billion shillings in 2011/12 to shillings 30.6 billion in the current financial year 2014/15 across all funding sources.

Madam Speaker, although the growth in funding seems to be steady over the years, I must however emphasize that the increment is not commensurate with the demands of the population we serve.

Madam Speaker, out of the 30.6 billion for this current financial year, 17 billion (55.6%) is being spent on wages while 8.8 billion is financing non wage recurrent expenditures and only 4.7 billion is going for capital development across all sectors. Madam Speaker I must inform you that the district has already received 60% of this year's budget which has been allocated across different sectors, which I will highlight later.

## **Administration**

Madam Speaker, in terms of Administration and Governance, I must say that the Council is fully operational although Electoral Commission has not been able to replace one of our members, Hon. Lafony Tingo Bonifance a Councilor who was representing Panyango Sub County who passed on during this present Council.

Madam Speaker this has continued to be the same case with the Lower Local Governments of Alwi and Panyango Sub Counties which had the same fate with

their Chairpersons. At this point allow me commend the two current cater taking Chairpersons for their leadership that has provided political direction for the two sub counties.

Madam Speaker, as for the technical staff, the district has a staffing establishment of 2,815 approved posts and currently 2,301 have been filled giving us a staffing level of 81.7% with a staffing gap of 19.3% to be filled. I am hopeful that this gap will reduce further with current ongoing recruitment exercise. The district is in the process of recruiting three Sub County Chiefs, 23 Parish Chiefs, teachers and health workers. I am optimistic that this will go a long way in improving service delivery.

Madam Speaker, I am also happy to inform you that these staff are currently being paid locally by the district after the decentralization of the salary payment by the centre. This will also soon apply to the payment of pension and gratuity as the central government is currently in the process of decentralizing the payments. The Ministry of Public Service has availed shillings 873 million for pensions and gratuity for those who will retire this current financial year. This will be a big relief to our pensioners who will no longer have to follow their payments in Kampala.

### **Northern Uganda Social Action Fund (NUSAF 2)**

Madam Speaker, it is important to note that NUSAF 2 Project is phasing out in August 2015 and the successor Project will immediately be launched before the closure of the calendar year 2015. Since the inception in April 2010 to-date, the district has received a total of 5.85 billion to finance 184 Sub projects out of which only a total disbursement of 70 million has not been transferred to the 4 newly funded Subprojects.

Madam Speaker, NUSAF 2 has been able to finance the construction 27 Subprojects worth 2.159 billion comprising 11 Classroom blocks, 14 Semi-detached teachers' houses and two 5 stance VIP latrines. Under the Health Sector 24 Subprojects worth 1.991 billion (34%) comprising one OPD with delivery, one 5-Stanch VIP Latrine and 22 staff houses were funded.

In the water Sector, a total of 526 million (9%) has been spent to construct 23 Boreholes.

Madam Speaker, these inventions have greatly contributed to the improvement of staff housing, stance and desk ratio among others that I will highlight later in my report. However our challenge has been mainly in the area household income support programme where there are cases of high death rates for livestock and lack of ownership and sustainability by some beneficiaries.

### **Health Sector**

Madam Speaker under the health sector, Nebbi district currently has 40 health facilities both government and Private Not For Profit (PNFPs) facilities with two (2) Hospitals of Nebbi and Angal Hospital, one (1) HCIV of Pakwach, 17 HCIIIs and 20 HCIIIs.

These facilities currently offer a range of services varying across levels. The services offered include but not limited to general outpatient services, inpatient admissions, immunization, nutrition therapy for both in and outpatients, health education, outreaches for immunization, family planning, antenatal services, deliveries, post natal services, HIV counselling and testing. Others services offered are ante-retroviral therapy, prevention of mother to child transmission,

early infant diagnosis, laboratory services for diagnosis of TB, Malaria, worms, X ray and Ultrasound, Theatre Services, Eye Care, Dental Care, Orthopedic Care, Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy.

Madam Speaker, there are exceptional cases of only two HCIIIs offering antenatal services. These are Pacego HC II and now Dei HC II where we have midwives.

At the village level with the support of the Village Health Teams (VHTs) we do nutrition assessment and referral to health units. They also conduct community sensitization on sanitation and hygiene, malaria, family planning and linkages to health units as well as antenatal and linkages to health units.

Madam Speaker, I am happy to inform you that our key health performance indicators have improved in comparison to the previous year. The midterm performance already indicates that some indicators are slightly close or already over and above the ones of last year. Outpatient coverage currently stands at 1.2 compared to the one of last year which was at 1.3 while deliveries stand at 65% which is close to the one of last year which was at 66.4%. Pentavalent vaccine coverage is already at the same level like the one of last year which was at 98% while intermittent prophylactic therapy 2 (IPT2) is above the last one by 1% as the current indicator stands at 65%. Fourth antenatal attendance is at 49% compared to the previous one which was at 40%.

In term of infrastructural development, I am grateful that the completion of Abongo maternity ward, Panyingoro staff house among others is completed. Special appreciation goes to the Ministry of Health for the multibillion constructions and rehabilitation at Nebbi District Referral Hospital. The 9 billion

project will create provision for new Causality Ward and Out Patient Department. Other components will include the new ward extension, construction of attendance laundry and kitchen, a generator house as well as medical waste and placenta pit.

The project will also cater for the refurbishment of four wards; the male and female ward, isolation and pediatric ward. Under electrical works, there will be provision of a new transformer, generator and power bank. The project will also take care of rehabilitation of two staff houses and installation of fridges in the mortuary. There will also be provision of water pump for provision of water which has always been a great challenge in the hospital.

Madam Speaker in order to improve access and decongest some facilities, plan is under way to upgrade four HCIIIs to HCIII status. These include Dei, Abongo, Oweko and Kikobe HCIIIs. There is also plan to upgrade Erussi HCIII to HCIV. For purposes of decongesting Nebbi hospital, we propose to construct two HCIIIs in Abindu and Thatha.

Madam Speaker, our major challenges in the health sector however still continues to remain the issues of inadequate human resource, infrastructures and funding at all levels. There has also been the problem of persistent lack of ownership and support to some staff and facilities by the communities.

In view of the above, Madam Speaker I propose that council should through appropriate forum continue to lobby for increased wage bill and allocation for staff recruitment and infrastructural development to cater for staff accommodation as

well as decongestion of the facilities. I also urge stakeholders to adopt multi-sectoral approach to health so that the health sector is left to play a bigger role in disease management.

### **Production and Marketing**

Madam Speaker in the Production and Marketing sector, in regards to food security situation I would like to inform the house that the yields of second season crops 2014 (July to December 2014) have been good due to adequate rainfall received in most areas. However, there has been extended dry spells from December 2014 to March 2015 and this has affected food supplies to markets which have been reducing gradually from January to March 2015. Both market prices and demand of all food stuff have increased. The extended dry spells have delayed land opening and hence the first season planting shall be done late for most crops. Overall, the food security situation is still fair.

### **Agriculture**

Madam Speaker for Agriculture, farmers took advantage of the heavy rainfall experienced between July to December 2014 and increased acreages of crops and bumper yields were experienced in Cassava, Rice, Beans, Simsim, and Groundnuts etc. However from January to March 2015 there have been no plantings due to the dry spells.

The district effectively controlled Banana Bacteria Wilt disease in Erussi, Ndhew and Nebbi Sub counties with support from MAAIF and is currently registering and training farmers for tea production in the same three Sub counties. A total of 400

farmers are targeted to plant one (1) acre each during this first rain season (April and May 2015).

The District also participated in the National Coffee Shows competitions that was held in Erussi Sub County and emerged the second best district in the Country only after Kiruhura district. We have also been able to construct a market shed with 34 stalls in Alwi auction market, Alwi Sub County. With funding support from Production and Marketing Grant (PMG) the district has constructed a mini laboratory at the District Headquarter.

Madam Speaker our major challenges experienced during the current financial year include the continued flooding and water logging in some parts of the district especially areas of Alwi, Pakwach Sub county, Panyimur, Nebbi Town Council and Wadelai. There has also been the problem of prolonged dry spell and disease outbreak such as Cassava Brown Streak Disease (CBSD), Fruit Flies on Mangoes, Cassava Mosaic disease and Mites, Orange dogs on citrus and Striga on Cereals.

### **Livestock**

Madam Speaker, in response to increased incidence of dog bite cases and New castle disease (NCD) outbreaks in the district vaccination of dogs and cats against rabies; and poultry against New castle disease (NCD) were done. A total of 3,719 dogs and cats and 10,531 poultry were vaccinated during the period. In addition one cattle market was constructed in Acwera parish, Kucwiny Sub County, and I hereby direct Kucwiny Sub county authority to ensure that the

marketing activities take off immediately. We also built one cattle crush in Nebbi Town Council.

Under the Restocking programme, this financial year 2014/2015 we have distributed 567 Zebu heads of cattle all Short horn to 567 beneficiaries in all the 81 parishes in the district with each per parish getting seven (7) heifers. This brings the cumulative number of beneficiaries to 1,110 for the last two financial years. The challenge has however been the failure by some farmers to look after the animals. I request farmers to take good care of the animals so that they can benefit from this important government intervention of poverty alleviation.

Other challenges however continue to remain the outbreak of Black quarter disease in cattle, New Castle Disease (NCD) in poultry, Gumboro Disease and Fowl Pox in Poultry and increased incidence of dog bites.

### **Fishing**

For fishing, efforts have been focused on formation and strengthening of Beach management units along landing sites so that they contribute to co management of fisheries resources for sustainable utilization. This is expected to reduce the rate of declining fish catch being experienced in L. Albert and R. Albert Nile from 7,600 tons in 2012 to 6,780 tons in 2014. This has majorly been due to use of illegal gears and methods, capturing immature Nile perch and Tilapia, loss and thefts of fishing gears and strong winds among others.

Madam Speaker, major intervention in this area has been the construction of one demonstration fish cage in Panyango Sub County and the harvest has so far been good. The fish cages are currently two in the district. The district is also

supporting six (6) individuals farmers with fish ponds as total number of ponds currently stands at 16.

### **Commercial Services**

With funding from (District Commercial Services Support) DICOSS project the district was able to organize Trade and investment promotion workshop to create awareness on trade related policies to district councilors, civil society organizations and the private sector.

Currently the district is in the process of profiling the investment and tourism potentials to market the district nationally and globally.

Madam Speaker, Nebbi district has succeeded in mobilizing and registering 18 SACCOS but operating at different capacities. From record in aggregate these SACCOs had mobilized savings up to 1.8 billion by 2014 with loan portfolio standing at 2.8 billion. However some of these SACCOs notably Panyimur and Pakwach Nam are currently experiencing acute liquidity challenges occasioned by poor liquidity management and cost over runs on the part of the SACCO management. Efforts and measures to enforce accountability on the part of management of the affected SACCOs are being enforced.

Madam Speaker, Local Economic Development (LED) has become a critical assessment area; and Nebbi district local government through the district commercial office has identified three critical areas presenting challenges to LED efforts. These challenges are lack of or little entrepreneurship and innovation skills, lack of friendly venture capital, and subsistence and informal mode of production.

Strategies have been designed and are being implemented. These include entrepreneurship and business skills development trainings being undertaken with support from DICOSS. There has also been establishment of Nebbi Workers SACCO envisaged to accumulate cash/savings reserves that can be ploughed and invested to support forward and backward investments in our local economy.

The ultimate outcome of these economic endeavors are envisaged to result into expansion of our local economy with its attendant multiplier effects of increased employment opportunities, increased consumption power and increased business transaction velocities, and ultimately, increased contribution to our local revenue base and improved service delivery capacities of the local government to our people.

### **Operation Wealth Creation (formerly NAADS)**

Since July 2014, the National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS) underwent a national reform that gave birth to Operation wealth creation; and as a result the district has received two UPDF Officers in the names of Maj. Cypriano Odong and Lt. Col Kermundu Othum as new Constituency/county NAADS coordinators for Padyere and Jonam respectively. They will work together with the staff in Production department to implement the new NAADS programme known as operation wealth creation.

So far agricultural technology needs of farmers have been collected, synthesized and submitted to the centre; and we have received 2.65 tons of Maize seeds for distribution to farmers as food security crops. More inputs are expected in the

district any time. I therefore advise farmers to open their land in preparation for the first season crops.

Madam Speaker, our challenge in this area however remains the non recruitment of extension workers leaving virtually most sub counties without Agricultural Extension Officers. However, government has assured us that recruitment of Agricultural Extension Officers will be undertaken soon.

### **DAR 3**

Madam Speaker, I would like to inform the house that the district has also received another project known as DAR3. DAR3 is the third phase of the Recovery and Development in Northern Uganda Component financed by DANIDA. Its objective is to increase resilience and create equitable participation of Northern Uganda in the economic development of the country. It has three strategic interventions of Agricultural Production and Marketing, Rural Infrastructure and District Local Government Capacity Building. This project shall run for 3 years (2015 to 2018).

- a) For Agricultural Production and Marketing,
  - Implementation started on 01/01/2015
  - Strategic Crops of focus are Sesame, Beans and Rice,
  - Support shall be provided to 390 beneficiary farmer groups (195 farmer groups are already being selected in 2015 and 195 shall be selected in 2016),
  - Support to farmer groups shall be in the form of formulation of business plan for the strategic crops, training in good agricultural

practices, animal traction, collective procurement of inputs, collective marketing and VSLA),

- Implementing partner is AFARD
- 15 motorcycles have already been procured and 15 Staffs recruited and deployed in all rural sub counties and selection of farmer groups is ongoing.

b) For Rural Infrastructure,

- Agricultural related infrastructure such as community access roads and market places will be renovated/constructed using a labor based approach.
- Projects will be selected from parish and Sub county development plans and prioritized by the local district authorities,
- Implementation starts on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015 with investment planning,
- There is an Investment budget of 3.013 billion,
- The project shall also provide work for local population – 319,000 work days,
- Implementing partner is the Danish Refugee Council and the Field Office will be in Nebbi

c) District Local Government Capacity building

- Capacity building for the local government shall be provided in the areas of Agriculture and Infrastructure

Madam Speaker, I am therefore calling upon the leaders to mobilize the communities to benefit from this intervention.

## **Education**

In the Education sector, the district currently has 153 Government aided schools, 13 non formal education centres and 27 private/community schools giving a total of 193 primary schools. There are 25 Secondary schools and five (5) units for

special needs education centres across the district. 43 schools are for early child development with an enrolment of 2589. The district also has five (5) Business Technical Vocational Education Training institutions (BTVET) and one (1) tertiary institution which is UCC Pakwach.

Madam Speaker for the primary sector, the number of permanent classrooms has continued to increase from 1,235 in 2010 to 1,455 in 2014, hence improvement in classroom ratio of 88:1 in 2009 to 76:1 in 2014.

Madman Speaker, this sounds to be a tremendous achievement but however we continue to lag below the national standards although on the right track. Teacher ratio has reduced from 69: 1 in 2009 to 66:1 in 2014 yet enrolment has continued to increase from 104,000 pupils in 2009 to 111,545 pupils in 2014.

Madam Speaker desk ratio has also improved from 8:1 in 2010/11 to 6:1 in 2014/15 while staff house ratio has improve from 15:1 to 8:1 over the same period.

Madam Speaker, a total of 4412 candidates sat for 2014 Primary Leaving Examinations and the district registered 101 first grades representing 2.2% with a pass rate of 91%. Out of the 101 first grades, 77 were boys while 24 were girls. The best performing schools were Classic, Nebbi, Pajobi, Omach and Ayara primary schools.

Madam Speaker, the worst performing schools were Paten, Alwala, Adeira, Pawong, Jupala Aor and Ramongi primary schools.

### **Scholarship Opportunity**

Madam Speaker, under the District Quota admission to public universities, nine (9) students from our district have been able to benefit from this scheme. We also currently have 13 students benefiting from Kampala International University Bursary Scheme. Total E&P is currently sponsoring five students in “A” level and I am happy to inform you that 15 students have benefited since the inception in 2013. BRAC has so far sponsored 50 students over the last three (3) years.

Other institutions offering bursaries in partnership with district are Mountain of the Moon University through Alur Kingdom and Mutesa II Royal Institute.

### **University Centres**

Madam Speaker, during the our term in office two university study centres have also been established in the district and these are Uganda Christian University at NECOSOC and Mountain of the Moon located at Nebbi town ss. Madam Speaker, so far 75 teachers are undertaking there study at the University of Mountain of the Moon.

### **Development interventions**

Madam Speaker in the current financial year, the Education sector has undertaken and is continuing to undertake the following development interventions; construction of classrooms, latrines and supply of desks. The interventions include but not limited to supply of 47 - 3 – seater Desks to Nyariegi

Primary school, 31 - 3 – seater Desks to Ayugi Primary school. The department is also undertaking the construction of 2 Classrooms Block at Ayugi Primary schools, 4 stances Latrine at Cikithi, Lee, Paroketo, Angal Ayila Primary schools. They will also supply of 38 - 3 – seater Desks to Abongo P/s. The department also organized a cross country with objective to foster peace, unity and elimination of violence among our communities. I am honored to have participated in the event as the chief runner.

### **Challenges**

Madam Speaker, however our major challenge under this sector continues to remain the issue of staff houses and scholastic materials. The permanent staff house ratio currently stands at 8:1 while text book ratio has worsened to 4:1 in 2014 compared to 3:1 in 2006.

Madam Speaker, the District has also persistently exhibited low performance in the Primary Leaving Examinations (P.L.E) due to late coming and absenteeism by teachers as many teachers continue to operate from long distances because of lack of housing facilities within some school premises. This coupled with inadequate district supervision due lack of reliable transport means at the district headquarters has subsequently led to low syllabus coverage in most below 50%.

There has also continued to be the challenge of inadequate assessment of learners due high cost of printing of the district examinations.

The district has also continued to witness disaster in schools and cases in point are Akanyo, Abongo, Omaki Memorial, Kitawe and Nyakagei. This calls for

provision of emergency funding in the district budget which for the moment we are unable to do because of the limited funding.

Madam Speaker, in the above view, I recommend for multi stakeholder partnership in the fight to improve education. There should be mass sensitization of parents to support their children as the Council focuses on improvement of the learning facilities in the schools as well as empowering the Education Sector with transport for adequate and effective supervision. I also urge school managements to plant more trees to act as wind breakers to minimize disaster in schools.

### **Works and Technical Services**

Madam Speaker, Nebbi district currently maintains a total road network of 888.7 km under routine and periodic maintenance. A total of 370.5 Km is District Roads, 108 Km is urban (Town Council – Pakwach and Nebbi) roads while 410.2 Km is Community Access Roads (CAR) under the 13 sub counties.

In the current financial year under routine road maintenance, the district has worked on the following roads;

Under routine maintenance of road the districts engaged the manual road workers (Pida) on the following roads in Jonam County; Wadelai - Kucwiny - Agwok, Parombo - Alwi - Panyango, Panyimur – Malara – Parombo, Nyakagei – Dei, Pateng – Pajau – Akella, Alego – Boro, Pajau – Theraling, Fualwonga – Lobodegi and Emin Pasha – Mutir.

Madam Speaker, in Padyere county the following roads were worked on; Nebbi – Goli via Kei, Ayilla – Erussi via Pacero, Nyaravur – Parombo, Got Landi – Odangala, Akaba- Awaradi, Agwok – Kucwiny – Wadelai, Akanya – Kibira, Kibira- Azingu via Omyer, Raguka – Penji Oryang, Ossi – Padel centre – Pangere, Akaba – Paceru – Paminya, Kucwiny – Orango, Athelle – Abongo – Anywanda, Kasatu – Murusi – Munduriema, Angal Trading centre – Ambere and Parombo – Panyimur – via Malara.

Madam Speaker, the district also carried out mechanized road maintenance (using machines) on the following roads; Nyaravur – Parombo, Offaka – Zombo Border, Omier – Kalwang, Kucwiny – Orango. Spot improvement of Ayila Oweko Erussi Road at Oweko Trading Centre was also done. Overall I say that the road condition in the district is fair and motor able.

Madam Speaker, the district has also constructed a vented drift at Awach River along Akaba - Paminya Road and also intends to construct another at Vurr - Udiek along Pateng – Akella road before the closure of the financial year.

Madam Speaker with support from BADEA project, bridge construction is currently being undertaken at Nyachara and Pakwala in Nebbi Town Council. Another construction is being undertaken at Goli Custom Bridge in Nebbi Sub County. With support from Uganda Road Fund, Uganda National Road Authority is currently undertaking construction of Chidu Bridge on Goli - Erussi road and Awach Bridge.

Madam Speaker, it's also my honor to inform you that Uganda National Road Authority has contracted a firm to maintain the road from Panyimur – Akworo – Parombo – Erussi – Goli for a period of three years. I am therefore optimistic that this will greatly improve on the road and communication network in our district.

Madam Speaker, our major challenge in this sector continues to be the cultivation by communities closer to the road reserve that limit the extent to which drainage channel such as offshoots can be constructed.

Most of the bridges also require repair works on them; others need total replacement as the widths do not favor heavy (large) vehicles. Bridge construction that requires considerable capital investment that cannot be taken from road maintenance funds, have not been attracting funding. However bridges that require funding of less than 30 million will be considered for construction under DAR3.

Madam Speaker, in view of the above, I propose that the District should prioritize road maintenance and formulate policies to guide communities from encroaching on the road reserves to allow for proper drainage.

## **Water**

Madam Speaker, access to safe water in Nebbi District is currently at 74% while functionality and equity is at 70%. The District registered a drop in access to safe water from 76% to 74% and functionality dropped from 74% to 70% by June 2014. The drop in access to safe water is attributed to the increase in population

(Nebbi popn: 385,220; census 2014) viz avis the constant budget despite the increasing cost of material for construction works.

This implies that more people are using the old water sources since less water points are being developed every year. In addition drilling dry wells have also made it impossible to achieve the planned access to safe water point of 77% by 2015.

Madam Speaker, access to safe water in Alwi and wadelai is the lowest in the District and this is because both sub counties lie in the dry corridor of West Nile. Various attempts have been made to drill wells in these two sub counties with very low success rate, but with Alwi dry corridor projects functional by 2016, the situation will be averted if the local population embrace the scheme. The ideal situation that the district hopes to achieve by 2020 is 100% access to safe water by its population.

The drilling of 15 boreholes in various parts of the district this financial year has already commenced. The district is also currently undertaking the rehabilitation of 31 water points. The piped water supply system constructed by Water Mission in Dei, Kaligonzi, Kayonga and Jakok is currently functional. National water and Sewerage Corporation has also extended its water lines to Goli, Omyer and Koch. The water scheme in Erussi is being rehabilitated by Water and Sanitation Facility North based in Lira town.

### **Nyarwodho Gravity Flow Scheme (Alwi Dry Corridor).**

The construction works on Nyarwodho gravity flow scheme is ongoing amidst challenges. At the treatment site, construction of chemical dosing house is complete awaiting painting; partial flume and flocculator construction is completed. In addition, finishing to servant quarters and laboratory at the site are being executed. At the intake, construction of gabion boxes, intake chamber and the raw water intake line is completed. Pressure tasting of the intake line is complete and the raw water has reached the treatment plant.

The reservoir tank construction at Oweko in Ndeu Sub County is being fitted while for Got madi in Alwi Sub County and the two in Nyaravur Sub County, only construction of the base is complete. The excavation and installation of the clear water transmission main line has reached Nyaravur Sub County headquarter. The construction of offices at the sub counties of Alwi and Nyaravur sub county headquarters is ongoing. I am also happy to note that fences are also being provided at the sub counties headquarters.

### **Panyimur Rural Growth Centre Water Supply System**

The water supply system was technically commissioned by the Director DWD who officially handed over the system to Panyimur lower local government. Currently the system is being managed by the water board appointed by the sub county authority. An average of 2,500,000 million shillings is being collected per month.

### **Wadelai Rural Growth centre Water supply System.**

The technical commissioning of Wadelai rural growth centre water supply system has been delayed much as the system is practically complete. This is because a

number of snags keep cropping up every time. Currently the major issue the project is faced with is the continuous busting of the pipeline. This could be either as a result of material defects or the pipe used is not designed to withstand the system pressure (water pressure). There is need to subject the pipes used to laboratory tests before commissioning. In addition water has not reached Mutir village yet households in Mutir was connected to the line.

### **Andibo Valley Dam Construction**

The construction of the Andibo dam is currently ongoing and the foundation stone was laid by His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Uganda on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2015. Site clearance, earthworks and construction of the foundation of the retaining wall for the dam is currently ongoing.

### **Environment and Natural Resources.**

Madam Speaker, in an effort to protect and safeguard our ecosystem, the Council has continued with the establishment of wood lots in Akaba and Pakech primary schools. Others have been established for farmers in Koch, Kalowang, Pacego and Pacaka.

With the support from Central Government through the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development the extension of the grid from Nyagak to most of the urban/growing centres across the district is ongoing. I am optimistic that this will not only help us in conserving the environment if the communities embrace the scheme but will also help in Local Economic Development.

Madam speaker, I urge our leader to sensitize our communities to position themselves to tap the opportunities that will come with availability of power to boost their income.

Madam Speaker the district also currently has three energy service providers per Sub County. These were trained with support from GIZ to construct energy saving stoves for commercial purposes. All government aided boarding schools have over the years been provided with institution energy saving stoves with funding from Natural Resource Department. These are Angal SS, Angal Girls PS, Parombo, Erussi, Uringi, Nebbi Town SS, Pakwach and Panyango SS. Pakwach UCC and Angal SS were also supported by GIZ.

Madam Speaker, in an effort to improve power supply in government facilities, this financial year the district is installing solar system in seven (7) health centres, two (2) Sub County headquarters and one (1) school. The facilities are Kalowang HC III, Koch HC II, Ossi HC II, Dei HC II, Pokwero HC III, Paki HC II and Wadelai HC III. Others are Atego, Ndhew Sub County Headquarters and Erussi Primary School,

Madam Speaker, as a measure to protect and safeguard public properties, the Council registered and acquired land title for Council establishments and investments. These investments and plots include Padyere county HQs at Agwok, Nebbi Community Social Centre (NECOSOC), District Water Offices and the District HQs.

Others premises are Works' yard, EARS staff quarters, Chairman LCV residence and adjacent plot earmarked for CAO's residence.

As a district, we are however still faced with the problem of bush burning, tree cutting without re-planting, stray animals and effects of climate change.

Madam Speaker, it's my humble appeal that as Council we need to refocus on environment and I call upon on the communities and everyone to plant tree to avert climate change.

### **Community Services**

Madam Speaker under Community Based Services; the district is currently implementing a range of interventions targeting the vulnerable and special interest groups such as the elderly, women, children and youth. These interventions are being supported through a number of funding sources such LGMSDP, Social Assistant Grant for Empowerment and of recent Youth Livelihood Programme (YLP) among others.

### **Community Driven Development (CDD)**

Madam Speaker, in regards to Community Driven Development, a total of 54 projects have been funded to a tune of shillings 190 million in the last three financial years. This financial year, a total of ten (10) projects worth 47 million have been funded under this intervention. This has been able to benefit 240 people across the counties of Padyere and Jonam. Seven of the projects are located in Padyere while three are in Jonam County. The funded Projects range from apiary, hair-dressing, fruit tree farming, purchase of utensils for hire,

mushroom growing, events and functions management, computer accessories and animal traction.

It is therefore my appeal to the leaders at various levels to monitor and support the communities to take good care of the projects to improve their livelihood.

### **Special Disability Grant**

Madam Speaker, the funding for the disabled persons under the Special Disability Grant has been quite stable for the last three financial years as the district has been receiving over 30 million per annum. In the current financial year a total of eight (8) Projects have been funded amounting to 22.4 million across eight (8) Lower Local Governments. Five are located in Jonam County and three are in Padyere County.

Since the inception of the programme in 2009/10 a sum of 152.9 million has been disbursed to support the people with disabilities within our communities. The interventions they are engaged in include but not limited to fishing, produce buying and selling, utensil buying and hire, events and functions management, boda boda/motorcycle hire and grinding mill among others.

### **Youth Livelihood Grant**

Nebbi district is currently one of the 27 pilot districts that youth livelihood programme is being implemented in across the country. To date 110 projects have been funded to the tune of 529 million and out of the 110 projects, ten (10) projects were skills development while 100 projects are livelihood support. 70 of the projects are located in Padyere while 40 are in Jonam County.

Madam Speaker, youth livelihood programme is a revolving fund scheme that the beneficiaries have to repay back and I am happy to inform you that Shs. 7.6 million has been repaid and transferred to Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development. In comparison to the other 26 benefiting districts, Nebbi is number six with a recovery rate of 1%.

### **Elderly and Social Rehabilitation**

SAGE Programme is currently being implemented in all the 15 Lower Local Governments with a total enrolment of 12,953 benefiting from the Senior Citizens Grant and Vulnerable Family Support Grant. The Senior Citizen Grant is currently in nine (9) Lower Local Governments while six (6) lower local governments are benefiting from Vulnerable Family Support Grant.

Madam Speaker, in the current financial year a sum of shillings 1.804 billion has been paid to the different beneficiaries while additional 6,345 beneficiaries have been enrolled awaiting payment. This implies that the total number of beneficiaries will scale up to 19,298. For the last three financial years that SAGE was launched in Nebbi, a sum of 10.183 billion has been paid to the beneficiaries and I am grateful that this has empowered especially elderly and I ask our leaders to continue to sensitize the beneficiaries to put the money into good use.

Madam Speaker, however our challenge in this sector still remains the issue of high demand from the communities amidst the limited resources. There is also the problem of lack sustainability of the projects coupled with negative attitude which a case in point of youth livelihood programme has affected the repayments by the beneficiaries. I call on the granters to ensure that transparency and accountability is enforced by their group leaders.

Last but not least, Madam Speaker I would like in a special way to extend my appreciation to the following organizations and institutions;

Nebbi District NGO Forum, Action Aid, AFARD, CARITAS, CEFORD, Red Cross, APEF, SNV, Balyor, SCHIPHA, PACE and BRAC. Others are Nebbi District Forum, Role Model, Nebbi Church of Uganda, Total E&P, Kampala International University and Mountain of the Moon among others. Further appreciation goes to Stanbic, Centenary banks as well as the media to mention but a few.

Madam Speaker, these organizations have been pivotal in the development of our district. They have been able to provide services in the district in a number of areas such as governance and leaderships, education, health, production among others. Some of these organizations have been very key in extending a helping hand; financial and physical support to district interventions, for that I am grateful.

### **Conclusion**

Madam Speaker, in conclusion I would like to reiterate that the budget for the financial year 2015/16 that will be read will focus on addressing the gaps that I have highlighted. It is my humble appeal that all efforts by the council and development partners in the district should be aligned to the interventions aimed addressing these gaps for improved service delivery as well as the well being of our population.

I pledge total commitment and support of my government to improve service delivery in the district.

**THANK YOU FOR LISTENING TO ME.**

**I SAY ALL THESE FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY**

Okumu Robert

**DISTRICT CHAIRPERSON/NEBBI**