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Busiro East is one of the constituencies which attracted a large number of parliamentary aspirants ahead of the 2026 General Elections, with candidates expressing strong interest in representing the area.

Initially, 13 candidates showed interest in the seat. However, the Electoral Commission (EC) nullified the nomination of National Unity Platform (NUP) candidate Mathias Walukagga, citing lack of the required academic qualifications. Walukagga has since appealed to the high court and the country is awaiting the court's ruling on the matter.

If the current status quo remains unchanged, 12 candidates will appear on the ballot paper on January 15, 2026, when residents of Busiro East choose their next Member of Parliament.

Out of the 12, nine candidates appeared on *Bukedde TV's* political talk show, *Akalulu 2026*, where they presented their leadership abilities and outlined their priorities, should they be elected.

Those who featured on the show included Irene Nassolo, Ronald Byenky, Masmoos Kalungi, Fatuma Bangi of the Alliance for National Transformation (ANT), Kalooli Ssenfuma of the People's Front for Freedom (PFF), Fred Kangaave of the Forum for Democratic Change (FDC), Margret Nalubowa of the Uganda People's Congress (UPC), Irene Nassolo of the Ecological Party of Uganda and Lilian Nakate, an independent candidate.

The candidates who did not appear on the show were National Resistance Movement (NRM) flag-bearer Haji Abdu Kiyimba, the incumbent Medard Lubega Ssegona and Emmanuel Magoola, both independent candidates.

#### HEALTH CONCERN DOMINATE DEBATE

A major issue raised by almost all candidates was the lack of a government hospital in the whole of Busiro East. They argued that Wakiso Health Centre IV can no longer adequately serve the constituency's rapidly growing population.

The aspirants agreed on the need to upgrade Wakiso Health Centre IV to a full hospital and also called for the upgrading of Nsangi Health Centre III to either a Health Centre IV or hospital status to improve service delivery.

Irene Nassolo said addressing congestion at Wakiso Health Centre IV and other health

# WHAT BUSIRO EAST ASPIRANTS SHARED DURING HEATED BUKEDDE TV DEBATE



From left: Bangi, Byenky, Nalubowa, Kalungi, Kangaave, Nakate, Ssenfuma, Nassolo and Lutaaya after the show

facilities in the constituency requires both infrastructure development and disease prevention. She acknowledged the need to upgrade health centres, but emphasised the need to keep preventive healthcare as the most effective solution.

"There is a saying that prevention is better than cure. When I am elected to Parliament, I will prioritise sensitisation of the people to adopt preventive measures, such as sleeping under mosquito nets, boiling drinking water and engaging in regular physical exercise, among other activities, to reduce the burden of disease," Nassolo said. She added that she would also advocate for the upgrading of health facilities across the constituency.

Nassolo further pledged to lobby for the construction and improvement of roads in Busiro East, including the Nakawuka road, to ease the movement of people and goods.

#### MODERN AGRICULTURE

Independent candidate Ronald Byenky said poverty remains the biggest challenge facing Busiro East, adding that modern agriculture offers the most sustainable solution.

"I am an agricultural extension worker and have trained many people in modern farming. From experience, I know that modern agriculture can help our people overcome poverty.

When I become an MP, I will

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continue teaching good agricultural practices," Byenky said.

He also pledged to advocate for reduced taxes on agricultural inputs, questioning why Uganda imports basic foodstuffs from Kenya, despite having fertile land. Byenky described himself as a representative who understands the struggles of ordinary citizens, having experienced them firsthand.

#### EXPERIENCE, LAND RIGHTS

Independent candidate Eng. Lilian Nakate, a former Woman Member of Parliament for Luweero district and a former district engineer, said her experience positions her as a strong contender.

She pledged to help the people of Busiro East align with Uganda Vision 2040.

Nakate also highlighted land grabbing as a serious challenge in the constituency, attributing it largely to ignorance.

"The laws protecting landowners

exist, but many people are not aware of them. I will prioritise sensitisation to protect residents from land loss," she said.

Supporting the informal sector FDC flag-bearer, Fred Kangaave pledged to uplift workers in the informal sector, particularly bodaboda riders, saying he understands their challenges as one himself.

"A motorcycle costs about sh5m, but riders end up paying up to sh12m on loan. This is exploitation. I will fight for fair financing, where a rider pays about sh6m even when he gets on loan," Kangaave said.

He also promised to establish a SACCOS for bodaboda riders in Busiro East and continue supporting education through bursaries from primary to university level.

#### SECURITY CONCERN

Independent candidate, Edward Gaakirawo raised concerns about rising criminal incidents, locally known as *bijambiya*, in Busiro East. He proposed increased community security, including deploying trained security personnel at village level and ensuring they are salaried by government.

#### GARBAGE MANAGEMENT

JEMA flag-bearer Masmoos Kalungi cited poor garbage management as a major challenge. He proposed reviving community cleaning initiatives (*Bulungi*

*bwensi*) and sensitising residents to pay affordable fees to private garbage collectors. He also pledged to play a strong oversight role to prevent misuse of public funds.

#### BUDGET ISSUES, TAXATION

ANT's Fatuma Bangi promised to advocate for allocating 15% of the national budget to health, in line with international standards. She said this would enable the upgrading of health facilities in Wakiso district and in the whole country at large.

She also pledged to push for tax holidays for start-up businesses to help them grow and create more jobs for the residents.

#### WATER, JOBS AND REPRESENTATION

Margaret Nalubowa from UPC highlighted the shortage of clean water in some parts of Busiro East, where residents still rely on unsafe wells. She pledged to lobby for piped water systems.

She also promised to address youth and women unemployment by establishing skilling centres to equip them with income-generating skills.

Meanwhile, PFF flag-bearer Ssenfuma pledged to maintain constant consultation with voters, saying many residents complain that elected leaders rarely return to the constituency for consultations.

"I will be a true representative of the people of Busiro East, ensuring their voices are heard on the floor of Parliament," Ssenfuma said.