

# MASAZA CYCLING EXCITES BUSOGA

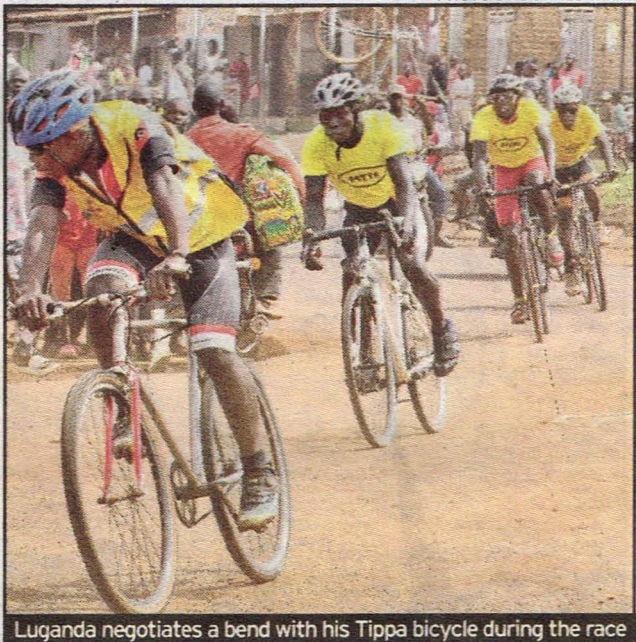
PHOTO BY DONALD KIRYA

By Donald Kirya

Roads across Busoga burst into life as the third edition of the MTN-Busoga Masaza Cycling Championships rolled through Bunha, Bunhole-Bunanhumba, Kigulu and Bukhooli chiefdoms, delivering speed, spectacle and fierce competition ahead of the grand finale this Saturday.

From early morning to late afternoon, cheering crowds lined up trading centres and highways as cyclists battled through demanding routes in the preliminary races, all chasing a coveted place in Saturday's final showdown. The championship has quickly become one of the region's most anticipated sporting events, blending community excitement with elite competition.

In Bukhooli, the races were flagged off at Mutere Trading Centre by Busoga Kingdom Sports Minister Owek. Amin Bbosa, sending riders through a gruelling circuit that snaked through Namayingo, Musongola, Nankoma, Butegwa and Mayuge before returning to Mutere. Competitors raced in two categories – Tippa (Gaali Ensoga) and Mountain Sport Bikes – drawing hundreds of spectators along the route.



Luganda negotiates a bend with his Tippa bicycle during the race

Seasoned campaigner Tiffu Luganda once again stamped his authority in the Tippa category, finishing ahead of Brian Ngodobe and James Friday.

In the Mountain Bike race, Sam Malinzi emerged fastest, followed by Ronald Ogutu and Atanansi Bogere. The top performers earned qualification for the grand finale.

Kigulu Chiefdom also witnessed massive turnouts as Lukumani Kazimungi dominated the Mountain

Bike category, while Ashiraf Magumba topped the Tippa race. Both categories produced six qualifiers who will represent Kigulu in the final race.

Action continued in Bunha where Hussein Kigenyi led the Tippa category, while Shafik Farmer claimed victory in the Mountain Bike race. Bunhole-Bunanhumba produced equally intense contests, with standout riders from both categories booking their places in the finale after closely fought races.