

PDM SCANDAL HITS BUKOMANSIMBI YOUTH

By Lawrence Mulondo

Residents of Bukomansimbi district have raised serious concerns over widespread extortion and corruption among civil servants and local leaders, saying it is frustrating the effective implementation of the Parish Development Model (PDM) programme.

The complaints were made during a Youth Wake-Up mobilisation and accountability rally organised by the Minister of Youth and Children Affairs, Balaam Barugahara, in Bulenge Town Council on Saturday.

Residents accused district technocrats and political leaders of diverting government development funds to relatives and friends, leaving out many intended beneficiaries, particularly the youth.

YOUTH EXCLUSION

Rauben Ntale, a resident of Rwankuba village, said most beneficiaries of Youth Livelihood Programme (YLP) funds in the district were aged 45 years and above. He claimed to have evidence supporting his allegations, and expressed frustration that people who openly oppose the Government were benefiting from its programmes



PHOTO BY LAWRENCE MULONDO

Barugahara (second-left) interacts with residents during the Youth Wake-Up mobilisation and accountability rally in Bulenge Town Council, Bukomansimbi

ahead of loyal supporters.

He called on government to arrest corrupt officials and recover misappropriated funds to restore public trust. Ntale added that district accounting officials often block residents attempting to follow up on government programmes.

FUNDS MISALLOCATION

Residents revealed that some PDM beneficiaries were not residents of the parishes where they were registered. Ntale cited the case of Christine Nampeewo, who reportedly received

PDM funds in Bukomansimbi, despite residing in Sembabule district. When contacted by Barugahara during the meeting, Nampeewo confirmed she was from Sembabule.

Charles Katongole, a resident of Kyalutanga, said a district official, identified only as Kakooza, told him he did not qualify for PDM funds because his national identity card (ID) had no data. He claimed he was later advised to use another person's ID to access the funds, receiving only sh700,000, instead of the full sh1m.

Richard Jumba, another resident,

alleged that he paid sh80,000 to a town council official, Nanyondo, who promised to register him for PDM funds. He said he never received the money.

JOB SHORTAGE

Simon Wasswa Sserugo, the youth chairperson for Bugangazi Town Council, urged government to establish factories in the area to create jobs. He noted that a number of youths have not benefited from the YLP or PDM programmes and feel abandoned by elected leaders.

PROGRAMME FUNDING

Bukomansimbi district community development officer Charles Njuba said the district has received sh708m under YLP since 2013, benefiting 1,231 youths in 112 groups. However, only sh163m has been recovered. Due to poor recovery, the district has received just sh12m under the programme this financial year.

Under PDM, Njuba said the district has received sh12.4b, benefiting 12,055 people across 39 parishes. Meanwhile, 761 women in 78 groups have benefited under the Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme.

Barugahara told residents that government programmes to fight poverty and unemployment are being undermined by corruption and misuse of funds.

He noted that under PDM, government currently sends sh100m per parish annually, with plans to increase the amount to sh500m.

He directed district technocrats to organise regular sensitisation barazas and publicly display lists of beneficiaries.

The minister also instructed police to provide security for residents reporting corruption.