

UBOS moves to boost data-based community planning

By Titus Kakembo

The Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the cultural institutions of Teso and Lango to promote evidence-based planning and community development.

The agreement that was signed at UBOS headquarters in Bugolobi on February 5, 2026, will support joint data production, analysis and use to guide decision-making.

CULTURAL SHIFT

The partnership signals a shift in the role of cultural institutions from being custodians of heritage to contributors in planning, policy dialogue and resource allocation. UBOS' deputy executive director, Vincent Fred Ssenono, urged leaders to embrace statistics.

"Data is the new gold. Reliable statistics are essential



Seated: Chris Mukiza ,ED UBOS (centre) after signing a data-sharing partnership at UBOS' headquarters in Bugolobi in Kampala, on February 5, to promote planning

for effective planning and sustainable development. Without it, decisions are based on assumptions," he said.

The deputy prime minister of Iteso Cultural Union, Steven Okiror, said the partnership comes at a critical time. The largely agricultural region

produces sorghum, millet, cassava, groundnuts, potatoes and rice and rears livestock, but remains vulnerable to droughts and floods. Although education enrolment has improved, dropout rates linked to poverty, early marriage and child labour persist. He said

reliable data will help leaders engage the Government and development partners.

The Lango representative, Francis Ogwang, said the community, concentrated in Lira, Alebtong, Dokolo, Apac, Kole and Oyam, depends mainly on subsistence

MOU BENEFITS

Under the MOU, UBOS will improve access to demographic, social and economic data and train the institutions to interpret and apply statistics in pertinent areas.

farming of cassava, millet, simsim, maize and cotton. Poverty levels remain above the national average despite gradual improvement from better roads, remittances and post-conflict recovery. Literacy has risen, though completion rates remain low, especially beyond secondary school.

Both institutions said the collaboration will help translate community challenges into actionable information. UBOS said the initiative aligns with Uganda's push for data-driven governance linking culture, statistics and development.