



FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY

# **STATE OF MARACHA DISTRICT AFFAIRS ADDRESS**

FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2022/2023

Presented by

**HON. OBITRE STEPHEN**

**The District Chairperson  
Maracha District Local Government**

in  
Council Hall

29<sup>th</sup> September, 2023

## STATE OF MARACHA DISTRICT AFFAIRS ADDRESS PRESENTED IN COUNCIL SITTING ON THE 29<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2023

The Hon. Speaker of Council;  
The Hon. Deputy Speaker;  
Hon. Members of Parliament;  
The Resident District Commissioner;  
Hon. Vice District Chairperson;  
Members of the District Executive Committee;  
Hon. Members of the District Council;  
The Chief Administrative Officer and the Heads of Departments;  
The Members of Boards and Commissions;  
Religious Leaders;  
Sub-County and Town Council Chairpersons;  
Development Partners;  
Distinguished Guests;  
Ladies & Gentlemen.

The Rt. Hon. Speaker, in fulfillment of the Local Government Act, Cap 243, Subsection 13(5) and the Standard Rules of Procedures for Local Government Councils in Uganda, Rule 10, it is my pleasure to deliver the **State of Maracha District Affairs Address** to the District Council of Maracha for the financial year 2022/2023. The report provides an overview of the performance of the sectors in line with the planned activities and highlights the key achievements, challenges and recommendations.

Mr. Speaker, since my last address, we have lost a number of colleagues including:

- i) The late Hon. Droma Morrish Thomson, the Council Member of Yivu sub-county;
- ii) The late Hon. Amute Apollo Eza, the Chairperson LC3 Oleba Town Council;
- iii) The late Hon. Ogbutua Yovani, the Councillor representing Older Persons, Awiziru sub-county;
- iv) The late Hon. Enata Silvio, the Councillor representing Older Persons, Ovujo Town Council;
- v) The late Hon. Obitu Simon, the former LC3 Chairperson for Greater Oluvu Sub-county; and
- vi) Many more others I have not mentioned here.

Mr. Speaker, I request us to stand up and observe a moment of silence in memory of the departed colleagues. May the Almighty God rest their souls in eternal peace.

First and foremost, I would like to express my great gratitude and thanks to the Almighty God for his guidance, protection and successful completion of the Financial Year ended June, 2023.

Mr. Speaker Sir, allow me to bring to your attention, some of our key achievements and challenges faced in the financial year 2022/2023.

### **FINANCE, PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION**

The total receipts of financial resources for FY 2022/2023 was **Ushs: 32,469,436,594** only representing 87% of the planned and approved budget of 37,466,713,684, compared to FY 2021/2022 where we received UShs. 29,203,741,000 only from different sources. The total unspent funds as at 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2023 was UShs. 1,770,490,293 consisting of UShs. 1,022,521,456 in wages and UShs. 747,968,837 in development grants.

Unspent Development fund as at 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2023

S/N	Amount	Source	Remarks
1.	114,309,628	UGIFT	Upgrade of Odupiri HC & Staff house in Liko
2.	557,249,674	UGIFT	Construction of seed school at All Saints SS Oluvu
3.	53,339,527	UGIFT	Construction of seed school at All Saints SS Oluvu
4.	23,070,008	PHC Dev't	Construction of staff house in Amanipi HC

Mr. Speaker, as usual, we relied heavily on central government transfers since our local revenue base has not been adequate. Out of local revenue projections of UShs. 256,000,000, we collected UShs. 220,937,462 (86%). The markets have just started to pick up since COVID-19. However, markets like Malaba, Okokoro and others have never recovered since the COVID-19. Another key contributor to poor revenue performance has been the rampant evening markets that have disabled proper functioning of the tendered markets that operate during the day time. In addition, large markets have now been absorbed by Town councils, which by law do not remit revenues to the district.

As we emerge from the crisis, our efforts should be directed towards increasing revenue mobilization so that the revenue base is widened and actual collection increased.

Mr. Speaker, sir, during the financial year we continued with the external walling works for the Council complex, construction of pavements and internal repairs on tiles and inside the council complex. Due to financial limitations, we could not do much as expected. You remember that part of the funding source was from the 50 million local revenue we solicited from Kakira sugar works. I am confident that when funds become available, we shall complete the Council Complex.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we promoted and recruited new staff whereby most of the vacant positions critical to service delivery were filled. In total 378 staff files were reviewed as below:-

S/No.	DSC Interventions in 2022/2023	Male	Female	Total
1.	Study leave	01	03	04
2.	Transfer of Services	07	06	13
3.	Regularization of appointment	01	01	02
4.	Transfer within service	02	-	02
5.	Dismissal	01	-	01
6.	Abandonment of duty	01	-	01
7.	Lifting of Interdictions	04	01	05
8.	Rescind of appointment	01	-	01
9.	Retention of appointment	02	-	02
10.	Appointment on attainment of high qualification	04	02	06
11.	Confirmation	125	81	206
12.	Promotion	21	07	28
13.	Probation (New employees)	58	49	107
<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>378</b>

We shall continue to fill the existing vacant posts according to availability of wage to improve service delivery. The management of the payroll and pensions has been streamlined, whereby salaries were paid timely and promptly.

During the financial year, we encountered a number of challenges. We had some challenges in attracting candidates for certain critical positions and we continued to lose marks during National assessments. In particular, Departments without substantive Head of Departments (HODs) include Engineering, Water, Natural Resources and Trade and Industry, and Local Economic Development. There were some delays in processing of pensions and terminal benefits due to delays by the beneficiaries to process letters of administration on time. There were also some discrepancies in recruitment, which attracted public attention.

Following the challenges encountered, I would like to recommend the following actions to improve service delivery.

- I urge the beneficiaries to process letters of administration on time.
- Substantive HoDs should be recruited to fill the vacant posts. We needed to attain all the points accrued from departmental heads.

- Critical supervision and appraisal of staff to ensure proper decisions and procedures were taken on recruitment, promotions and sanctions.

## **PRODUCTION AND MARKETING SECTOR**

Mr. Speaker Sir, the production department continued to support government programmes through local sensitization and mindset change, distribution of inputs, technology transfer, coordination and identification of farmers, facilitation of farmer application processes, establishment of demonstration and farmer field schools, administration of matching grants, supporting irrigation developments, and monitoring and supervision.

The following support were key in empowering famers in 2022/2023 financial year:

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- 25,600 herds of cattle vaccinated against black quarter and anthrax
- 8,478 goats and sheep vaccinated against PPR
- 3,388 herds of cattle vaccinated against lumpy skin disease
- 34,131 chickens vaccinated against Newcastle disease
- 123 dogs and 17 cats vaccinated against rabies
- Procured 320 bags of NAROCASS1 and 40 farmers benefitted
- 20 PH Meters were procured for testing soil fertility by extension workers
- 99 KTB hives were procured for 8 farmers
- Procured 20,000 cat fish and 20,000 mirrorcap for 28 fish farmers

## **PARISH DEVELOPMENT MODEL (PDM)**

- In the area of implementation of Parish Development Model (PDM) 1,023 PDM enterprise groups were formed and trained 546 of them.
- 91 PDM SACCOS were formed, trained and registered. All the PDM SACCOs groups were functional.
- The 91 PDM SACCOs have received 9,640,064,512 for the last two financial years, representing 91% of the funds received.
- Shs.7,019,546,672 Parish revolving funds disbursed to 11,288 beneficiary accounts, representing 73% of the funds disbursed.

## **MICRO SCALE IRRIGATION PROGRAMME**

- 3 Micro scale irrigation facilities established. The three irrigation facilities included one in Oluffe subcounty, One in Drambu subcounty and one in Yivu subcounty.

## **Key challenges**

- The 15 PDM SACCOs groups of greater Oluvu subcounty have not received their Parish revolving funds for FY 2021/2022, since the Ministry of Finance did not select the groups for payment.
- Few agricultural extension staffs for effective implementation of PDM.

- Inadequate and old transport equipment (motorcycles) for outreach activities of PDM.

## **WORKS AND TECHNICAL SERVICES**

Mr. Speaker, Maracha District Local Government planned for Routine Manual Maintenance (RMM) of 272.7 Km, Routine Mechanised Maintenance (RMM) of 36.75 Km and Other qualifying works. Under this Sector we also planned to repair Bottlenecks (spot gravelling) on selected road sections and installation of culverts at selected spots in the district.

Mr. Speaker, we are indeed indebted to the Central Government for supporting districts in maintenance and rehabilitation of district roads, urban roads and Community Access Roads. Maracha District received UShs. 593,930,406 (89%) of the funding out of planned figure of UShs. 666,973,814. Mr. Speaker, with the little funds released, we were able to improve some critical road surfaces in the district including Nyadri – Tara; Ombere – Agii; Imve – Amaa; Egamara – Alikua, Ovujo – Oluvu; Urban and community access roads. We also improved conditions of roads through spot gravelling.

We opened road choke project at Alu bridge in Awiziru sub-county on community farm access road. The scope of works included construction of 2-span bridge on Alu Stream, installation of culverts, grading of 4.0 Km Farm Access Road and tree planting along road reserves. However, the project has stalled at foundation level since the contractor abandoned the site.

In the pipeline is the National Oil Seed Project (NOSP) which is at stage of engineering design. Maracha district submitted selected community access roads for rehabilitation including Odrua-Itia-Abara; Ojapi P/S - Aliamu-Olua CoU; Anyivu-Edree-Muniabar; Muniabar-Limica-Loinya P/S; Yoyoa-Egamara P/S; Alikua-Nyoro; and Alikua pyramid-Egamara.

In the course of the FY, we noted some challenges, which should be rectified to enhance effective service delivery. Therefore, I propose close follow up with the Ministry so that all the stalled road choke projects are completed within the required time. There should be close monitoring and Supervision of the planned interventions by both the technical and political staff. Finally, there is need to lobby for adequate funding for bridges and road construction to ensure that we improve the road networks, especially for providing access to services in particular Health Centres, Schools and market centres.

## **WATER AND SANITATION**

The Rt. Hon. Speaker, by statistics, latrine coverage in the district has increased to **89.0%**, safe water coverage at **86.2%** and functionality at **85.6%** as at 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2022. The sector received UShs. 439,312,240 (99.55%) for implementation of activities in the financial year.

The district drilled 4 community boreholes under PAF and 3 of which were successful in the villages of Ambidro B; Ajira; and Madole (Arikia). The boreholes have been commissioned. One dry well was found in Obokoa village in Robu Parish, Awiziru subcounty. We would like to extend our great appreciation to ACAV for the commitment made rehabilitate 25 boreholes and additional 20 boreholes were rehabilitated under PAF, thanks to the government of Uganda. In the same vein, we also appreciate the Ministry of Water and Environment under Water and Sanitation Development Facility North (WSDF-

N) for successful completion of the construction of Okokoro Rural Growth Centre (RGCs) piped water scheme. Under the same project WSDF-N, a public toilet was also constructed at Okokoro Trading Center. In the area of sanitation, one public latrine was constructed at Osidribiku Trading Center under PAF.

However, I wish to encourage all the stakeholders to support safe water delivery to communities by continuous sensitization of communities to change attitude towards ownership and co-funding obligations for operations and maintenance of these water sources. There is need to increasing latrine coverage for declaring Maracha District Open defecation free.

## EDUCATION SECTOR

The sector consists of sub-sectors of Administration, Inspectorate, Sports and Special Needs. The mandate of this sector is to provide education services at all levels in the district.

Maracha district has a total of 114 institutions offering education services, with enrollment of 93, 797 learners, as in the Table below.

**Table: List of Educational Institutions**

S/No	Institution Type	Government	Community	Private
1.	Preprimary	00	07	11
2.	Primary	63	11	06
3.	Secondary	07	02	02
4.	Vocational institutions	00	02	00
5.	Health training institutions	00	00	03
	<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Total number of education institutions in the district: 114</b>				

**Table: Number of Learners**

S/No.	Type of Institutions	%
1.	Preprimary (nursery)	1,435
2.	Primary	86,431

3.	Secondary	4,818
4.	Vocational institutions	276
5.	Health training institutions	834
	<b>Total</b>	<b>93,797</b>

Mr Speaker and Hon Members of the council, during the FY 2022/2023, Maracha District made the following interventions, with the help of partners and education lovers.

- The following capital projects were undertaken.

S/N	Project Name	Location	Contract sum (UGX)	Status
1.	Construction of two classroom block with office at Bura P/S	Maracha Town Council	107,975,753	Completed
2.	Construction of two classroom block with office at Galia P/S	Agaii Town Council	107,963,363	Completed
3.	Construction of three classroom block with office at Ombinyiri P/S	Awiziru Subcounty	140,151,587	Completed
4.	Construction of 5 stance VIP at Odrua P/S	Tara Subcounty	29,870,610	Completed
5.	Construction of 4 stance VIP at Paranga P/S	Paranga Subcounty	22,672,100	Completed
6.	Construction of 4 stance VIP at Retriko primary school	Paranga Subcounty	20,475,400	Completed
7.	Supply of 3-seater infant desks to Egamara P/S, Kakwa P/S, Gbulukua P/S, Galia P/S, Bura P/S	Alikua S/C Kijomoro S/C Oluvu S/C Maracha TC	21,000,000 19,504,000	Supplied
8.	Construction of seed secondary school at All Saints S.S. Oluvu	Agaii Town Council	3,079,411,000	Completed walls

In line with the government policy of establishing at least one government aided secondary School in each Sub-county, the construction under UgIFT at All Saints Secondary Schools, Oluvu started is now at the walling stage.

We have made significant progress in the education sector. There was improvement in teacher pupil ration from 1:98 to 1:72 by recruitment of 98 Education Assistants, 14 Senior Education Assistants, 08 Deputy Headteachers and 02 Headteachers. We have also recruited two staffs, that is, Senior Education officer and Education officer in-



charge of guidance and counselling. The academic performance under Primary Education in PLE has

tremendously improved from 91.6% in 2019, 92.3% in 2020, 93.8% in 2021 to 94.3% in 2022.

We disseminated the Education Ordinance to all the 19 lower local governments. The Education Ordinance which was enacted in 2015 was not implemented due to lack of funding to disseminate the ordinance to the grassroots. The ordinance was disseminated at the district levels but not at the grassroot level. The department of education raised some little funds in the Quarter three of the FY 2022/2023 to facilitate the Executive Committee to disseminate the education ordinance to the communities in all the 19 lower local governments.

The district participated in the athletics was ranged 4<sup>th</sup> best in the country. We continue to support the children to compete favorably in the national games.

Despite these efforts, we continue to register drop in development grant from 450,000,000 to 249,000,000, low enrolment of girl child in upper primary more so in secondary schools, high drop out rate by the pupils, high pupils latrine stance ratio, high pupil to classroom ratio, high pupil teacher ratio and high rate of pregnancy and child marriage in school going age.

We are grateful to the government through the Ministry of Education and Sports for infrastructural development. However, there is need for concerted efforts to change education situation by continuous sensitization of the communities; intensifying advocacy on the roles of parents; implement the Education Ordinance; lobbying for more resources for infrastructural development in both primary schools and secondary schools to decongest the high pupil population; Timely and frequent Monitoring and Supervision of the schools; need to recruit more teachers to reduce on teacher pupil ratio

## HEALTH SECTOR

Mr. Speaker, in bid to ensure good health service delivery, we undertook a number of Health Infrastructure development. Thanks to the Central government, the World Bank and other partners for upgrading Liko HCII to HCIII, Odupiri HCII to HCIII and furnishing and renovation of Curube HCIII and construction of Ekaligo HCIII at Ambidro. Mr. Speaker, below are the detailed development interventions under health.

SNo.	Project Name	Contract Sum	Remarks
1.	Construction of semi-detached staff house with kitchen and shelter at Amanipi H/C II	216,508,817	Ongoing
2.	Construction of semi-detached staff house with kitchen and shelter at Liko H/C II	176,701,017	Ongoing
3.	Construction of an incinerator at Eliofe H/C III	8,254,620	Completed

4.	Construction of placenta pit at Liko H/C II	6,418,940	completed
5.	Procurement of office furniture for Health Dep't, Nyadri S/C and Tara S/C	17,700,000	Completed
6.	Construction of Placenta Pit at Amanipi H/CII	6,265,600	Completed
7.	Furnishing and Renovation Works at Curube H/C III	19,123,650	Completed
8.	Construction of a new H/C III at Ambidro in Kijomoro S/C	854,551,772	Ongoing
9.	Upgrade Odupiri H/C II to H/C III	606,966,721	Ongoing
10.	Upgrade of Liko H/C II to H/C III	625,249,650	Ongoing

However, the health sector is faced with a series of challenges. The percentage (%) staffing levels for Government facilities was 90% under old staffing structure but 33% under the new staffing structure. This means, if all the facilities were functional, there would be gross understaffing in the health sector. We experienced challenges in appraisal of health staffs in the facilities, where only 105 staffs were appraised and 186 staff were not appraised. In addition, there is high level of indiscipline cases and absenteeism.

Malaria still remained the major cause of morbidity and mortality (49%) among all the diseases diagnosed. We thank the government for taking steps in controlling this disease by various strategies such as Indoor Residual Spraying, distribution of treated mosquito nets, and use of test and treat policy. There is need for mass action against Malaria which is a major Health Problem in the district. We shall continue to lobby from the Central Government for increased Health care financing especially in the area of health promotion and disease prevention. We need to form and operationalize District Epidemic and Disaster Preparedness Task Force for response to disease outbreaks and emergencies.

## **NATURAL RESOURCES**

Mr. Speaker, all eligible projects were screened for Environment and Social Safe Guard Compliance and certificates issued for some completed projects. The sector coordinated sensitization trainings on land management and physical planning for Okokoro, Ovujo and Agii Town Councils. We coordinated Physical Development Frameworks for the district through the process of Rapid Physical Planning Appraisal (RaPPA) framework.

Mr. Speaker, it is very unfortunate that this sector continued to be the least funded sector, hence we were unable to implement all the required environmental mitigation measures. The district continued to wrestle with land wrangles, encroachment on forest reserves and wetlands.

We need to take keen interest in the Rural Electrification programme. Some parts of the district with critical institutions and infrastructure have been left out. In this respect, there is need for high level lobbying for rural electrification to spur development in the rural

areas. We need to lobby for more resources from partners. Maracha District needs to formulate an Ordinance on Environmental Protection.

## **COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES**

Under community-based services a number of projects were undertaken. Under Youth Livelihood Programme, a total of 20 projects were generated from Tara, Yivu, Kijomoro, Nyadri, Oluvu, Ajira and Oleba sub-counties totaling to UShs. 171,000,000. The major challenge was that not all groups received project funds; repayments were not done by youth groups as expected; inadequate facilitation for operationalization and coordination of the program and a youth group in Maracha Town Council declined to receive funds.

Areas of improvement include some groups have started complying to Financing Agreements and a moderate IPF for operations has been shared with us.

Under Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Program (UWEP), 4 subprojects were funded from Tara, Oluvu, Nyadri and Oluffe Sub-counties costing UShs. 36,200,000. Since 2016, to 2023, the programme has disbursed UShs. 659,160,050 in communities, but there is still a challenge of overwhelming demand for the project and non-compliance to repayment and financing agreements.

Under Special Enterprise Grant for Older Persons (SEGOP), a total of 3 subprojects were generated from Nyadri South sub-county, Agaii Town Council and Oleba Sub-county at a cost of UShs. 15,000,000. There is overwhelming demand for the project against limited resources (project funds).

Under the National Special Grant (NSG) for persons with disability (PWD), 8 subprojects were raised in the sub-counties of Tara, Ajira, Paranga, MTC, Oluffe, Agaii TC, Okokoro Tc and Yivu, totaling to UShs. 44,839,500. Already there is inadequate budget for the project.

Under Social Assistance Grant for Empowerment (SAGE), 1,093 active beneficiaries were targeted but only 964 (88%) received benefits. Registered beneficiaries were paid in all the four quarters for FY 2022/2023. The major challenge faced included poor timing and location of payment points which were not friendly to some older persons; many eligible beneficiaries were captured as under age on their national IDs, alternative recipients continued to conceal status of DEAD beneficiaries and investigation has shown that some beneficiaries have since DIED but the alternative continues to pick the benefits; some newly targeted beneficiaries could not easily be identified, making it difficult to identify their status on the confirmation register; poor mobilization of beneficiaries in some sub-counties; and poor participation of newly recruited parish chiefs in the program hence the need to train them on their role in SAGE.

## **SECURITY**

I need to echo the misuse of social media for dissemination of wrong and malicious information and for personal attacks. This is a big security risk. Those people who misuse the media are irresponsible and unprofessional. I therefore want to appeal to all my people who needs some information to approach the right persons to access the credible information before posting wrong information on the media.

Another security issue is that the police of Maracha have taken the role of URA to terrorize the people at border points. There has been the bad relation between the Police and the community. The Police needs to improve on their public relations.

## **CONCLUSION**

As I conclude, Mr. Speaker, allow me to stress a few issues and draw your keen attention to the following:-

- The poor local revenue collection due to low revenue base in the district remains a challenge we must confront. As part of the greater effort to improve the local revenue, there is need for more revenue mobilization and effective revenue supervision for better results.
- Critical departments especially, works and technical services, health services and education still lack staff that are needed to effectively and efficiently manage departmental affairs thereby affecting service delivery to the public.
- On issue of non-payment of council arrears in exgratia and allowances, we submitted a formal request with detailed information and made follow ups to the Ministry of Local Government and Ministry of Finance. A supplementary budget provision has been made in the current FY2023/2024. As we wait for funding release in Q2 of this financial year, I wish to appeal to the political leaders to remain calm as the Ministry handles the issue.

Finally, I wish to thank the partners, staff and stakeholders who have enabled us to realize this commendable performance. We recognize the challenges that still stand on our way to delivering the promise of quality service and leadership. I therefore call upon all stakeholder to embrace team work so as to steer the development of the district.

Thank you,  
**For God and my Country.**

**Obitre Stephen**  
**District Chairman**  
**Maracha District Local Government**