1.0 Introduction

This brief was developed from the scorecard report titled, “The Local Government Councils Scorecard FY 2018/19. The Next Big Steps: Consolidating Gains of Decentralisation and Repositioning the Local Government Sector in Uganda.” The brief provides key highlights of the performance of district elected leaders and the council of Kamuli District Local Government (KDLG) during FY 2018/19.

1.1 About the District

Kamuli District Local Government is located in Eastern Uganda and is bordered by Buyende District to the North, Luuka District to the East, Jinja District to the South, and Kayunga District to the West. The district headquarters at Kamuli is approximately 74 kilometers (46 mi), by road, North of Jinja the largest city in the Busoga sub-region. The main economic activities in Kamuli District include; Fishing, Ranching, Farming, Fish farming, Bee keeping, Retail trade and Quarrying. The crops grown include the following; Upland rice, Paddy rice, Matoke, Sweet banana, Maize, Millet, Soybean, Groundnut, Orange, Mango, Potato, Bean, Simsim, Sunflower, Tomato, Onion, Coffee, Cotton and Sugarcane. Livestock kept includes cattle, goats, sheep, and chicken. By 2020, Kamuli's population was projected to be at 558,500; 275,100 males and 283,400 females (UBOS, 2018).

1.2 The Local Government Councils Scorecard Initiative (LGCSI)

The main building blocks in LGCSI are the principles and core responsibilities of Local Governments as set out in Chapter 11 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, the Local Governments Act (CAP 243) under Section 10 (c), (d) and (e). The scorecard comprises of five parameters based on the core responsibilities of the local government Councils, District Chairpersons, Speakers and Individual Councillors. These are classified into five categories: Financial management and oversight; Political functions and representation; Legislation and related functions; Development planning and constituency servicing and Monitoring service delivery. The parameters are broken down into quantitative and qualitative indicators. Separate scorecards are produced for the District Chairperson, Speaker, individual Councillors, and Council as a whole.
The major rationale of the LGCSCL is to induce elected political leaders and representative organs to deliver on their electoral promises, improve public service delivery, ensure accountability and promote good governance through periodic assessments.

1.3 Methodology

The FY 2018/19 LGCSCL assessment used face-to-face structured interviews, civic engagement meetings, documents’ review, key informant interviews, verification visits to service delivery units and photography to collect the relevant data. The assessment was conducted between July to September 2019. A total of 35 elected leaders (33 District Councillors, Chairperson and Speaker) and Council were assessed.

2.0 Results of the Assessment

This section highlights the performance of Council, Chairperson, Speaker and Councillors of Kamuli District Local Government during the FY 2018/19.

2.1 Performance of Kamuli District Council

Kamuli District council has a total of 35 members including the District Chairperson and Speaker of council. The Council scored 55 out of a possible 100 points. With the average scores of 62 for the 35 councils assessed, Kamuli District Council’s performance was above average. From the regional perspective, Kamuli District Council was ranked 6th among the eight (8) districts that were assessed from the Eastern part of the country. Soroti was ranked the best council in the region. Kamuli’s performance on the parameters of planning and budgeting and monitoring service delivery was not impressive; among the councils assessed from Eastern Uganda they ranked 6th for both parameters with scores of 11 out of 20 points and 18 out of 30 points respectively. Performance of Kamuli District Council was affected by irreconcilable differences of the members of the Council which could not allow council to function normally in the execution of its mandate. For instance, the district budget estimates were not tabled in council within the required schedule. Details of the Kamuli District Council Performance are presented in Figure 1 and Tables 1 and 2.

Table 1: Regional performance of Councils assessed in Eastern Uganda

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Source: Local Government Councils Scorecard Assessment FY 2018/19
the previous assessment. With an average score of 72 points for all the district chairpersons assessed, Chairman Kategere’s performance was good. Hon. Kategere’s best performed parameter was on initiation of community development projects where he registered maximum scores; 10 out of 10 points. Under the parameter of political leadership, Chairman’s performance was limited by the low scores for failing to submit evidence of minutes to prove that he chaired at least 10 meetings of the District Executive Committee (DEC), there by scoring 0 out of the 3 possible points. Chairman Kategere did not deliver the State of Kamuli District address as is stipulated in Rule 10 of the Standard Rules of Procedure for Local Government Councils in Uganda, as councillors made it impossible for him to do so. Details of the Chairman’s performance are presented in Figure 2 and Table 3.

Figure 2: Performance of the Kamuli District Chairperson on Key Parameters Relative to National and Regional Average Performances

Source: Local Government Councils Scorecard Assessment FY 2018/19

2.3 Performance of the Speaker of Council

The Speaker of council was Hon. Dennis Lyada who also represents the people of Bugulumbya Sub-county in the district council. He was serving his first term in office. He subscribes to the NRM party. Speaker Lyada scored 50 out of a possible 100 points, a decline from 77 out of 100 points attained in the previous assessment. With an average score of 62 for all the speakers assessed, Speaker Lyada’s performance was average. Even though his office was full-time, Hon. Lyada was still able to perform his roles and duties as a councillor especially on maintaining close contact with his electoral area and monitoring the delivery of public services in Bugulumbya Sub-county; he scored 19 out of 20 points and 25 out of 45 points respectively - the parameter of contact with electorate was his best performed parameter. However, the Speaker’s performance was limited by low scores under the parameters of presiding over council and participating at the Lower Local Government level; his major challenge was poor documentation and record keeping – full sets of minutes of the Business committee and other standing committees of council were not made available during the assessment. This was a clear sign that there was no timely production of minutes as well as a failure on his part to supervise the Clerk to Council. The Speaker’s Office also did not have a records book for motions and petitions addressed to council. Details of the Speaker of Council’s performance are presented in Figure 3 and Table 4.

Figure 3: Speaker of Council’s Performance on Key Parameters Relative to National and Regional Average Performances

Source: Local Government Council Scorecard Assessment FY 2018/19

2.4 Performance of Kamuli District Councillors

Generally, the overall average performance for Kamuli district councillors declined from 61 out of 100 points in the previous assessment to 41 out of 100 points in the year under review. A total of 33 councillors were assessed. Hon. Christine Kaguna Owagage representing the women of Namasagali Sub-county scored 81 out of a possible 100 points and was ranked the best councillor in Kamuli District Council. With an average score of 41 for all the councillors assessed in Kamuli, Hon. Kaguna’s performance was impressive. The best male councillor in the council was Hon. Moses Muwangala who represents the people of Bulopa Sub-county; he scored 76 out of a possible 100 points. His performance was good.

During the year under review, Kamuli District Council had two (2) new councillors joining council representing workers; however, they were not inducted on their roles and duties. This was the very first time for the male councillor for workers to be assessed; he scored 22 out of a possible 100 points. With the average score of 41 his performance was not impressive. The female councillor for workers on the other hand scored 17 points which was also not impressive. Details of Councillors’ performance are presented in Figure 4 and Table 5.
3.0 Critical Factors Affecting Performance

3.1 Key Factors Enabling Good Performance

- Councillors are resident in their Sub-counties: Councillors resided in their respective Sub-counties; which enabled citizens to regularly interact with them and raise issues affecting them, particularly those related to service delivery.

- Good working relationship between the Political and Technical arm of the district - the committee members would leverage on means of transport by the technical officials to take part in the activities of monitoring service delivery.

3.2 Key Factors Affecting Performance

- Irreconcilable differences by the members of the Council: The irreconcilable differences in Kamuli District Council during the year under review led to a sharply divided council pitting the District Chairperson and those said to be his allies on one side and those opposed to his style of leadership on the other. This divide has almost paralysed council business to the extent that the councillors made it impossible for the District Chairperson to deliver the State of Kamuli District in council; the budget estimates were also laid in council behind schedule.

- Poor documentation and record keeping: While some few councillors improved on documentation and record keeping, the challenge of record keeping among members of council persists. During the face to face interview, most councillors admitted not to have any documentation to support their claims of the work done in the financial year under review; some councillors who had monitored service delivery points claimed that they could not locate their monitoring reports that they had prepared. Others alleged that they had submitted their reports to the Office of the District Chairperson. Some councillors presented to the assessment team monitoring reports that were prepared and printed as the assessment was on going and in most cases they were not signed.

- Failure to monitor the delivery of public services: Findings revealed that few councillors had monitored the delivery of public services in their respective Sub-counties. This means that issues hindering service delivery had not been given due attention in plenary and thus it also explains low levels of meaningful participation in council debates.

- Failure to follow up on service delivery gaps identified: Many councillors who fulfilled their monitoring obligations did not take it a notch higher to follow up on the service delivery challenges identified during monitoring; during the face to face interview the same councillors could not point to any positive change in the service delivery units that could be attributed to their follow up efforts.

- Limited participation in LLG meetings: Several councillors did not participate in the meetings of Lower Local Governments and this was blamed on the failure to offer district councillors invitations on time as well as the conflicting schedules of meetings at both council levels.

4.0 Recommendations

- Facilitate councillors to perform their monitoring role – Kamuli District Council should emulate best practices from councils such as Lira District Council who provide fuel every month to each individual councillor to enable them perform their monitoring function.

- The Principle Human Resource Officer should develop a capacity building plan to continuously train councillors on their roles and duties and conflict identification, management and resolution.

- The office of the Speaker of council should liaise with the various Sub-county heads to harmonise a schedule of council meetings at various levels to avoid collisions.

- The Speaker of Council should be more assertive especially with regard to his supervision of the Clerk to Council to ensure timely production of minutes of council and standing committees of council.
Table 2: Kamuli District Council Performance FY 2018/19

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### Table 4: Speaker of Council’s Performance FY 2018/19

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## Kamuli District Local Government Council Scorecard Assessment FY 2018/19

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### Performance

| Name             | Performance | Legislation | Contact | Electorate | LLG Meetings | Sub County Meetings | Score
|------------------|-------------|-------------|---------|------------|--------------|---------------------|-------|
| Emmanuel Kitimbo | 68/100      | 50/100      | 86/100  | 49/100     | 47/100       | 47/100              | 68
| Monika Mukasa Nanyige | 62/100 | 36/100      | 69/100  | 46/100     | 62/100       | 62/100              | 62
| Monika Dongon  | 62/100      | 36/100      | 62/100  | 46/100     | 62/100       | 62/100              | 62
| Ruth Battanuga | 62/100      | 36/100      | 62/100  | 46/100     | 62/100       | 62/100              | 62
| Alfred Kintu Lwamusiyi | 62/100 | 36/100      | 62/100  | 46/100     | 62/100       | 62/100              | 62
| Julius Samanya | 62/100      | 36/100      | 62/100  | 46/100     | 62/100       | 62/100              | 62
| Monic Mukasa Nabirye | 86/100 | 46/100      | 86/100  | 46/100     | 86/100       | 86/100              | 86
| Diphas Tirusasi Katongole | 86/100 | 46/100      | 86/100  | 46/100     | 86/100       | 86/100              | 86
| Julius Wakibi Tigawalana | 86/100 | 46/100      | 86/100  | 46/100     | 86/100       | 86/100              | 86
| Victoria Apili | 86/100      | 46/100      | 86/100  | 46/100     | 86/100       | 86/100              | 86
| Hadijjah Mutesi Kasiri | 62/100 | 36/100      | 62/100  | 36/100     | 62/100       | 62/100              | 62
| Jimmy Kiwule | 62/100      | 36/100      | 62/100  | 36/100     | 62/100       | 62/100              | 62

### Maximum Scores

| Performance | Legislation | Contact | Electorate | LLG Meetings | Sub County Meetings | Score
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**Councillors Assessed Using Secondary Data**
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UBOS (2018), Statistical Abstract

About ACODE: The Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE) is an independent public policy research and advocacy Think Tank based in Uganda, working in the East and Southern Africa sub-regions on a wide range of public policy issues. Our core business is policy research and analysis, outreach and capacity building. Since it's founding 19 years ago, ACODE has emerged as one of the leading regional public policy think tanks in Sub-Saharan Africa. For the last 8 consecutive years, ACODE has been recognized among the Top-100 Think Tanks worldwide by the University of Pennsylvania’s annual Global-Go-To Think Tank Index Reports.

About LGCSCI: The Local Government Councils Scorecard Initiative (LGCSCI) is a policy research and capacity building initiative implemented by ACODE and ULGA. The initiative is a strategic social accountability initiative that enables citizens to demand excellence of their local governments and enables local governments to respond effectively and efficiently to those demands with the aim of improving service delivery.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

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