

BUSOGA OLWEKOBAAANO AND ENERGY EXPO 2023 – Concept Note

The Busoga Olwekobaano is an annual convention of Basoga and friends of Busoga to celebrate the region and deliberate on how to move it forward developmentally. The event is held in December to enable participants from the Diaspora to attend as part of their Christmas and end of year home coming. The event was founded and is organised by an NGO called Busoga Yaiffe (BY), which is committed to the development of East-Central region and Uganda at large.

Venue/date:

This year's (2023) event is the **8th edition** of the Olwekobaano and will be held in Kaliro town from Thursday, the 14th to Saturday, the 16th of December at **Kaliro PTC** (opposite Kaliro Police Station). This is in line with an agreed policy of rotating the hosting of the event in different parts of Busoga – it was previously hosted in Jinja and Iganga.

Theme:

The overarching theme of this year's Olwekobaano is '**Leveraging access to affordable, reliable and clean energy for improved health, education, agriculture and trade (HEAT) in Busoga region**'.

Background:

The theme recognises the critical importance of access to affordable, reliable and clean energy in enabling the provision of basic services and the development of sustainable livelihoods at the onset of the **global energy transition**. It further acknowledges the potential that improved access to sustainable energy has in bringing about **socio-economic transformation** and making a difference in the **fight against disease, ignorance and poverty** in the region. With one of the lowest rates of access to energy on the African continent, Uganda still has a long way to go in achieving the UN's SDGs, especially universal access to energy (SDG 7). The Olwekobaano will explore the issue from diverse angles and recommend strategies for making SMART progress in the 7 remaining years to the expiry of the UN's SDG initiative in 2030.

The event is even more important given the most recent World Bank poverty report for Uganda that indicates that poverty rates are highest in eastern (includes Busoga) and northern regions at 42% and 40% respectively. The report shows that these rates substantially varied from those of the western region (27%) and central region (15%) and were also above the national average of 30%. Economists at the World Bank attributed these high poverty rates to **limited access to critical infrastructure and services like electricity, erratic rainfall (drought), low levels of education and small markets**. The Olwekooba 2023, with its focus on improving access to renewable energy and the potential of this access for tackling poverty, ignorance and disease and improving livelihoods is therefore of **strategic importance**, not only for Busoga region, but actually the whole of Eastern region and the whole country.

Source: [Eastern, Northern regions top in poverty - WB report | Monitor](#)

Core objectives:

- To **understand the current status of access to affordable, reliable and clean energy** in Busoga region and the rest of the country
- To **explore the socio-economic implications of the current rate of access affordable, reliable and clean energy** in Busoga region and the rest of the country
- To **develop strategies for improving access to affordable, reliable and clean energy** in Busoga region and the rest of the country
- To **examine the strategic implications of improved access to energy for HEAT** – health, education, agriculture and trade, in Busoga region and the rest of the country.

Activities:

- Presentations and analyses by various professionals on Day 1 and 2
- Exhibitions by various players in the energy sector on all days
- Exhibitions by various other organisations and enterprises on all days
- Speeches by government and societal leaders; keynote speech on each day
- Health Camp for the local community on all days

Images from previous events:



Hon Migereko, Mrs Sekitoleko and Dr Nabwiso - high profile speakers at the inaugural event



Left: Delegates to the conference; Right - Conference president - Dr Mbalyohere and the then Exec Director of Uganda Investment Authority, Dr Frank Sebowa.