**IBANDA HOSTS 34TH NRM ANNIVERSARY NATIONAL CELEBRATIONS.**

**By Sylas Byaruhanga**

This year’s national celebration to mark the 34th NRM anniversary was held in Ibanda District at St. George’s Core PTC under the theme “34 years of struggle to Promote Peace and Social Economic Transformation”.

President Yoweri Museveni who was the Chief Guest while addressing the gathering during the function, cautioned school heads who charge exorbitant fees from students that their practice makes students drop out of School and that it opposes the objective of education for all for which both UPE and USE were established.

In the above regard he tasked the District Chairman Mr. Melchiadis Kazwengye to ensure the vice stops immediately.

Further still Museveni implored all the people of Ibanda to stop producing for home consumption rather embrace commercial farming which will help the country move towards middle income status.

His comments came after he tasked the Members of Parliament across the District to explain the status of their constituencies in regard to commercial agriculture where it was reported by the Ibanda North legislator Major Gumisiriza that close to 80% of the population in Ibanda North was living under absolute poverty as a result of subsistence farming.

Prior to Mr. Museveni’s speech, former president of the Republic of Tanzania HE. Jakaya Kikwete had praised Museveni for ensuring peace not only for Uganda but also for East African and Africa at large.

Prior to the function, on Saturday 25th January, there was a live UBC-Eiraka Radio talk show where the District aired its departmental achievements since its inception in 2005.

Among the issues raised was the increase of YLP and UWEP funds, improvement in agriculture especially aquaculture, development of fishing industry, increase in enrolment of children in schools, calm security , improvement in health as well as infrastructural development .

Among the key panelists during the talk show were the RDC, CAO, Production and Marketing Officer, DHO, DEO and DCDO. The talk show was held in the District Council hall.