

Elevating Leadership; Judith's Bold Political Journey

Judith Nyamaizi, a 50-year-old resident of Kifransa Village, Hoima District, began her political journey in 2019 during a by-election. Initially hesitant and struggling with an inferiority complex, she found the courage to run for District Woman Councillor after receiving encouragement from fellow women in her community. Her leadership path officially began when she was elected as the District Woman Councillor for Buhanika Sub-County in Hoima District.

During her first term, Nyamaizi faced numerous challenges primarily due to her lack of formal leadership training. Her only prior experience was a brief one-day session in 2019, organized by the Ministry of Local Government. It gave her a foundational understanding of the Local Government Act and her legislative responsibilities, but she was left without the tools to fully navigate leadership roles, especially in areas traditionally dominated by men.

In August 2024, Nyamaizi attended a transformative three-day women candidates training at Hoima Kolping Hotel organized by the Forum for Women in Democracy. The training focused on increasing women's participation in politics through in-depth civic and voter education, developing campaign strategies, and enhancing leadership skills. The modules covered a wide range of topics, including winning campaign strategies, electoral laws, transformational leadership, and effective communication. Through group work, debates, and interactive sessions, participants shared their experiences and learned practical strategies to strengthen their political campaigns.

A session on transformational leadership was particularly impactful for Nyamaizi. It inspired her



Judith Nyamaizi sharing her action plan ahead of the 2026 General elections during the Women candidate training at Hoima Kolping Hoima District on 14th August 2024.

to take a bold step—shifting her candidacy from District Woman Councillor to District Direct Councillor for Buhanika Sub-County. This decision reflected her newfound confidence and determination to challenge traditional gender roles in local politics.

Nyamaizi's journey is a powerful example of how women's empowerment, coupled with training, can nurture confidence in leadership.

Since 1995, FOWODE has been a key player in the women's movement and is part of a history that opened the way for thousands of women to have a voice in the public arena. To date, we have developed the leadership capacities of over 30,000 women to navigate the political landscape and to elevate the impact of their leadership contributing to an increase in legislation that reflects women's and girls' priorities.

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