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## **BWIJANGA AND BUDONGO SUBCOUNTY APPROVES BYE- LAWS ON ALCOHOL**

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### **Masindi District**

Bwijanga and Budongo sub counties in Masindi District have approved bye-laws regulating selling and excessive consumption of Alcohol. This is a result of the intervention instituted by the National Association of Community and Occupational Health (UNACOH). UNACOH a public health NGO working in this areas for the last 5 years has engaged local government leadership and technical staff, local councilors, Village Health teams, the police, school children and community at large who unanimously participated in the development of bye-laws regulating selling and excessive consumption of Alcohol.

The bye-laws among others provide regulated time period for operation of bars and alcohol sellers. a total ban on selling Alcohol packed in small sachet tots, engagement of children in the alcohol production chain from brewing, transporting and marketing, and stopping pregnant women from consuming Alcohol. The bye-laws also spells out penalties for the offenders.

Mr. Julius Kahiira the Masindi district councilor representing Bwijanga subcounty believes that this will enable the community to concentrate on productive activities. *Cue in "Ninkweenda okuteereera .....mu maka gabwe"*

Officiating at the dissemination event, the chairperson LC3, Bwijanga subcounty Ms Olivia Mugisa gave a word of caution and acknowledged the timely intervention and importance of this by-law. *Cue in "Bensengereize abantu bange aba Bwijanga.....tubihondeera"*

While the LC 5 councilor representing Budongo sub county, Beatrice Bigirwenkya has strong conviction that the by-law will be enforced despite the alleged fear of resistance from the beneficiaries of alcohol production and consumption. *Cue in "I want to assure you that..... ready to do this job"*

Gerald Makumbi the project coordinator noted that UNACOH's efforts to bring up the concerns arising out lack of effective regulation on selling and excessive consumption of Alcohol has been commended by the respective stakeholders. *Cue in. "We are impressed that the councilors and community .....so it is all been good and successful am impressed "*

Mercy Wanyana, UNACOH Alcohol control project officer said that stakeholders resolved that a trading license certificate issued to alcohol sellers should clearly state the alcohol control regulations in the by-law. *Cue in "In Bwijanga they are going to include.....to inform them. Budongo is also unique..... about the law."*

Participants at the dissemination meeting of the bye laws, also resolved on several dissemination strategies that include public awareness using the media, community meetings and events, providing a grace period of 3 months to allow complete stock out of the outlawed alcohol sachet tots. **ENDS**