

BUSITEMA UNIVERSITY CELEBRATES **Prof. Mary Okwakol**

The First Female Vice Chancellor in Uganda's
Public Universities.



The Vice Chancellor flags off the sports team as they head out for inter-university games **PG. 45**



The Chairperson University Council, Mrs Rosemary Mutyabule, invites Dr Chrispus Muyingo. **PG. 10**



Students from the Faculty of Medicine display medicines developed by their lecturers. **PG. 40**

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WORD FROM THE CHIEF EDITOR

NEWSLETTER JUNE 2024



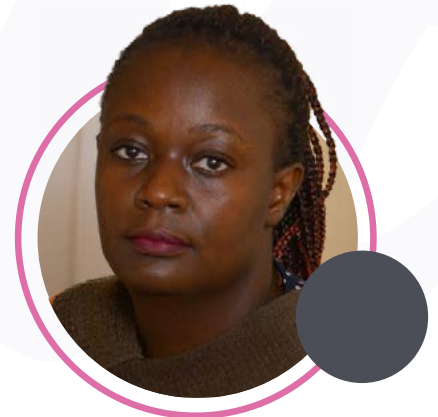
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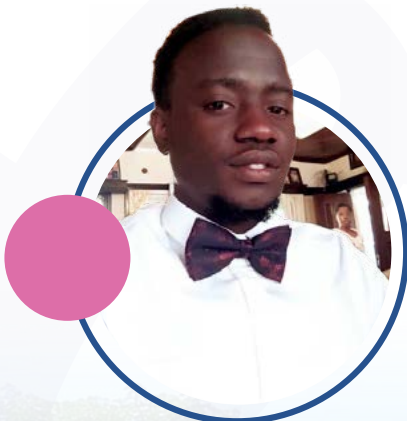
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BUSITEMA

Pursuing
Excellence

UNIVERSITY

VICE CHANCELLOR'S MESSAGE

The center of excellence strengthening collaborations and partnerships.

The University has made tremendous academic, community social responsibility and capacity-building achievements. It is with pleasure that I announce the opening of our Butebo District, formerly the Kabwangasi Primary Teachers' College. The campus will form an integral part of the Faculty of Health Sciences at Busitema University by providing Pharmaceutical studies training. This is a result of a collaboration between the University and Chongqing Medical and Pharmaceutical College, China. We are grateful to the Government of Uganda for allocating us this much-needed teaching and learning space. Our vision of being a multicampus university is growing from Busitema,



Vice Chancellor constituting the 14th congregation of Busitema University

Nagongera, Namasagali, Arapai, Mbale, Pallisa and recently, Butebo.

We have and continue to achieve milestones in establishing partnerships with institutions nationally and internationally. The year ending with our 14th graduation in March 2024 saw Busitema sign memorandums of understanding with both local and international partners with the vision of continuing to conduct hands-on training that makes us a centre of excellence and our graduates sought by employers.

Some of our local partners with whom we renewed and created fresh agreements are Fisheries, UNRA's Ferry Services department, National Housing and Construction Company, Uganda Maritime Police and Uganda Railways Cooperation.

International partners added to our list of collaborations include the Queen Mary University of London, The Children's Hospital and Open University in the United Kingdom that will collaborate with our Faculty of Medicine, Shandong Water Conservancy Vocational College, China (Cooperation and Joint Development Agreement) with the Faculty of Engineering; Mzuzu University, University of Ibadan, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, University of Zambia; moi University with which we shall have staff exchange programmes, Chongqing Medical and Pharmaceutical College, China, AKSA Infrastructure Developers – Teaching Hospital Project.

We continue to appreciate the Government's commitment to science displayed by the recent launching of the new campus at Butebo by the Minister of Science, Technology and Innovations in the Office

of the President, Hon. Dr Monica Musenero.

I congratulate the Editorial Team who have played a wonderful role in producing this issue. I express my deepest gratitude to Dr. Shira Tendo, Head of the Department of Language Education, under whose guidance this technical work has been undertaken and completed. My heartfelt congratulations to members of staff and students for their fruitful efforts with whom we together pursue excellence.

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First Female Vice Chancellor in Uganda's Public University



Executive Director National Council for Higher Education

A) Growing Up

I come from a humble background. My father, Mzee Petero Waiswa Tasiwuka (RIP), was a farmer who later turned to cattle trading. My mother, Maama Yozefina Kantono (RIP), was a housewife who also engaged in farming. I was the second born in the family and the firstborn girl. Leadership was placed upon my shoulders from an early age, being the firstborn girl. I supervised and taught my siblings both house chores and gardening. Through school I further developed my leadership ability as I held various leadership positions. At Mt St Mary's

// I was among the pioneer students of Makakere when it transitioned from a College of the University of East Africa and became an independent University of the Republic of Uganda

Prof Okwakol

College Namagunga, for instance, I was a prefect, a school councillor and became a Head Girl in my final year of study; while at Makerere University, I served as a Member of the Guild Representative (GRC) representing Mary Stuart Hall.

I was among the pioneer students of Makakere when it transitioned from a College of the University of East Africa and became an independent University of the Republic of Uganda, offering academic programmes leading to its own awards. I studied Zoology and Botany at a time when there were very few females who pursued science courses at the University. This was because most girls had not embraced sciences at secondary school.

B) Pioneer Vice Chancellor of Busitema University

Leading a team to establish a new public university was challenging but also an exciting opportunity. It was a source of pride and yet, at the same time, I was aware that a huge responsibility

had been placed upon my shoulders that I had to execute successfully. It was challenging because I was going into the unknown. In May 2006, I was appointed Chairperson of the Taskforce Management Committee, charged with carrying out the duties of Vice Chancellor. At the time, I was serving as Deputy Vice Chancellor at Gulu University, another Public University of which I had been one of the founding leaders.

of University Secretary while Mr Elisha Obella, another member, carried out the duties of Academic Registrar. We were tasked with planning for and kick-starting the establishment of the University as a multicampus. Subsequently, the committee brought on board Mrs Sophie Olum Acon to carry out the duties of the Dean of Students and Mr Vincent Baliruno Tasiwuka to carry out the duties of a Finance Officer. After the University organs were established, we were



Above: Prof Okwakol delivering a keynote address

I officially took up my duties at Busitema in July 2006, with Mr Morris Muhwezi Murari as a committee member carrying out the duties

appointed to substantive positions through a competitive process. The first name proposed for the University was the 'University of Eastern

Uganda. However, after consultations with various stakeholders and the Ministry, and based on precedents such as Makerere University, Mbarara University, Kyambogo University and Gulu University, the name Busitema University was adopted, taking into account the location of its main campus at Busitema.

We started our task by touring the earmarked campuses to establish their readiness to start. These were the National College of Agricultural Mechanisation at Busitema; Mbale Clinical Officers' School and School of Hygiene; Arapai Agricultural College; the Hotel and Tourism College in Jinja; Kaliro National Teachers College and Pallisa where the District Local Government and some individuals had offered land. Nagongera was not among the originally proposed locations but was later added, while the Government removed the Hotel and Tourism College and Kaliro NTC from the list. The former Namasagali University facility was included as a campus

following a Presidential Directive.

The plan was to start the campuses in a phased manner, based on a campus's readiness level. Seeing our hard work pay off when the six campuses were finally established was fulfilling.

We identified academic programmes to be offered at each campus based on available infrastructure and facilities. We did not want to reinvent the wheel by duplicating programmes then offered by existing public universities. Our guiding principle was identifying gaps in programmes relevant to socio economic transformation of Uganda. After identifying the initial programmes we engaged expert groups to support us in developing those identified.

They included engineering, education, medicine, agriculture, environment and management disciplines. The programmes were developed with our involvement and close supervision. We submitted

the first 8 programs with the action plan to the Ministry of Education and Sports in November 2006. The Ministry, in turn, submitted them to the National Council for Higher Education (NCHE) for accreditation. According to the action plan, the Busitema and Nagongera campuses would be kick-started first. In February 2007, NCHE accredited the Busitema and Nagongera campuses and the initial programmes.

The statutory establishment of the University by Parliament was on the 10th of May 2007. This enabled us to plan for the opening of the gates to the pioneer students on the 3rd of October 2007. We started with two campuses, Busitema (Busia District) and Nagongera (Tororo District).

Other campuses were started in a phased manner over time. In September 2010, we opened the Arapai Campus in Soroti District and the Namasagali Campus in Kamuli District. The Medical School was opened in Mbale in 2013, while Pallisa Campus started in

2015. By the time I retired from the University on 30th April 2019, the six campuses had been established.

The establishment of the faculties was coordinated by the following persons: Health Sciences by Professor Paul Waako; Agriculture and Animal Sciences by Professor Deo Olila; Environment and Natural Resources by Ms Elizabeth Bwanga; Engineering by Dr. Samuel Baker Kucel; Science and Education by Dr. Akisophel Kisolo; and; Management Sciences by Mr. Sudi Nangoli. Mr. Abdu Karim Isala coordinated the establishment of the Library system.

C) Surprises

When we got to Busitema, we were shocked at the dilapidated nature of the buildings. The structures and facilities had been affected by the Lakwena War of 1986 – 1987. The College area had become grazing grounds for herders herding cattle. The College administration had tried to carry out some repairs but were handicapped due to lack of funds. Therefore, we started with major repairs and purchasing the required equipment to establish the Faculty of Engineering.

The other was a pleasant surprise. Although we opened late, on the 3rd of October, we implemented

a crash programme and managed to catch up with the normal progress of the semester system. It was possible to have the pioneer students start their first semester of the Second Year in August 2008.

D) First Graduation

Busitema University's first graduation was held on Saturday, the 2nd of October 2010. We wished to have the graduation coincide with our opening date of the 3rd of October, but regrettably, that year, the 3rd of October was a Sunday, a day that was inappropriate for such a function. We had forty-three (43) Bachelor of Science and Education from the Faculty of Science and Education and two (2) Diploma in Engineering graduates from the Faculty of Engineering. The University inherited students from the National College of Agricultural Mechanisation at Busitema, and about 300 students also graduated that day. It was fulfilling to see our hard work pay off. Because an Engineering Bachelor's degree program is completed in four years, the first cohorts graduated



Extreme Right: Hon. Dr C. Muyingo. 2nd Left: Prof Owakol at the 11th graduation at Busitema University

in 2011.

E) Goals

My dream was to see a science-based university established at Busitema University, with unique programmes relevant to the development of Uganda. This was achieved before I exited the University. My other dream was to see Busitema develop into a world-class University. I believe this will be realised over time.

F) Final Word of Advice

Being an educationalist and mentor, I urge Busitema University staff to embrace constant professional development through increased research, innovation, and publishing in peer-reviewed journals while not forgetting to engage in community service, another core function of the University. The Busitema University campus communities welcomed and supported the University and should benefit from its existence.

As a parent, I encourage each student to pursue a goal. Students should avoid unbecoming behaviour

such as taking drugs, alcoholism and engaging in violent conduct. Let all embrace discipline and dialoguing whenever there are challenges.

Our role was to set the foundation for posterity.

I appreciate the Vice Chancellor, Professor Paul Waako, for pursuing excellence with his team and their commitment and commendable efforts towards building on that foundation for current and future generations.



Above L-R: The Chairperson University Council, Mrs Rosemary Mutyabule, invites Dr Chrispus Muyingo to address the congregation. Seated observing is the Chancellor, Mr Vinald Nantulya

FEATURES 2024

GOVERNANCE

Vice Chancellor's Working Visit to Open University

In May 2023, Vice Chancellor Prof. Paul Waako visited the Open University, United Kingdom. He held several discussions with the team behind the Open Extended Reality program (Open XR) regarding building capacity and extending Open Extended Reality to Busitema University. Professor Duncan Banks of the Open University hosted the team from Busitema University, and the two universities signed a memorandum of understanding. The Vice Chancellor also visited simulation centres at Buckingham Hospital conducted by Open University used in simulation teaching and conducting research. Proposals were made to start collaboration and joint research between the universities.



Prof Paul Waako (Left) listening to Prof Banks (Right) during a visit to Open University



Prof Waako (2nd Left) with Prof Banks (2nd Right) Touring The Simulation Center at Buckingham

Collaboration visit by researchers from Moi University, Kenya

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Proposals were made to start collaboration and joint research between the universities. The Vice Chancellor met a team of researchers from Moi University, Kenya, led by Professor Simeon K Mining, on the 21st of June, 2023. Several of Busitema University staff have previously been trained under this collaboration. On behalf of Busitema University, the Vice Chancellor expressed gratitude to Moi University for its contribution to staff development.

The areas where staff have benefited from this collaboration include Phytochemicals, Textiles, and Renewable Energy. Talks were held regarding expansion to other multidisciplinary areas.



The Vice Chancellor, Prof Waako (centre), Prof Miningo (2nd Left), Prof Biira (2nd Right) and staff from both Universities

Partnership in Skilling Ugandans in Maritime between UNRA and Busitema University

A Uganda National Road Authority team met the Vice chancellor in July 2023 regarding community learning. The team of technical staff from the Uganda National Roads Authority Officials was led by the Head of Ferry Services, Eng. Herbert Mutyaba. He noted an upward trend in the use of water transport in the country, creating a high demand for skilled personnel to operate the water vessels.

The crisis created by the lack of human capacity development in the maritime sector has led the Authority to spend much money on training its staff from Tanzania. This has put a huge burden on the Authority's budget. Opening up-skilling courses at Busitema University would offer high quality education at an affordable cost. The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Waako, observed that through a memorandum of understanding, UNRA would offer spaces for students to acquire practical skills and thus get the required human resources. Through this arrangement, UNRA would offer a "Community of Learning spaces" currently needed to offer the best training for practical-oriented courses like Maritime engineering.



Above: A high-level meeting between Busitema University's Top Management and a delegation from the UNRA Ferry Services Department

Uganda Maritime Police hosts Busitema University

In July 2023, the Maritime Police of Uganda hosted the Busitema University Maritime Team led by the Vice Chancellor, Prof Paul Waako, at Kigo. The delegation from Busitema University included the Maritime Director, Prof. Waiswa Wilson Mwanja. They were received by the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), the Maritime SSP Wagubi, and SSP - Operations for Kigo areas SSP Tabu, SSP Wagubi informed the team that the Maritime Directorate started in 1996 under the office of the Inspector General of Police, and later grew into a full Directorate with coverage of all the water bodies in Uganda.

The areas of proposed partnership include Technical skilling, Boat repair and access to spare parts, training and servicing of the boats and other marine equipment, marine data management and datasets, search and rescue techniques, navigation and marine engineering, boat construction, and maritime communication. Prof. Waako emphasised the role of Maritime Law and its relevance to the training of marine professionals because it is important to deal with the legal issues in maritime practice.



Above: the delegation from Busitema University being given a guided tour by their Maritime Police counterparts

Prof Waako's visit to Uganda Railways Corporation

Busitema University delegation led by Vice Chancellor Prof. Paul Waako visited the Management team of Uganda Railways Corporation, led by the Head of Human Resources, Mr. Okanang Patrick, including the Corporation Secretary, Ms. Grace Opoka, and the Principal Operations Officer in Charge of Marines Eng. Musiime David. The teams discussed possible areas of collaboration in marine and maritime engineering, starting professional short courses, undergraduate and graduate programmes for the mutual benefit of both parties.



Above: Meeting between Busitema University delegation and the Uganda Railways Cooperation officials

Assoc. Professor Kucel hands over office



The outgoing Deputy Vice Chancellor, AA&R, Assoc. Prof. Samuel Baker Kucel (L) hands over to the Vice Chancellor (R) during the ceremony on the 14th of August 2023

The outgoing Deputy Vice Chancellor, Assoc. Prof. Samuel Baker handed over office to the Vice Chancellor.

He completed his two terms as Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs and Research, from August 2013 to August 2023. Prof Kucel thanked management for awarding him the privilege to serve in that capacity.

He thanked the University Council and the various Chairpersons and Vice Chairpersons for working with him during his tenure.

He thanked colleagues in Management for the team spirit and collegial support rendered to him throughout his term as DVCAA&R. He particularly thanked the Vice Chancellor for his leadership and commitment.

The achievements he will be remembered for include the operationalisation of the Office of DVC AA&R with support from top organs of the University; the development of appropriate policies, guidelines, structures and processes for the provision of a conducive and sound academic environment; support to development the research capacity of academic staff through training, mentorship and award of competitive research grants; and spearheading the implementation of ODeL activities that saw many academic staff getting involved in teaching online through the Learning Management System.

He hoped the incoming Deputy Vice Chancellor in charge of Academic Affairs and Research would advocate for a boost in budget ceilings for faculties and institutes, involvement of the Grants Management Committee in planning for research grants awards, award of research grants, and continuous training of staff on curriculum design and delivery and visited Busitema University in September 2023.

The visit was meant to promote a stronger understanding between scholars and policy officials.

Parliamentary Committee on Science, Technology, and Innovation Pays MCRI a Visit to the Mbale Clinical Research Institute (MCRI)/

The Parliamentary Committee on Science, Technology, and Innovation conducted a supervisory visit to acquaint themselves with the institute's cutting-edge research projects.



Above: Parliamentary committee together with staff at MCRI after the meeting

EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS 2024

EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS

CPA Josephine Okui Ossiya elected the first female President of ICPAU

CPA Ms Josephine Okui Ossiya has made history by becoming the first female President of the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Uganda (ICPAU), taking over from CPA Constant Othieno Mayende after two years at the helm. She is the Chairperson of the Audit Committee of Council at Busitema University. She is also a Board Member of the Bank of Uganda. She has over 20 years of experience in finance, audit, treasury management, risk management, general management and board governance, and is a practitioner at Rona and Partners. She is also the Chief Finance Officer at Bujagali Energy Ltd, a position she has held since November 2014.

Busitema University congratulates CPA Okui on her well-deserved election and wishes her success in her new role as the President of ICPAU.



Above: CPA Ms Josephine Okui Ossiya (right) receiving instruments of office

Prof. Nangoli appointed UPPC Managing Director – UPPC.

Prof. Sudi Nangoli has been named the new Managing Director of the Uganda Printing and Publishing Company (UPPC). Prof. Sudi served as the Founding Dean of the Faculty of Management Sciences at Busitema University and is a Board Member of the Busitema University Fund Company. The Uganda Printing and Publishing Company, one of the oldest institutions in Uganda, was started by the colonial Government in 1902 and lived through the decades serving the Government as the Official Printer.

It also produces the Ugandan Gazette, which contains Notices, Government declarations and supplements, Bills, Statutes, Statutory instruments, and Legal Notices. Prof. Nangoli takes over office from Mr. Kenneth Oluka, who has been Managing Director since 2021. He will head

the Publishing entity and shall be responsible for operationalising the publishing functions of the corporation. While assuming office Prof. Nangoli committed himself to focus on ICT Innovations in printing and publishing to compete on a global scale. Busitema University congratulates Prof. Nangoli on his deserved appointment and wishes him success in his new role as the UPPC Managing Director.



Above: Prof Suudi Nangoli

Professor Elly Sabiiti Appointed as Acting First Deputy Vice Chancellor Academics Affairs

Professor Elly Sabiiti was appointed Acting First Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs by the Chancellor of Busitema University, effective 28th August 2023.

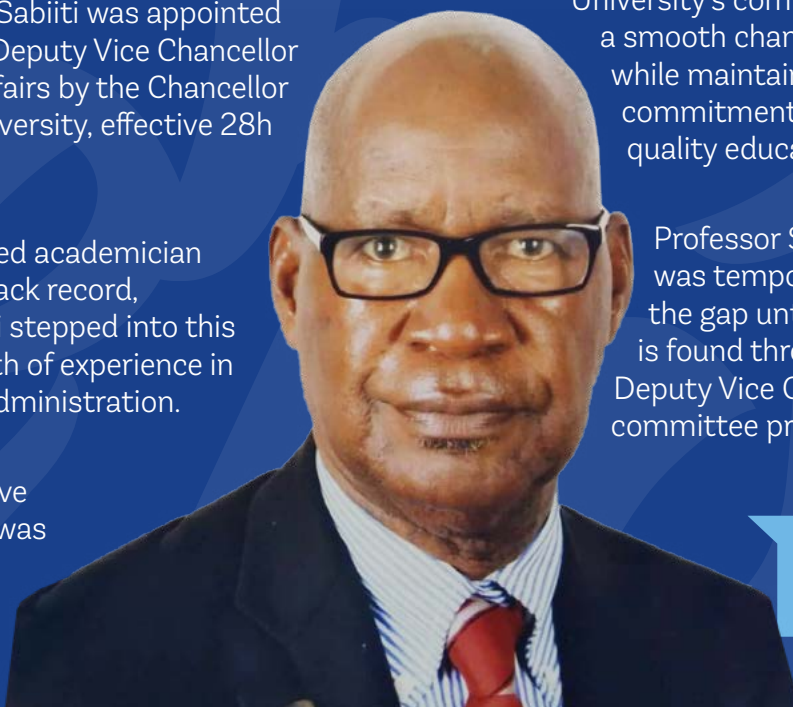
As a distinguished academician with a proven track record, Professor Sabiiti stepped into this role with a wealth of experience in academia and administration.

With his extensive background, he was well-equipped to oversee the University's

academic affairs during this pivotal six-month period.

This appointment shows Busitema University's commitment to ensuring a smooth change of leadership while maintaining the University's commitment to providing high-quality education and research.

Professor Sabiiti's appointment was temporary, meant to bridge the gap until a suitable candidate is found through the ongoing Deputy Vice Chancellor search committee process.



Prof. Elly N. Sabiiti, a Fulbright Scholar and TWAS Research Professor)

Prof. Paul Waako Appointed Vice Chair of AICAD Governing Board



Prof Paul Waako, Vice Chancellor Busitema University

In a landmark decision at the recent annual meeting of the African Institute for Capacity Development (AICAD) in Uganda, Prof. Paul Waako, the esteemed Vice Chancellor of Busitema University, was appointed as the representative of Ugandan Vice Chancellors on the AICAD governing board and elevated to the position of Vice Chair of the Board for the next two years.

This momentous occasion marks a significant step towards furthering AICAD's poverty reduction mission in Africa through human capacity development. AICAD, an international organisation funded by the Governments of Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda, has its headquarters nestled within the prestigious Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) in Juja town. With national offices at Egerton University Njoro, Nakuru (Kenya), Sokoine University of Agriculture Morogoro (Tanzania), and Makerere University Kampala (Uganda), AICAD is dedicated to equipping the African continent with the knowledge and skills required to uplift its people from poverty.

Prof. Paul Waako's appointment to the AICAD governing board underscores the commitment of Ugandan institutions of higher learning to collaborative efforts to achieve sustainable development in the region. As Vice Chancellor of Busitema University, Prof. Waako brings a wealth of experience and expertise, making him an ideal candidate to champion AICAD's goals.

The African Institute for Capacity Development, founded on collaboration and knowledge exchange principles, has made significant strides in fostering regional human capacity development. Its focus on poverty reduction aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 1, which aims to eradicate poverty in all its forms.

AICAD's multi-country presence, with active participation from Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda, underscores the importance of regional cooperation in tackling shared challenges. AICAD strives to create a brighter future for Africa by pooling resources, expertise, and knowledge.

The appointment of Prof. Paul Waako as Vice Chair of the AICAD governing board reinforces Uganda's commitment to the institute's objectives and signifies a collaborative effort to uplift the entire East African region. As the institute continues to forge ahead in its mission to alleviate poverty through human capacity development, Prof. Waako's leadership promises a brighter future for countless individuals and communities across the continent.

Dr Michael Makanga named new Executive Director of the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking

Dr Micheal Makanga was appointed Executive Director of the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking starting in November 2023. He previously was the Executive Director at the European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP) Association. He has a background of decades of clinical research work in both African and European institutions. Dr. Makanga holds a medical degree from Makerere University a Master's and PhD in Pharmacology and Therapeutics from the Liverpool University and School of Tropical Medicine.

He is also a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh. His expertise spans various facets of global health, including research capacity development, policy engagement, and collaboration with ethics and regulatory authorities in Africa and Europe. Furthermore, Dr. Makanga served on numerous scientific and policy advisory boards involved in developing medical products and technologies for infectious diseases. His contributions extend to the World Bank, international product development organisations, philanthropic foundations, and pharmaceutical companies.

Assoc. Prof. Biira Saphina Appointed as the 1st Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Affairs

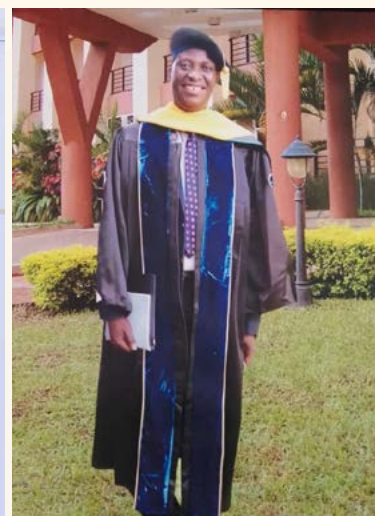
With the expiry of the term of service for Prof Kucel, Busitema University appointed Associate Professor Biira Saphina as the new Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. Prof. Saphina. She has previously served as the acting Deputy Vice Chancellor Finance and Administration, the

Deputy Director of Quality Assurance and a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Physics in the Faculty of Science and Education at Busitema University. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Education from Gulu University, a Master's in Physics from Makerere University and a PhD from the University of Pretoria.

Assoc. Prof. Pakoyo F. Kamba Appointed as Busitema's Deputy Vice Chancellor Finance and Administration

Associate Professor Fadhiru Pakoyo Kamba (PhD) has a strong background in pharmaceutical management, pharmaceutical regulations, and molecular biology. Prof. Kamba' was formerly the Dean of the School of Health Sciences at Makerere University. At Makerere University, he studied Pharmacy and graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Pharmacy in 1996. After his internship, he registered as a pharmacist in October 2001.

Later, he went back to do a graduate degree in business administration at MUBS which was by then under Makerere University. He was lucky enough to study abroad, where he did his Master's in Virology at the University of London. He pursued his PhD -in the United States.



Above: Prof Pakoyo Kamba, the Vice Chancellor Finance and Administration

RESEARCH 2024

The Antimicrobial Resistance Club of Busitema University wins the AMR Championship 2023

The Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Club at Busitema University’s Faculty of Health Sciences won the sought-after award at the Antimicrobial Resistance Championship 2023, a resounding triumph for public health awareness. This distinguished award recognises the club’s members’ devotion and hard work and emphasises the urgency of addressing the growing global health danger of antibiotic resistance.

Various educational institutions enthusiastically participated in the AMR Championship 2023 to raise public awareness and encourage the appropriate use of antimicrobials.

The AMR Club at Busitema University emerged as a champion due to their remarkable efforts in educating the community about the serious effects of AMR and the critical role of effective antibiotic use.



Busitema University AMR Club Students jubilating.

Busitema University Emerges Winner in the National Agriculture Schools Exhibition, 2023

Busitema University emerged number one for the second time, winning a trophy at the National Agriculture Schools Exhibition in Jinja in the University Category. Rt Hon Prime Minister Robinah Nabbanja presided over the 2023 celebrations and handed the trophies to the winning teams.



Above: the team from the Faculty of Agriculture and the trophy

Busitema University Pioneers Environmental Innovation with PLASPHALT, East Africa's First Plastic-Infused Road Solution

Through the Busitema University Research and Innovation Fund (BURIF), the University successfully pioneered PLASPHALT (Plastic Waste Reinforced Bitumen Pavement), a technology that not only alters road construction but also handles the critical issue of plastic waste, spearheaded by Mr. Vincent Muwulya.

The PLASPHALT initiative, the first of its kind in the East African Region, exemplifies Busitema University's persistent dedication to catalysing good change, harmonising technology, and environmental stewardship.

This extraordinary undertaking represents a significant step toward a more sustainable future, exemplifying the University's commitment to innovation that benefits local and global communities.



Above: The Director of Graduate Studies, Prof Samson Rwahwire, inspects the road works



Above: Busitema University students tarmac the road using plastic

Busitema University Sets a New Standard for Agricultural Storage with an Innovative 4-Chamber Silo

The Busitema University Research and Innovation Fund (BURIF) and the Ministry of Science, Technology, and Innovations (STI) - Office of the President funded Professor Kant Kanyarushoke and team to produce an advanced agricultural storage system.

The team developed a cutting-edge 4-Chamber Silo.

The 4-Chamber Silo demonstrates the University's commitment to encouraging agricultural and technological developments, providing new avenues for preserving and safeguarding agricultural produce.



Above: Professor Kant Kanyarushoke above and below displays their innovation and products

TEACHING 2024

DETA Conference 2023: Seeking Dynamic Solutions for Teacher Training in Africa Amid Technological Evolution

DETA Conference 2023, organised by Busitema University, Makerere University, and the University of Pretoria, opened in July. It emphasised attracting dynamic solutions to bridge the gap between distance education and changing technologies.



Prof Paul Waako delivering a speech at the symposium

DETA's major objectives are to contribute to the debate on teacher training in Africa and build capacity to deliver teacher training programmes in Africa.



(Center is Prof Paul Waako)

Busitema University and Shangdong Water Conservancy Form Academic Partnership in Water Resources Engineering

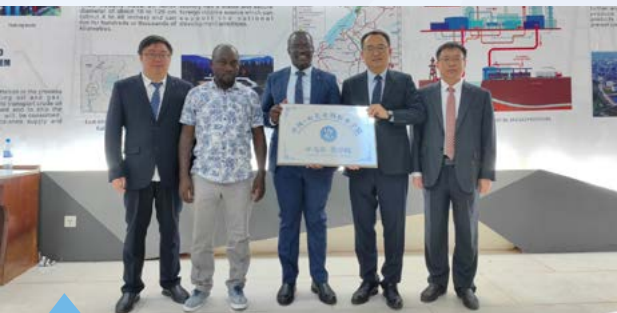
To strengthen our global collaboration, representatives from Busitema University's Faculty of Engineering and Technology, including Dr. Daniel Otim, the Dean of the faculty, and Eng. Dr. Joseph Ddumba Lwanyaga, the Head of the Water Resources Engineering Department, held talks with a delegation from Shangdong Water Conservancy, China. The technical meeting resulted in several exciting agreements to strengthen the academic ties between the two institutions. One of the key highlights of the meeting was the decision for Chinese partners to train their Ugandan counterparts in selected courses and subjects, paving the way for launching a Diploma in Hydraulics Engineering. The training will include online theory sessions and practical components conducted in China or facilitated by an expert sent to Uganda. Both institutions are set to collaborate on developing the program's curriculum, with student enrollment following the program's accreditation.

Moreover, the two teams would jointly work on developing a PhD program in Water Resources Engineering and signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) between the two institutions, setting the stage for a promising future of academic

collaboration and knowledge exchange in the field of water resources engineering.



Above: Delegation from Shangdong Water Conservancy at the signing of the MOU with Busitema University



Above: Delegation from Shangdong Water Conservancy takes a photo with the Dean Faculty of Engineering centre

Busitema University Collaborates with Tsinghua University's Vanke School of Public Health to Advance Public Health Training in Uganda

A delegation from Busitema University met with Vanke School of Public Health (VSPH), Tsinghua University - China, to build high-standard Public Health training in Uganda. The Busitema University Delegation was welcomed by the Associate Dean of VSPH, Professor Kaibo Wang, together with Professor Guangio Li, Jiaxuan Yang, Shasha Tao & Yuran Cao. Dr Samuel Baker Obakiro made a presentation on the areas of collaboration including Health Policy and System Innovation Research, Disease Control and Prevention, management of Big Data in Health Care, and Global Health Governance. The Vice Chancellor, Professor Paul Waako, reaffirmed the University's readiness to improve training and research in Public Health.

Collaboration with the School of Pharmaceutical Sciences at Tsinghua University

The Dean, Professor Feng Qian and Professor Ligong Chen welcomed the team from Busitema University and applauded their commendable work in drug production and therapeutics in Uganda, especially the viral relief drug TAZCOV. The Dean guaranteed collaboration in training new generation Pharmaceutical professionals, development of Innovative drugs and therapeutics, Pharmaceutical innovation, and industrial upgrade.



Above: Tsinghua University representatives pose with the delegation from Busitema University, 2nd Right is Prof Paul Waako.

Busitema University Strengthens Ties with Chongqing Medical and Pharmaceutical College

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Paul Waako, led a delegation to visit Chongqing Medical and Pharmaceutical College to foster partnerships in medical training and to exchange valuable insights in the field of Medical education. The Chongqing Medical and Pharmaceutical College boasts a state-of-the-art teaching hospital facility and simulation laboratories. The collaboration with Chongqing Medical and Pharmaceutical College promises to bring forth innovative ideas and strategies that will benefit both institutions, ultimately enhancing

the quality of healthcare professionals trained at Busitema University and promoting the exchange of knowledge on a global scale.



Above: Delegation from Busitema University led by Prof Paul Waako at the Chongqing Medical and Pharmaceutical College

Developing Training Programmes in Power Systems Engineering

Busitema University, in collaboration with Oxford University, Strathmore University, Makerere University, University of Dar es

Salaam and the Technical University of Kenya, developed training programmes in Power Systems Engineering.

This is part of the activities under the Higher Education Partnerships in sub-Saharan Africa (HEP SSA) 22/24 in which Strathmore University, in partnership with Oxford University, University of Dar es Salaam, Makerere University, Busitema University, Technical University of Kenya, KenGen, KeTraCo and KPLC won a grant worth £ 100,000 to implement “University Industry Partnership on Enhancing Power Sector Skilling in East Africa (UIPEP EA)”.

The team identified key areas for strategic collaborations: Green Hydrogen, E cooking & E mobility, and Water, Energy and Food nexus. Prof Malcolm McCulloch of Oxford University was very pivotal in the entire engagement.



Above: A delegation from the Faculty of Engineering Busitema University tours the facilities at Oxford University

Busitema University, Cyber Schools, and Mastercard Foundation train staff on E-Learning

Busitema University, in collaboration with Cyber School Technologies and with funding from the Mastercard Foundation, embarked on a transformative journey towards enhancing digital education. In September 2023, the University initiated a two-day training program on E-Learning and Learning Management Systems (LMS) facilitated by experts from Eight Tech Consults. Participants were introduced to the fundamental principles of managing online courses effectively.

As the world of education continues to evolve, the importance of digital learning cannot be overstated, and Busitema University is at the forefront of embracing this change. This initiative Portrays Busitema University's commitment to providing its students with innovative and effective learning experiences, ensuring they are well-equipped to excel in the digital age.



A cross-section of staff from the 6 campuses attending the E-learning refresher session.

Dr. Godliver Owomugisha and Dr. Rose Nakasi attend AfricAI Conference 2023 in Kigali

Dr Godliver Owomugisha and Dr. Rose Nakasi, Busitema University's AI research scientists, participated as panel discussants in the AfricAI2023 conference, which brought together AI enthusiasts, researchers, professionals, and policymakers from various parts of Africa with the shared

goal of advancing a responsible and open AI ecosystem.



Above: (Third -right) Dr Godliver Owomugisha, seated among the panel of discussants

Busitema University Participates in the Point of Care Ultrasound for Emergency Physicians Training

In February this year, a consortium of Institutions from the USA held the first training course on Point of Care Ultrasound (POCUS) for Emergency Physicians in Eastern Uganda.

These include MMed Students. While officiating the Opening Ceremony for the training, Professor Peter Olupot-Olupot emphasised that emergency physicians need to embrace technology to aid their clinical work, and POCUS is one of these. He added that the consortium was working to have a formal training curriculum for POCUS to fit into the formal regulation of the fast-growing discipline.

He added that credentialing of practical POCUS events would happen for each trainee and that at least 100 completed POCUS reports would be credentialed per trainee. He thanked the instructors who came from UW to work with a team of colleagues who had been researching POCUS for the last 5 years in Mbale, Eastern Uganda.



Above: Busitema University of Health Sciences Participates in the Point of Care Ultrasound for Emergency Physicians Training

Tourism Training at Busitema University Faculty of Management Sciences



Above: Students of Tourism and Hospitality Management during birding sessions at Kalaki Village. All Campus News

Practical skills are essential for success. That is why Busitema University’s Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management offers weekly birding sessions at Kalaki Village. Join us every Tuesday from 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm for hands-on Avi-tourism training.

This session is always encouraged by Jowalie Ahmed Wampande, acting Head of the Department of Tourism and Travel Management and Joseph Wejuli, the Campus Libran Faculty of Management Science, Do not miss this opportunity to enhance your skills and connect with nature!

Faculty of Management Sciences Engages in Hands-On Study Tours



Above: Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management students on study tour Campus News

Busitema University’s Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management offers module-based study tours. These tours provide students with practical skills and real-world experience by exposing them to local and international tourist attractions. Jowalie Ahmed Wampande, the acting Head of the Department, and Ms Goretti Adong facilitate this training.

By bridging the gap between theory and practice, these tours ensure students’ personal and professional development while preparing them for success in the industry. Join us as we explore and learn beyond the classroom walls, shaping the future of tourism together.

Busitema University - Fisheries Training Institute discuss building better and safer boats

On Thursday, the 28th of July, 2023, the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Paul Waako, alongside the Top Management of Busitema University, met a team of technical staff from the Maritime Institute. Their visit aimed to explore the potential of collaborating with the Fisheries Training Institute (FTI) in Entebbe, specifically in team-teaching maritime courses. During the visit, Prof. Paul Waako observed that Uganda has abundant resources. Prof.

Waako stressed the importance of forging partnerships to enhance education delivery, envisioning a 'community of learning', the growing demand for water transport, and the subsequent need to develop human capacity in this field. Mr Ofwono Willy Osinde, the Principal of the Fisheries Training Institute, Mr. Osinde informed the meeting about FTI's ongoing project to establish a water rescue facility, which would benefit both FTI and Busitema students. Additionally, he expressed his willingness to leverage the expertise available at Busitema University to enhance the staff capacity at FTI.

After fruitful discussions, the team reached a mutual agreement to solidify their collaboration through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This MoU will pave the way for a strong partnership between Busitema University and the Fisheries Training Institute, fostering knowledge exchange, skill development, and collective efforts to unlock the full potential of Uganda's maritime resources. The envisioned 'community of learning' will address the country's pressing water transport and maritime management needs and facilitate holistic development across various sectors, ultimately contributing to Uganda's growth and prosperity.

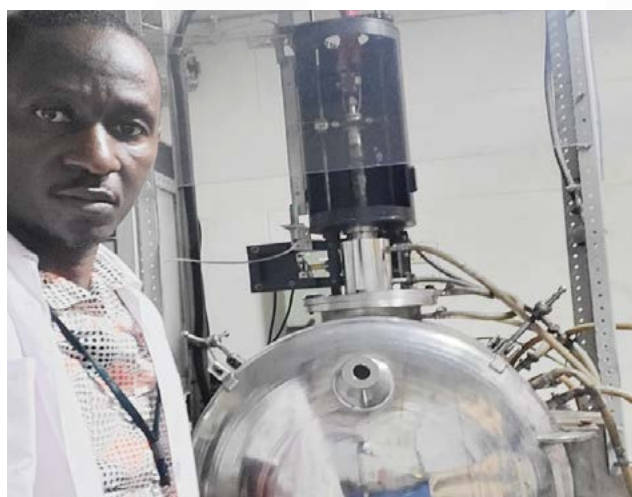
INNOVATIONS 2024

Busitema University boasts of several innovators every year. This year, three out of a pool of hundreds will be featured, each from a different faculty.



DR. KIGOZI MOSES

Dr Dr Kigozi Moses holds two PhD degrees in Materials Science and Chemistry.



Dr Dr Kigozi Moses, a senior lecturer at Busitema University, where he has served the nation for several years, rising through the ranks with advancement in expertise and experience, is a well-learned man with several academic qualifications from reputable academic institutions worldwide.

Dr. Kigozi holds a PhD in Materials Science and Engineering, specialising in Energy. He obtained his degree from an African institution, the University of Science and Technology (AUST) in Abuja, Nigeria (2021). He completed his postdoctoral research for 6 months with the International Advanced Research Center for

Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (ARCI) in June – November 2022. He also has a Master of Science in Chemistry from Makerere University (2015) and a Bachelor of Science Technology – Chemistry from Kyambogo University, Uganda (2007).

Moses joined Busitema University as a Chief Technician in January 2010 and currently serves as a lecturer in the same University in the Department of Chemistry. After his bachelor's degree, he worked in several industries before joining a public University, which includes Kampala Pharmaceutical Industries Limited as a Quality Control Chemist (2007 - 2008), Rene Pharmaceutical Industries as a production chemist (2008 – 2009) and MOVIT cosmetic production company as the first Quality Controller (2009 – 2010).



He was a Fellow of ARCI Hyderabad India (2019 – 2020). He was also a fellow of International Training in Food Safety (ITP) at Ghent University, Belgium (2013).

His research interests include Materials

synthesis for energy storage and water purification, Materials and minerals characterisation, Analytical/environmental chemistry, product quality control and quality assurance, nanomaterial technology application, laboratory management, and consultation.

His research interests in energy storage have driven him to research and complete many projects, the most popular and latest being the manufacture of lithium batteries for energy storage using locally available materials, which project he exhibited in the Science Week of 2023.

This project, which is the first of its kind not only in Uganda but also in Africa, is aimed at the production of a rechargeable battery, with its main material being lithium on the cathode side, giving the properties of a rechargeable battery.



Since most rechargeable batteries are imported, Dr Kigozi felt it better to utilise the available raw materials from Uganda and other African countries like Congo and Zambia instead of exporting the raw materials and importing the finished product.

Dr Kigozi started this project in India, where he had gone for his six-month postdoctoral research, which the African Development Bank funded. He later asked for additional funding from the World Bank since he had to stay back for six months to complete this project. Upon returning to Uganda, Moses contacted a few people who could help him continue the same project back home in Uganda.

He started with the science exhibition week of



2022. The Minister of Energy was impressed with the innovation and pledged to help. In June 2023, a promise of funding from the Ministry of Science and Innovation through the office of the President was made, and this was to be effected after he cut his budget to a third of the initial budget. Upon acceptance, Dr



Kigozi was awarded a cash grant of 1.75 billion shillings through Busitema University. He is currently working on the paperwork to access the funds from the University that will be used to purchase the necessary machines and equipment to run the project.

CHALLENGES

Since this project is the first of its kind in the country, it is hard to find a lab dealing in energy storage with the necessary equipment and technology. There is a need, therefore, to build a research and development lab within the University (faculty of science and education) where the project will be developed since all the prototypes (samples) were done in India.

The biggest hindrance to this project is funding. Dr Kigozi's budget was initially 5 billion shillings, yet this was reduced to 1.65 billion shillings only and still quality work is required. This has also affected the acquisition of the necessary machines for production and training of his team on the ground. He chose a team from related fields with less knowledge about energy storage. Since his initial aim was building rechargeable lithium batteries, not purifying materials, it became hard for him to obtain materials, purify them and then continue with the production process, yet the project was given only one year.

Though the whole journey of this project that is beginning to gain shape has been full of challenges and hurdles which are still coming up along the way, Dr Kigozi is now a great inspiration to the young generation and urges them to always remain focused, hardworking and never to allow discouragement take them off their goals to achieve success.

He says that endurance and perseverance through the various challenges have enabled him to reach where he has reached, and these virtues are yet to raise him to where he desires.



Sylvie Muwanga Tebitendwa (Ph.D).

Research interests: Environmental biotechnology with bias in wastewater treatment using state-of-the-art natural wastewater treatment systems, particularly pond systems and constructed wetlands. I am also interested in developing high-value bio-products such as feed feeds from algal biomass.

1. Genesis of innovaton

As an academican and researcher at Busitema University's (BU) newly established Maritime Institute, but also offering services at the Faculty of Natural Resources and Environmental Science (FNRES), Namasagali Campus, daily, I read at least a book chapter and two published articles about the aquaculture industry.

Also, through outreach activities, I frequently interact with a myriad of fish farmers in the Kamuli District. I discovered that despite aquaculture being considered the fastest-growing food production sector globally, it experiences many major challenges, one being the poor quality of formulated fish feeds, which is due to the high cost of fish feed ingredients, especially

the fish meal "mukene" commonly used as a protein source. Furthermore, the poor water related to the diurnal fluctuation of dissolved oxygen concentration is another important challenge, especially in earthen ponds, which stresses fish, leading to poor appetite, slow growth, and greater susceptibility to diseases, consequently leading to low yields for farmers. The vision of Busitema University to provide high-standard training and engage in quality research and outreach for socio-economic transformation and sustainable development has encouraged

high-standard training

through practical demonstration sessions.



2. The dream becomes reality

My innovation focused on developing a pilot scale high-rate algal pond (HRAP) system at the FNRES, Namasagali Campus, to promote sustainable aquaculture. Specially, we are cultivating microalgae-bacteria (MaB) flocs—a type of biomass formed from the aggregation of aquatic microbes—from a HRAP system to increase the natural production of food for the African catfish (*Clarias gariepinus*) while at the same time improving dissolved oxygen concentration a critical water quality parameter in aquaculture production systems. The HRAP system is a type of shallow artificial pond commonly used for wastewater treatment, which is equipped with a paddle wheel that constantly exposes algae to sunlight, resulting in higher yields of algal biomass than traditional ponds, as illustrated in Figure 1.

We partnered with Munyegera Agro Machinery Limited, who locally fabricated the paddle wheel to reduce maintenance costs of the paddle wheels in case of any breakdown. As demonstrated in Figure 1, the HRAP system's design was such that it employs solar Energy to overcome the problem of inconsistent electrical power supply.



A paddle wheel for mixing the influent



1.5kw solar system

Figure 1: A Pilot-scale high-rate algal pond (HRAP) system equipped with a solar-powered paddle wheel constructed and operated at the Faculty of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences, Namasagali Campus, for high-rate algal biomass production and improved oxygen production.

I also partnered with Racell Uganda Limited, an expert local environmental engineering company that designed and constructed the HRAP system. A study was carried out using fish tanks that were stocked with *Clarias gariepinus* (African catfish) and fed with HRAP mixed liquor to investigate the effect of HRAP mixed liquor on the performance of African catfish to demonstrate the potential applicability of the HRAP system to rural fish farmers.

Figure 2: A Pilot-scale HRAP system with and without a paddle wheel at FNRES, Namasagali Campus



Figure 3: Effluent rich in microalgal bacteria floc biomass and dissolved oxygen concentration from the paddle wheel mixed HRAP used as a feed for the fish tanks in the aquaponics system to improve catfish growth. Catfish weight increment from 2g at stocking to 36g after 12 week monitoring period was recorded.

Indeed, results from our innovation revealed that the HRAP mixed liquor was rich in MaB floc biomass, and the dissolved oxygen concentration recorded in paddle wheel mixed HRAP was 5 mg/L, which was higher than in an unmixed pond and within the required standards to support fish growth. Additionally, in tanks fed with HRAP mixed liquor, catfish grew from 2g at stocking to an average weight of 36g compared average weight of 23g recorded in tanks fed with river water after 12 week monitoring period. This was attributed to protein-rich MaB floc biomass and dissolved

oxygen concentration in the HRAP mixed liquor. Hence, these results suggested that the HRAP technology has potential for adoption by rural fish farmers to overcome the challenges experienced in earthen ponds.

The innovation has increased the visibility of Busitema University to the local, regional, and international communities, where we showcased at various fora, including the international conference on aquaculture and artisanal fisheries held in 2022, at the Source of the Nile Hotel, Jinja, The Second Educational Agricultural show held in July 2023, at the main showground, Jinja, and The International Water Association Conference on Water and Wastewater treatment with a special focus on developing countries held in December 2023, at Murdoch University, Perth, Australia.

Huddles faced

As an academic staff, my mandate is to teach, conduct research and perform community outreach activities. However, externally funded research projects must be accomplished within a specified time frame. Given that the FNRES is understaffed, current teaching staff are overburdened with a high workload striving to balance time for research, teaching and outreach activities.

1. Sponsorship/funding

Developing a successful innovation requires funding, which is often inadequate, especially in academic and research institutions in developing countries. So, it is a good idea to think about the source of funding together during the initial stage of developing your idea. For its success, the HRAP FOR FISH CULTURE PROJECT was sponsored by the Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD), headquartered in Trieste, Italy, through an Early Career fellowship. As an alumnus of OWSD, a fellowship that aided my doctoral study in Environmental Biotechnology at Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa, I was lucky to be among the 21

OWSD early career fellowship awardees in 2020. Within the HRAP FOR FISH CULTURE PROJECT framework, I further won another grant with the Busitema University Research and Innovation Fund (BURIF). Developing a grant-winning proposal necessitates courage and sacrifice. I spent sleepless nights studying and contacting colleagues for guidance during my proposal development.

I would not say I am exceptional to win these grants but rather attribute it to my resilience, hard work, and luck. I apply whenever an opportunity for a scholarship arises.

Advise to innovators

Developing and rolling out an innovation requires academic self-discipline, teamwork, and courage.

- As a scientific innovator, you need to always be up-to-date regarding your specialisation, and this is achieved through constantly reading books, published articles, magazines, internet materials, newspapers, attending academic meetings such as conferences, workshops, seminars, and watching news. The information obtained will be crucial in helping you identify a community-based problem, which will be a basis for purposeful innovation.
- It is also important to work with a diverse and inclusive team of academicians at all levels, non-academicians, especially from the private sector, students, and farmers, to collect various views. It is easier to develop a good innovation from different perspectives.
- As a lead innovator, it is best to identify advisors and mentors within the team who are knowledgeable about your innovation to discuss your thoughts and problems. Ensure you are ready and willing to listen to them; it does not necessarily imply that you must always approve of their ideas, but be open and continuously willing to learn from them.
- Finally, accept failure during your innovation; the only way you may have a successful innovation is to fail first, but always be flexible to change and find options for your failure.



NATURAL PRODUCTS AND INNOVATION CENTRE.



Dr Obakiro Samuel Baker

Natural products, medicinal products, animal parts and microorganisms used for treatment purposes from molecules. These molecules are used to treat human and animal diseases. As scientists, we innovate and discover the relevant molecules for societal health needs.

I am a chemist and one of my roles is one who makes drugs.

Huddles faced

The major challenge is equipment. Some of these things require state-of-the-art equipment unavailable in our region. Drug Discovery and innovation require expensive high-precision machines like NMR and CMS, which give undisputable analysis.

Another limitation is the source of materials. Many medicinal plants have become rare due to climate change and human activities, and looking for them becomes a very big challenge, but as scientists, we have systems to acquire these resources. Above all, mindset is a really big challenge. Many do not believe we have some of these things made in Uganda, so we need to change our mindset to know that even Ugandas can do greater things.

Advise to dreamers.

I encourage them that we can do things and solve our problems because nobody will come and give them a new drug for free.

Mentorships are powerful. My mentor is Prof Waako, who has walked with me and is among the brains behind TASCOV. We also enrol and have more trainees at this centre to support and help them achieve their dreams. I call upon upcoming scientists to embrace this opportunity at Busitema University.

Sponsorship

Currently, this centre has heavy funding from the Government of Uganda, and you should know that the pharmaceutical industry in Uganda makes a lot of money. Uganda and

Africa have been like more consumers unless the Government deliberately invests in this industry. So the Government through the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation are our biggest sponsors.

Besides the Government of Uganda, we have the Buitema Unvisterty reshuffle and innovation refund, which is now supporting five scientists, but all in, we are looking for a joint Grant Application alongside investors and donors.

So far, the journey has not been so bad; the Government has supported this project.

Huddles faced.

There has always been delayed realise of the funds from the Government, and when the funds are realised quarterly, it does not support science, but if the system is well streamlined, the Government will appreciate that the funding strategy for science is different from other projects.

Advise to innovators.

I encourage all other fellow scientists to be persistent, believe in yourselves, call for commitment, and work together as a team, which is very important.



Above: One of the herbal medicines developed by the team



Above: a cross-section of products made at the Center

STUDENTS AFFAIRS & PICTORIAL

PICTORIAL OF STUDENTS DISPLAYING THEIR PRODUCTS

Besides: The Faculty of Agriculture displays its products, and the Faculty of Engineering their prototypes



Above: Biomedical students with their innovation

Below: Faculty of Agriculture with their fodder machine



Above: Faculty of Engineering students, with their lecturer, display their invention

IEEE Hardware Programming Hackathon Uganda 2023



Above: A cross-section of students who took part in the training with the instructors

IEEE Hardware Programming Hackathon Uganda 2023 conducted hardware programming training and was merged with the IEEE CASS Student Design Competition. The IEEE Circuits and Systems Society (CASS) Student Design Competition is a worldwide competition where undergraduate students were to suggest and execute projects on Electrical engineering and related areas. The focus was finding a solution to a real-life problem based on circuits and systems. Among the projects executed was the Traffic lights project and the gas leakage detector.

Below: Students from the Faculty of Medicine display medicines developed by their lecturers



Above: A cross-section of staff and students interacting with staff from IEEE



A team of students working on their project

Faculty of Engineering and Technology Guild Council Leads Communal Work Day to Foster Campus Greenery and Cleanliness

In an exemplary display of unity and environmental stewardship, the Busitema University Faculty of Engineering and Technology Guild Council, in collaboration with Faculty students, have carried out a commendable communal work day. The event saw the campus Leaders come together to actively engage in various activities that promote cleanliness, green initiatives, and a sense of shared responsibility towards the university environment. Activities carried out during the were, among others; cleaning of the campus compound, tree planting, and unveiling campus seats. This endeavour not only contributes to the University’s greenery but also plays a vital role in mitigating the effects of climate change and providing a more sustainable ecosystem for the future generations of Busitema University.



Left and Bottom: Students involved in tree planting. Right: students cleaning the compound

Department of Gender Mainstreaming Empowers Students with HIV/AIDS Awareness on International Women’s Day.



Above: The Department of Gender Mainstreaming Empowers Students with HIV/AIDS Awareness on the International Women’s Day

In commemoration of International Women’s Day 2024, the Department of Gender Mainstreaming organised an event aimed at raising awareness about HIV/AIDS prevention and promoting health consciousness among students. The session at the Arapai Campus served as an educational platform to equip students with Important information on safeguarding themselves against the virus.

The event featured a sensitisation program that brought together students from diverse backgrounds to engage in discussions and learning sessions on HIV prevention strategies. Highlighting the importance of youth involvement in combating the scourge. The session included firsthand talks from young individuals living with HIV, who shared their personal experiences.

Youths living with HIV bravely stepped forward

to share their journeys, providing invaluable perspectives on living with the virus and dispelling myths and misconceptions surrounding it. Their narratives served as powerful testimonials, resonating with fellow students and fostering empathy, understanding, and solidarity among the Participants.

One of the key messages emphasised during the session was the importance of knowing one's HIV status. Students were encouraged to take proactive measures by undergoing HIV testing and counselling, empowering them to make informed decisions about their health and well-being. Additionally, participants were urged to prioritise their health by adopting preventive measures and practising safe behaviours.

Vice Chancellor hosts Bishop Dr Magezi Africano

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Paul Waako, hosted the Secretary General of the National Fellowship of Born Again Pentecostal Churches of Uganda, Bishop Dr. Magezi Africano and several leaders at Busitema University, Busitema Campus, Main Administration Block. The two leaders discussed several strategic issues relating to the University's quest to support students in faith-based initiatives.



Above: The Vice Chancellor interacts with the delegation of the Born Again Faith Federation:

Busitema Partners with Care Uganda to Advance Integrated Community Based Agricultural Extension



Above: Care Uganda Country Director Mr Apollo Gabazira (left) shakes hands with Prof Paul Waako after signing the MoU

In March this year Busitema University and Care Uganda entered into a Partnership to collaborate in advancing Integrated Community Based Agricultural Extension through a ten-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This collaboration aims to improve the Farmer Field and Business School (FFBS) initiative by utilising the assets and capabilities of both parties. A common goal is to enhance the skill-based curriculum offered at Busitema University and promote increased agricultural development and community empowerment.

The Vice-Chancellor reaffirmed the University's commitment to lead Agricultural education. Care Uganda was represented by Mr. Apollo Gabazira, the country director and an alumnus of Busitema College, the current Busitema University. Through the combined efforts and knowledge of the two organisations, the MOU paves the way for various projects that will empower farmers and promote sustainable agricultural growth.

SPORTS 2024

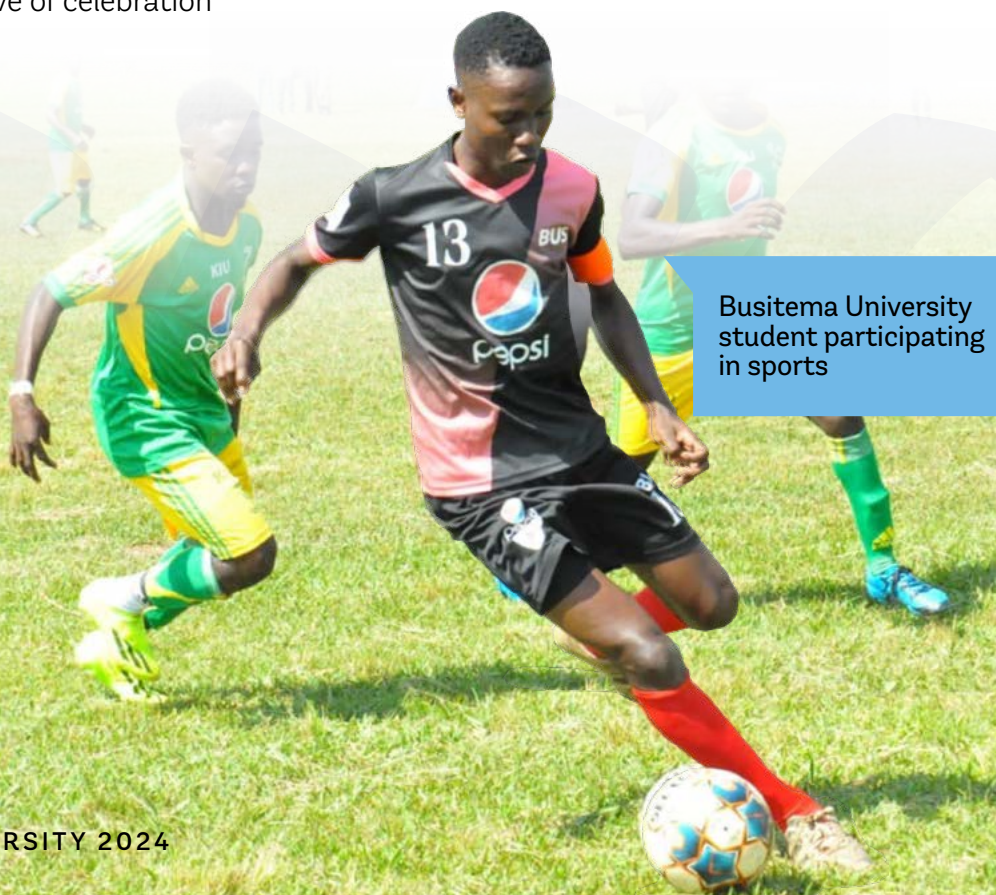
Busitema University Secures Victory Over Kampala International University in Hard-Fought Football Match

In a thrilling football match with spectators on the edge of their seats, Busitema University emerged victorious against Kampala International University last September, with a final score of 1-0. The talented Bukenya Simon expertly executed the lone goal that sealed the game's fate in the 65th minute of the match.

The intensity on the field was palpable as both teams displayed remarkable skill and determination throughout the game. However, Busitema University broke the deadlock thanks to Bukenya Simon's exceptional performance. The decisive moment came in the 65th minute when Bukenya Simon capitalised on an opportunity, demonstrating his precision and composure in front of the goal. His strike sent the ball soaring past the opposition's goalkeeper, finding the back of the net and igniting a wave of celebration

among the Busitema University supporters. We cannot overlook the pivotal role played by the coaching staff, led by the esteemed coach, whose strategic guidance and training undoubtedly contributed to Busitema University's success on the field. The meticulous preparation and effective tactics employed by the coaching team played a vital part in securing this crucial victory.

As the final whistle blew, Busitema University celebrated a hard-earned victory over a formidable opponent, leaving the fans thrilled and proud of their team's remarkable performance. This win is a testament to the skill, teamwork, and perseverance of Busitema University's football squad, and it marks a memorable chapter in their sporting journey.



Busitema University student participating in sports

PICTORIAL OF BUSITEMA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ENGAGED IN CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES BECAUSE WE TRAIN THE WHOLE MAN

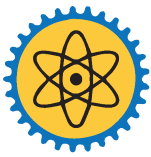


Above: The Vice Chancellor flags off the sports team as they head out for inter-university games









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Busitema University is a multi-campus Public University established by Statutory No. 22 of 2007. The University was set up to provide equitable access to higher education, promote research and innovation, dissemination of knowledge and advancement of learning; and accelerate the socio-economic transformation of rural communities in Eastern Uganda.

The University currently has six campuses in Busia, Tororo, Mbale, Soroti, Pallisa and Kamuli.

Vision: A centre of professional and academic excellence in science, technology and innovations.

Mission: To provide high standard training, engage in research and outreach to support industrialization and sustainable development.

Niche of Busitema University:

The University's niche is practical sciences, relevant technology, productive education and innovation for sustainable development.

Open Distance Learning (ODEL)

Busitema University was approved by the National Council for Higher Education to roll out online teaching for all its study programmes. This instructional strategy offers an opportunity to students to follow courses and study through online distance learning.

Programs of study

Busitema University offers over 70 accredited programmes of study in areas of Engineering, Science and Education, Agriculture, Health Sciences, Agriculture and Animal Sciences,

Natural Resource and Environmental Sciences and Management Sciences; at Doctoral, Masters, Bachelors, Diploma and Certificate levels.

Admissions

Busitema University has only one intake in August every year. The Department of the Academic Registrar advertises the various programmes between March and May every year. Admission to both Government and Private Schemes are based on merit and done under the following schemes: Direct Entry; Diploma Entry; and Graduate Entry.



Graduate Programs	Undergraduate Programs
PhDS	Mbale Campus
PhD in Energy Engineering PhD in Materials Engineering (by Research) PhD in Educational Leadership and Management PhD in Biodiversity Conservation & Management PhD in Business Administration & Management PhD in Educational Psychology PhD of Science in Global Change and Sustainable Agriculture PhD in Chemistry (by Research) PhD in physics PhD in Cyber Physical Systems	Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery Bachelor of Science in Anaesthesia Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Masters	Arapai Campus
Master of Computer Forensics Master of Science in Irrigation & Drainage Engineering Master of Science in Materials Engineering Master of Science in Sustainable Energy Engineering Master of Medicine, Internal Medicine Master of Medicine in Paediatrics & Child Health Master of Public Health Master of Medicine in Obstetrics and Gynecology Master of Educational Leadership & Management Masters in Educational Psychology Master of Science in Industrial Mathematics Master of Science in Physics Master of Science in Climate Change & Disaster Management Master of Science in Environmental Economics Master of Business Administration Masters in Public Administration Master of Science in Infectious Diseases Field Epidemiology Master of Science in Plant Breeding Master of Science in Global Change and Sustainable Agriculture Master of Science in Artificial Intelligence Master of Science in Chemistry Master of Science in Cyber Physical Engineering Masters in Educational Psychology	Bachelor of Animal Production & Management Bachelor of Agribusiness Bachelor of Science in Agriculture Diploma in Animal Production & Management Diploma in Crop Production & Management
PGDs	Busitema Campus
PGD in Higher Education Pedagogy PGD in Public Administration	Bachelor of Agricultural Mechanization and Irrigation Engineering Bachelor of Science in Agro-Processing Engineering Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering Diploma in Agricultural Engineering Diploma in Industrial Electronics and Electrical Engineering Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering Diploma in Ginning and Industrial Engineering: Bachelor of Science in Mining Engineering Bachelor of Science in Polymer, Textile and Industrial Engineering Bachelor of Science in Water Resources Engineering
Certificate Courses	Nagongera Campus
1.Higher Education Access Certificate in: ● Biology & Agriculture ● Biology & Chemistry ● Mathematics & Chemistry ● Physics & Mathematics ● English Language & Literature In English 2. Certificate in General Agriculture	Bachelor of Education Primary Diploma in Education Primary Bachelor of Science Education Bachelor of Information Technology Bachelor of Education Languages (English & Literature in English) Bachelor of Science in Computer Science Bachelor of Science in Statistics Bachelor of Science Education (Physical Education) Diploma in Science Laboratory Technology (Chemistry) Diploma in Science Laboratory Technology (Physics) Diploma in Science Laboratory Technology (Biology)
Skill Based Certificate Programs	Namasagali Campus
i.Certificate in Automotive Repair, Operation and Maintenance ii.Certificate in Welding and Metal Part Fabrication iii.Certificate in Irrigation Technologies and Innovations iv.Certificate in Post-Harvest Handling and Processing Technologies	Bachelor of Science in Fisheries & Water Resources Management Bachelor of Science in Natural Resource Economics
	Pallisa Campus
	Bachelor of Business Administration Bachelor of Public Administration & Management Bachelor of Business Administration (Weekend) Bachelor of Procurement & Supply Chain Management Diploma in Business Administration Diploma in Records & Information Management Bachelor of Tourism & Travel Management Diploma in Tourism & Travel Management Bachelor of Entrepreneurship Development & Management

Applications are STRICTLY completed online under the University admissions portal;
<http://admissions.busitema.ac.ug>

For more information contact: Academic Registrars Department: Email. ar.acadreg@busitema.ac.ug
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