

# The Woman MAGAZINE

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**WOMEN'S DAY 2019:**

## EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH SOCIAL PROTECTION

**INNOVATIVE APPROACHES:** This issue especially highlights the recently conducted Women Council elections and the way forward. It also highlights the government's efforts and commitment to empowering women in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals.



## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

### Statement by Dr. Maxime Houinato, UN Women Country Representative on International Women's day 2019.

As we commemorate **International Women's Day 2019**, the world is focusing on social protection for women and girls within the context of 2030 Agenda of leaving no one behind. Social Protection is fundamental to gender equality and the achievement of full rights for women and girls. As far back as 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights called for social protection for all. It is recognized that social protection programmes enable countries to address poverty and vulnerability, and in so-doing improve the socio-economic well-being of otherwise excluded people.

The international theme for this year's International Women's Day "Think Equal, Build Smart, and Innovate for Change" challenges us to identify new ways of advancing gender equality at all levels. The national theme "Empowering Women through innovative approaches to social protection: a pre-requisite to sustainable development" recognizes the pivotal role that reducing the vulnerability that women face throughout their life cycle plays in sustainable development. It further recognizes how social protection is a strategy for inclusive development.

Achieving a gender-equal world requires social protection innovations that work for both women and men and leave no one behind. From urban planning that focuses on community safety, to e-learning platforms that take classrooms to women and girls, affordable and quality childcare, and technology shaped by women, innovation can take the race for gender equality to its finishing line by 2030.

It requires that an analysis of the underlying causes of gender and equity inequalities be the basis for which gender responsive social protection should be undertaken. It requires that women's and girls' needs and experiences are integrated at the very inception of technology and innovations. It means building smart solutions that go beyond acknowledging the gender gaps to addressing the needs of men and women equally. And ultimately, it needs innovations that disrupt business as usual, paying attention to how and by whom technology is used and accessed, and ensuring that women and girls play a decisive role in emerging industries.

We applaud the Government of Uganda for the progress made in

establishing innovative social protection approaches to include vulnerable groups in society. These include; the Social Assistance Grant which targets senior citizens, the Uganda Women Empowerment Programme, the Youth Livelihood Programme, the National Social Security Fund voluntary saving scheme, the Community Based Health Insurance Scheme and safe shelters for victims of gender based violence among others. We believe that if these initiatives are implemented effectively, they have the power to change the game, to build a better, stronger and healthier environment not only for women and girls, but for all of us.

If we are to achieve equality and protection for women and girls in Uganda, we must address the bottlenecks that prevent interventions from reaching vulnerable women and girls. We must ensure that the design of the social protection programmes take into consideration the constraints that may hinder female participation. There is need to invest in awareness and sensitization about the programmes, and their benefits for both men and women. For example, special efforts should also be made to address the persistent negative social norms, perceptions and practices that affect women's access to and ownership of land and other productive resources.

UN Women supports innovations which ensure that vulnerable women and men have equal access to resources and participate fully in social protection programmes. Our work focuses on identifying gaps which must be addressed in strengthening the provision of social protection and work with all stakeholders in providing solutions at policy and implementation levels.

At UN Women we believe that social protection represents an investment by virtue of which all of us win, men and women alike, whether in the short-term, due to the effects of inclusion, or in the long-term.

Together we must seize this opportunity to ensure that all interventions reflect the needs and interests of women and girls.

**Today and every day think equal, build smart and innovate for change.**

## 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

While a lot of progress has been made in Uganda on social protection in the public sector, there is still need to consistently address gender specific vulnerabilities of women and girls in the informal sector so as to provide a holistic and sustainable response to vulnerabilities that typically beset women and girls in this sector.

Social protection interventions should also extend to the agricultural sector where most women are employed. There is an opportunity to increase access to affordable agriculture insurance to protect women farmers from climate uncertainties and improve food security. Adoption of modern and appropriate farming technology and expanding access to quality markets for women farmers will go a long way in transforming agricultural business for women.

**HAPPY INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY.**

**“There is need to invest in awareness and sensitization about the programmes, and their benefits for both men and women. For example, special efforts should also be made to address the persistent negative social norms, perceptions and practices that affect women's access to and ownership of land and other productive resources”**



MARCH 8, 2019

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# International Women's Day themes, venues

YEAR	THEME	VENUE
1986	"Women for Peace and Development"	Kololo Airstrip
1987	"Shelter for Homeless and Better Homesteads for the Family"	Luwero
1988	"To mark the Creation of the Ministry of State for Women in Development as the National Machinery to Spearhead Empowerment of Women"	Kampala International Conference Centre
1989	"Women and Food Security"	Iganga
1990	"Women and Environment"	Kabale
1991	"Women and Peace"	Gulu
1992	"Women and Business"	All districts
1993	"Women and Health"	Mubende
1994	"Women and the Constitution"	All districts
1995	"Women and Crisis Management"	Kabarole
1996	"Women and Democracy"	Soroti
1997	"Women's Empowerment: Consolidating the	Masaka
1998	"Women's Emancipation, Reflection on the	Kampala [UMA]
1999	"Women in the Struggle to Eradicate Poverty"	Mbarara
2000	"Promoting Women's Rights"	Rukungiri
2001	"Education: A Tool for Women Empowerment"	Kololo Airstrip
2002	"Break the Silence: Stop Violence against Women"	Kololo Airstrip
2002	"Act Now; Say No to Violence against Women"	Gulu
2004	"Women and HIV/AIDS: Challenges and the Way Forward"	Kamuli
2005	"Women's role in wealth creation at household level"	Mpigi
2006	"Women and Multiparty Democracy in Uganda"	Kololo Airstrip
2007	"Promoting Women's Empowerment for Development"	Kololo Airstrip
2008	"The role of Women in Transforming Societies to Achieve Political, Economic and Social Development"	Kololo Airstrip
2009	"Increase Investment in Girls Education as a Pre-Requisite for Dev't"	Mayuge
2010	"Consolidating Equal Opportunities for Women: A path to Prosperity for All"	Bushenyi
2011	"Act now: Promote Maternal Health."	Kololo
2012	"Connecting Girls, Inspiring futures"	Nebbi
2013	"The Gender agenda": Connecting Grassroots Women to Development"	Nakasongola
2014	"In Partnership with Men and Boys for empowerment of Women and Girls in Uganda".	Kumi
2015	"Empowerment of Women and Girls is Progress for All: Three Decades of gains for Ugandan Women and Girls"	Kabale
2016	"Women's Economic Empowerment: A Vehicle to Sustainable Development"	Kololo
2017	"Women's Empowerment in the Changing World of Work:	Dokolo
2018	Rural women and girls: Opportunities and Challenges	Mityana
<b>2019</b>	<b>Empowering Women through Innovative approaches to Social Protection; A Prerequisite for Inclusive and Sustainable Development.</b>	<b>Bunyangabu</b>

## EDITOR'S NOTE

# It is just the beginning of innovations as Uganda presses more for women



It is with great pleasure that I present to you yet another issue of the Woman Newsletter, a publication of the National Women's Council. The newsletter is published annually as part of celebrations to mark the International Women's Day on 8th March. The copies are first distributed at the International Women's Day National celebrations as a souvenir.

The newsletter speaks out to the whole nation about the journey of women's empowerment as we struggle for a gender balanced environment, noticing its absence and celebrating its presence.

This issue especially highlights the recently conducted Women Council elections and the way forward. It also highlights the government's efforts and commitment to empowering women in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals and what the National Women's Council has done and plans to do in ensuring gender parity.

### Empowering women.

This issue especially highlights the recently conducted Women Council elections and the way forward. It also highlights the government's efforts and commitment to empowering women in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals

The articles herein are aligned with this year's national theme "Empowering Women through Innovative Approaches to Social Protection; A Prerequisite for Inclusive and Sustainable Development". So as you read and enjoy these articles, bear in mind that the theme does not start and end on International Women's Day, rather it should provide us with a unified direction to guide and galvanise continuous collective action with the

theme activities reinforced and amplified all year.

I wish to thank the editorial team that compiled this issue, for the job well-done. And last but not least our dear readers for being the reason we have continued to publish this informative Newsletter.

I wish you all Happy Women's Day celebrations as we remember that "empowering women in all ways is a sure way to sustainable development".

*Collins Mwijuka*  
Editor

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY  
CELEBRATIONS HOSTED BY  
BUNYANGABU DISTRICT,  
MARCH 8, 2019

### THE TEAM:

#### EDITORIAL:

Collins Mwijuka  
Editor-in-Chief

Alex B. Atuhaire  
Editorial Consultant

Irene Kiiza Onyango  
Project Editor

Muhamad Tamale  
Design Consultant

Robinah Kimbugwe,  
Hajara Nakiwolo  
Assistant Editors

Nahemia Natukunda,  
Maria Nnatabi, Shaban Lubega,  
Javira Ssebhwami, Roy Muzira  
Writers

#### SALES & MARKETING:

Richard V.K Muhoozi  
CEO, Post Media Ltd

Julia Nakabiito  
Head of Marketing, PML

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#### CONTACT US:

Alex B. Atuhaire,  
Editorial Director 0776499122;  
E-mail: [alexatuhaire@gmail.com](mailto:alexatuhaire@gmail.com)





## FOREWORD BY FARIDAH KIBOWA

Since inception, the National Women's Council has worked tirelessly to ensure the women are not left behind in development. We are proud to say we have achieved through advocacy, lobbying and implementation of programmes aimed at empowering women socially, economically and politically.



# Happy Women's Day as we unfold yet another package

Dear Reader,

I am delighted to present to you the 2019 issue of the Woman's Newsletter. The Newsletter is published annually on 8th March to update the public on the journey for women's empowerment and to keep you informed about National Women's Council.

Through this Newsletter, we draw the attention of our readers to; what has been done, what has not been done and what needs to be done to empower the women in relation to the year's national Theme for International Women's Day. This Year's Theme is "Empowering Women through Innovative

Approaches to Social Protection; A prerequisite for Inclusive and Sustainable Development"

The National Women's Council is mandated to bring all the women of Uganda together for development

purposes irrespective of their religious, tribal or political affiliations.

Since inception, the National Women's Council has worked tirelessly to ensure the women are not left behind in development. We are proud to say we have achieved through advocacy, lobbying and implementation of programmes aimed at empowering women socially, economically and politically.

The just concluded women council elections, has created a pool of 304,000 Women Council leaders from the 60,800 villages in Uganda. Through this pool of leaders, the NWC will ensure social protection for all is attained. The National Women's

Council, has laid out strategic directions for the women empowerment programmes that would ensure sustainable development, through these five strategic goals each with objectives and activities;

1. Enhance The Women's Social-Economic Empowerment
2. Undertake Advocacy for Women's Rights in Leadership
3. Strengthen NWC Institutional Systems and Structures
4. Strengthen Research, Documentation and Publications
5. Strengthening Partnerships, Collaborations and Networking

For the next four years the focus will be on addressing the community issues in five key areas; Girl child education, Economic Empowerment, Education, Women and Health, child upbringing and parenting. To work on the above, the National Women Council has come up with a 15 household model strategy where each of the 5 village Women Council executive at the village, will be allocated 15 households within their neighborhoods per year to follow up and mentor. The 15 household model is basically for information flow to and from the community regarding development of communities

I take this opportunity to thank the government of Uganda under the capable leadership of President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni for creating an enabling environment for women empowerment. We recognize that Uganda was one of the first African countries to adapt the Sustainable Development Goals, to ensure that no one is left behind.

I also thank you all who make the women cause your concern; I thank you all for making International Women's Day your day.

Let's all strive to create a balanced world.

Enjoy the International Women's Day celebrations  
For God and My Country.

# 304,000

**Women Council leaders.**

The just concluded women council elections, has created a pool of 304,000 Women Council leaders from the 60,800 villages in Uganda.



**(Above)** President Yoweri Museveni addresses the National Women's Council ahead of the elections for the new leadership.



**(Left)** The newly elected chairperson of the National Women's Council, Faridah Kibowa, addresses the council, flanked by her executive team.



## WHO IS WHO > THE NWC EXECUTIVE MEMBERS



**CHAIRPERSON**  
*Ms. Faridah Kibowa*



**VICE CHAIRPERSON**  
*Ms. Linda Agnes Auma*



**PUBLICITY SECRETARY**  
*Ms. Masitura Namatovu*



**FINANCE SECRETARY**  
*Ms. Robinah Norah Akwi*



**REP OF WOMEN  
WITH DISABILITIES**  
*Hon. Asamo Hellen Grace*



**YOUTHS  
REPRESENTATIVE**  
*Ms. Karungi Caroline*



**MGLSD  
REPRESENTATIVE**  
*Ms. Hadijah Namuddu*



**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**  
*Mr. Collins Mwijuka*



# The Sexual Offences Bill 2015:

## Yet Another Opportunity for Parliament to Create a More Gender Balanced Society

By Susan Baluka

**A**s we commemorate International Women's Day 2019, let us heed the theme, 'Balance for Better,' and ponder how we can use the law as a tool to better our society through adopting a gender-balanced approach to treating the societal ills that promote sexual violence and discrimination against women. Particularly for Uganda, we need to capitalise on the Sexual Offences Bill, whose enactment into law is imminent.

The Sexual Offences Bill seeks to consolidate laws relating to sexual offences, provide for punishment of perpetrators; and for procedural and evidential requirements during their trial. In this spirit, it is quite progressive in putting in place measures that widen individuals' legal protection from sexual violence, especially women and children.

Some of the progressive provisions in the Bill include those on: the inclusive and gender neutral definition of rape, the criminalisation of marital rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment; and improper sexual activity with persons in custody.

These provisions appreciate the gender biases that women have for so long suffered under the brunt of a widely and strongly patriarchal society, which has greatly contributed to violation of their rights and human dignity. It is for instance difficult for women to report cases of marital rape, as it is presumed that once a woman is married, her consent for sexual intercourse with her spouse cannot be withheld.

It is also difficult for women to be able to get redress for being subjected to unwanted sexual advances, especially in the workplace, due to the gender stereotypical views that women must put on a show of modesty and not submit to male advances immediately; and that men must always be persistent in their endeavours, including the sexual pursuit of women. Such misguided concepts on gender and sexuality, as well as the essentialisation of men and women, promote a rape culture within our society, to the detriment of women's right to dignity and self-determination. The Sexual Offences Bill, as illustrated in this article, seeks

to kill this rape culture.

On the other hand, the Bill has provisions that affect women on the extreme margins of society, which need to be revised. Key among these is the setting of a much lesser sentence for marital rape than that of other forms of rape. While the maximum sentence for other forms of rape is life imprisonment, the minimum sentence for marital rape is one year, with no maximum punishment prescribed for it. This is a form of discrimination against women, since, from statistics on sexual crimes, they are more likely to be affected by marital rape than men. Therefore, to limit the protection that is offered to them under a law that criminalises marital rape is to underplay its gravity and promote sexual violence against women in marital relationships.

In criminalising sexual harassment, the bill only covers the workplace, to the exclusion of other forms of sexual harassment that women experience, even in public. In as far as the bill seeks to curb sexual violence, it falls short in meeting this objective with regard to the clauses on criminalisation of sex work and solicitation. While sex work is a divisive subject, it is at the end of the day, a human and women's rights issue. According to the 2017 and 2018 reports on the Protection and Violation of Human Rights of Sex Workers in Uganda, published by Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum (HRAPF), the criminalisation of sex work contributes greatly to the physical, emotional and sexual violence experienced by sex workers, which ultimately, as indicated by reports from UNAIDS and Uganda AIDs Commission (UAC), are a huge impediment to success in the fight against HIV. It is against this background that in February this year, human rights and women's rights organisations in Uganda called upon parliament to decriminalise sex work. This is a call that our legislators ought to heed, just as those in other African countries like Senegal, Tunisia and Eritrea have done.

It is important to note that the promise of change that the Sexual Offences Bill carries is not only for the benefit of women, but for men



Susan Baluka

**“It is important to note that the promise of change that the Sexual Offences Bill carries is not only for the benefit of women, but for men as well....”**



Activists demanding for Decriminalisation of Sex Work.

as well, especially in as far as they have been on the receiving end of a system that disregards male vulnerability when it comes to sexual violence. Indeed, efforts towards gender balance in support of women's rights make the world a better place for everyone.

The writer is Legal Officer at Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum  
Email: [sbaluka@hrapf.org](mailto:sbaluka@hrapf.org) Mob: +256 789791524/+256 700536329



# KEY SUCCESSSES OF NWC IN THE PAST YEAR

BY ROBINAH KIMBUGWE

**T**he National Women's Council has structures that run from the village through to the national level. Through these structures women can air out their concern and development programmes can reach the women at the grassroots.

As part of her mandate, the National Women

**20%**

## Disease burden.

At least 20% of disease burden in children under 5 years of age is related to poor maternal health and nutrition as well as the quality of care at delivery and during newborn period.

Council after realising the role women play in developing their families, communities and the nation implemented programmes aimed at empowering women as a sure way to sustainable development. Here are some of the highlights of activities implemented last year.

## Women and health

Young girls and women face various sexual and reproductive health risks; factors associated with this include sexual behaviour and access to contraceptive services, family planning, prevention of STDs, sexual consent as a right, Gender Based Violence as well as menstrual hygiene management.

According to the UNICEF report (situation analysis of children in Uganda, 2015) it was found out that healthy children need healthy mothers. It was further found out that at least 20% of disease burden in children under 5 years of age is related to poor maternal health and nutrition as well as quality of care at delivery and during newborn period.

It is against this background that NWC organized a community dialogue in Kasanje Town Council, one of the local government structures in Wakiso District,

Busiro County. Kasanje being a fishing community, is associated with rampant risky sexual behaviour like child marriages, multiple sexual partners etc. The dialogue aimed at creating awareness on health issues related to maternal and reproductive health and rights. Over 300 women and girls benefited.

All the pregnant women who attended received free mama kits and teenagers were each given a free pack of re-usable sanitary towels.

## Capacity building

The Electoral Commission conducted women council elections throughout the country from 3rd July 2018 through 24th August 2018, from village level to national level. Majority of these leaders are taking on leadership positions for the first time, but even those that have been in leadership need refresher training to cope with the changing environment.

Due to her mandate to groom women to deliver, the National Women's Council organized induction meetings for the new women leaders. The inductions were cascaded down to the districts and oriented the District Women Council Chairpersons on their roles, rights and responsibilities as Women Council leaders and their roles in the implementation of UWEF. The participants of the induction meetings included the District Women Council Chairpersons and the District UWEF Focal Point Persons.

## The induction meetings were aimed at;

- a) Equipping women council leaders with information regarding their roles, rights and responsibilities.
- b) Strengthening leadership capacity of the elected women council leaders
- c) Ensuring women council leaders get to know different government programmes and projects that are of benefit to women of different categories and their roles in the implementation.
- d) Sharing with leaders, the laws, policies, regulations and guidelines that are in line with the execution of their mandate.







WOMEN LEARN  
HOW TO MAKE  
BAR SOAP

### Economic empowerment

One of the objectives of NWC is to engage women of Uganda in activities that are of benefit to them and the nation. It is under this objective that NWC has mobilised and acquired finances to empower the women to become economically /financially self-sufficient. Through the implementation of such activities like the Income Generating Grant and UWEP, the women council realised that the women did not only lack capital to start their enterprises but also lacked skills to start, effectively manage and sustain their enterprises. On this basis, the NWC has conducted targeted skills training for women so as to attain the following objectives;

- To equip the women with skills to start, effectively manage and sustain their enterprises.
- To equip women with skills in production of the different economic products so as to improve UWEP performance
- To increase on specialized income generating activities among women
- To improve the livelihoods of the rural women through support of enterprises

Each of the districts visited was requested to choose a specific skill to be trained in. Thus different specialists were engaged to provide the desired skills training.

### The districts benefited from the trainings as follows;

SN	District	Numbers	Skills Area
1	Jinja	60	- Bar Soap making - Counter books making
2	Kyankwanzi	40	Mushroom growing
3	Nakapiripiriti	40	General Enterprise skills
4	Kibuku	40	General Enterprise skills

### Advocacy and lobbying

As a stakeholder the National Women's Council has actively participated in consultative meetings about the commission on the status of women-CSW. The meeting was organised by the Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development in collaboration with UN women. The purpose of the meeting was to gather views to inform Uganda's position paper to guide the government's delegation in its deliberations at the African regional meeting in Addis-Ababa and at the 63rd CSW. The NWC was able to push for the women issues which included among others; women and health, impacts of climate change, economic empowerment, violence against women.





### Supporting the girl child education

The NWC has continued to support the girls stay in school through the equipping of women and girls with skills in making reusable sanitary towels.

After piloting the training in Sheema district, training was conducted in January 2019 for the women of Kakira Town Council in Jinja district.

National Women's Council organised and conducted training for the women and female youths on how to locally make reusable sanitary towels. This was aimed at equipping the participants with a skill for economic empowerment and also to help those that cannot afford sanitary towels to make some for themselves and their daughters. This would support girls who would have otherwise dropped out of school due to menstrual hygiene management to stay in school longer.

At the end of the training each of the participants walked away with sanitary towels they personally made.

### International Women's Day, the Women's Week

The National Women's Council has actively participated in the Women's Day celebrations and has always used this opportunity to further push and lobby for addressing women issues and concerns to both local and international stakeholders. In 2018 the National Women's Council organized a **Women's Week**

starting 4th March through to 8th March. The activities during this week aimed at addressing the challenges rural women and girls face along the journey of empowerment and to showcase the opportunities they can tap into in order to realize their full potential. Among the activities by the Council were; mobilizing for blood donation, distributing free reusable sanitary towels, printing and distributing branded T-shirts and handkerchiefs for awareness creation.

### A blood donation campaign drive

A number of maternal deaths are due to low blood count during pregnancy and loss of blood during child birth. The National Women's Council in partnership with Uganda Blood Transfusion Services launched a blood donation campaign as part of the International Women's Day pre-activities. The drive sought to address the persistent scarcity of blood as reported in hospitals countrywide and to save the mothers of Uganda and the general population.

The National Women's Council together with the district leadership and Mityana Municipal Council were very instrumental in mobilising the communities to participate in the campaign and donate blood. The drive was a success with over 400 pints of blood collected, of which 40% would go out to the women who could need it during child delivery.

### Sanitary pads distribution

Despite the government's efforts to ensure education for all through the Universal Primary and Secondary Education, many girls from poor families drop out of school due to poor menstrual hygiene management. Thus more girls do not go beyond primary education and resort to early marriages producing many children they cannot look after worsening their poverty levels and the consequential gender based violence.

The National Women's Council partnered with Afripads to help girls stay in school through distribution of free re-usable sanitary towels to primary school pupils in Mityana District. The pupils that benefited were identified from seven schools; Butega Church of Uganda Primary School, St Noah Busuubizi Demonstration Primary School, Katakala Church of Uganda Primary School, Namma RC Primary School, St Joseph Namyeso Primary School, Nandegejja Primary School and St Theresa Primary School Busuubizi.

With the help of head teachers and the senior women teachers, the National Women's Council selected the girls to be supported. A total of 500 pupils benefited from the initiative.



# Family as a fulcrum to women empowerment for inclusive and sustainable development

**By Naumo Juliana Kuruhira**

**G**reetings to all families in Uganda: May peace be upon you all! The family in our society has been understood to mean a group of people that relate and are bound any one way or combined by blood, marriage, adoption or placement. The family throughout history has been the “default” or “obvious” mode of human organisation. The reason for this is both simple and self-evident that life begins in the family.

When we are born into this world, what constitutes our world is the family – in infancy, childhood and into adulthood. The “people” we become is largely due to the relationships we experience in our family. Who each of us is, where we come from, starts in the family.

The woman in a family is pivotal in “making” or “breaking” the family. The woman who in most cases holds concurrently the tile of mother responsibly performs core roles among others: Discipline and values enforcement, informal education, counselling, peace and stability of the home,

socio-economic empowerment. Unfortunately, there are underpinning challenges regarding the aforesaid roles: failure of the man or father to provide support to the women consciously or otherwise; societal economic

hardships, breakdown of the family supportive structures; inadequate social services, domestic violence to mention but a few.

Empowering a woman innovatively through the family requires answers to the following questions: what is the national minimum family care support for Uganda; how many times does a man say to his woman in a day: “keep it up”; “this is okay”; “we could do better like this”; “this is a wonderful idea...”; when should a man demand accountability from a woman over a family empowerment initiative started by her; what is the level of involvement of women in design and implementation of family related projects; how do we (as government, development partners, family organisations, civil society organisations) make development initiatives “pro family” and all inclusive, what is the economic value of family work; how is family mainstreamed in the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals agenda?

The above questions once answered provide a sustainable path for empowerment of women in Uganda and we shall undoubtedly be a benchmarking Nation for the rest of the World.

Happy International Women’s Day, 2019.



**is the Commissioner Culture and Family Affairs**

---

## **Empowering women.**

*When we are born into this world, what constitutes our world is the family – in infancy, childhood and into adulthood. The “people” we become is largely due to the relationships we experience in our family. Who each of us is, where we come from, starts in the family.*

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# UWEP HAS ENABLED OVER 10,000 GROUPS GROW THEIR BUSINESSES

BY BRENDA KIFUKO MALINGA

**U**ganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme is a Government of Uganda rolling Programme that was initiated in 2015/16. The goal of the programme is to empower Ugandan women to improve their income levels and their contribution to the economic development of the country. The programme is to improve the economic status of Ugandan women through providing affordable credit, value addition and facilitating access to markets for their goods and services.

The specific objectives of the Programme are to:

- a) To strengthen the capacity of women for entrepreneurship development;
- b) To provide affordable credit and support access to other financial services to enable women establish and grow their business enterprises;
- c) To facilitate women's access to markets for their products and services;

- d) To promote access to appropriate technologies for production and value addition
- e) To strengthen Programme management and coordination

**“ Better life. Reports received from the groups indicate women have been able to contribute to the management of their homes and to school fees of their children and improve the quality of life in the home.**

This Programme covers all 127 districts, 41 Municipalities and KCCA. The programme provides affordable user friendly credit to groups of women with membership strictly between 10 and 15 members who are carrying out the same joint enterprise and they are vulnerable women aged between 18 and 65 years.

So far the programme has provided 9,383 women groups with funds for 117,560 women worth 54,651,586,057 UGX. The programme has contributed



*The Minister of Gender, Hajat Janat Mukwya and Gender and Culture Affairs State Minister Peace Mutuzo.*





to women's empowerment and has enabled many groups to establish their businesses. In addition, the programme has provided an opportunity to women to start and grow their enterprises and provide self-employment opportunities. Women have been able to receive training to improve their business and how to manage them better, which includes business development, group dynamics and life skills. The Programme has contributed to financial inclusion of women since all the women groups supported under the programme receive the funds through the commercial banks. A number of these women groups had never had any dealings with the banks before, but are now holding savings accounts in the commercial banks. The revolving funds approach is making a significant impact in the mindset of the women by inculcating positive values of hard work for a living, as opposed to the non-sustainable quest for free things (hand-outs).

The reports received from the groups indicate that women have been able to contribute to the management of their homes and to school fees of their children and improve the quality of life in the home.

The programme has enabled women start venturing into various enterprises. Listed below are a few interesting examples of what women are engaged in;

- Merisa Beverage Development Association based in Luwero District Local Government accessed 6m UGX and is engaged in value addition by making hibiscus juice and tea that are UNBS Certified.
- Kyafuora Bakyara Tutungukye group from Ntungamo District Local Government accessed 4m UGX and have managed to make tie and dye clothes

# 100%

## Repayment.

**Over 225 women have paid back 100% some have doubled their income while many have been able to access the export market.**

which is sold within their localities.

- Pader Shea Butter group accessed 9.476m UGX. The group is engaged in Shea nut butter agro-processing. The group is able to process, brand and sell their products in various locations.

UWEP is a public intervention that is aimed at addressing the economic status of vulnerable women in Uganda. It provides social protection by enabling women transform their lives using the resources available within their means and providing the unbanked population with the affordable credit and expertise to enable them improve their income levels and hence improving their income security. The intervention in this regards provides direct income support to enable vulnerable women generate money that will enable them meet their basic needs.

The women council leaders are a key structure that enables women to get information about Government Programmes with the aim of ensuring increased participation in the development. Women leaders are critical in ensuring that there is peer learning and that the intended beneficiaries access the funds, utilise them pay back and have a great impact in their lives. The women council leaders have been recently elected however, their motivation to serve is key in ensuring that women who are the backbone of the economy achieve transformed lives.

The 117,535 women who have benefited from the UWEP show that vulnerable women, who do not have collateral and are unbankable are able to start growing their enterprises and improve their local social protection measures. Over 225 women have paid back 100% some have doubled their income while many have been able to access the export market.

International Women's Day enables stakeholders to take stock of achievements and renew our commitment to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment. Women are encouraged to work while saving and start growing their enterprises as a key social protection measure that would guard their families against social income shocks.

**Brenda Kifuko Malinga** is the National Programme Coordinator for Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme

# NNABAGEREKA NAGGINDA

**TAKING HER NURTURING PROJECT FARTHER, DEEPER**



*The Nnabagereka Sylvia Nagginda mentors children during the ekisaakaate programme.*

**By Irene Kiiza Onyango**

**T**he Ekisaakaate Kya Nnabagereka is the Nnabagereka Development Foundation's (NDF) flagship programme and is a youth leadership development and mentorship camp.

Her Royal Highness Sylvia Nagginda has persisted in her role of nurturing children into responsible and cultured adults.

Launched in 2007 by Her Royal Highness, The Nnabagereka, Sylvia Nagginda, the major objective of Ekisaakaate is to mentor children and young people in lifelong skills that will enhance their quality of life and equip them to handle the changing times.

The Ekisaakaate was born out of the Queen's realisation that Baganda needed support to live better lives. She

singled out the women and the youth as priority groups. Then, many parents had approached the Nnabagereka about the gap in raising and nurturing children. The focus was to marry tradition with modernity.

In its 13th year, the project has so far reached over 12,000 children between the ages of 6-18 years. Giving them holistic training, so they can succeed both academically and socially.

**The Project now has six different programmes;**

1. Ekisaakaate Kya Nnabagereka - Gatonna
2. Ekisaakaate Kya Nnabagereka - Masaza
3. Ekisaakaate Kya Nnabagereka - International
4. Ekisaakaate Kya Nnabagereka - Diaspora
5. The Ekisaakaate Kya Nnabagereka - Symbol & Motto
6. The Ekisaakaate Kya Nnabagereka - Schools





# HAPPY Women's DAY

to the committed women  
that follow the path less  
traveled and leave prints  
for others to follow.



Plot 15, Yusuf Lule Road,  
P. O. Box 36316 Kampala  
Tel: +256 414 231821  
Email: info@unoc.co.ug

#### Mission

To drive sustainable growth of the Oil & Gas sector through strategic partnerships and champion national participation.

#### Vision

To be an innovative and profitable company that operates across the petroleum value chain for the benefit of all Ugandans.





# Female youth in Uganda still lagging behind males



By Mastulla Namatovu

**U**ganda has the youngest population in the world, with 77% of its people being under 30 years of age. There are

7,310,386 youth from the ages of 15–24 years living in Uganda.

In Uganda the male to female ratio is 100.2 males per 100 females. Life expectancy at birth for males is 42.59 years and 44.49 years for females. Ugandan youth experience different lifestyles depending on whether they live in a rural or urban area.

The lack of effective participation of the female youth in positions of decision-making in Uganda is an area of concern.

The prevailing political, social and economic environment of the youth mainly favours the participation and development of the male youth compared to the female.

Although Uganda has made major strides towards gender equality, having achieved a Gender Parity Index (GPI) of 1 in primary school enrolment, the struggle for equality in the labour market is still an uphill task. Being young and female continues to pose a twin challenge for young women seeking employment. Findings from the 2015 School to Work Transition Survey (SWTS) conducted by UBOS and ILO revealed that young women (15–29 years) are faced with a number of disadvantageous gaps in the labour market: higher unemployment rates, wage gaps, higher shares in vulnerable employment and longer school-to-work transitions.

Interrogating unemployment as the first broad indicator, the 2015 SWTS findings show that although both male and female youth unemployment increased by about 5 percent between 2013 and 2015, the female youth unemployment rate stands at a higher

22.4 percent compared to 17.4 percent for males.

Women continue to be segregated into particular types of occupations, often with inferior pay and poor working conditions. The majority of working women are engaged in non-income generating employment like subsistence agriculture (49.4 percent for women versus 36.9 percent for males) with a limited ability to produce for sale.

The youth aged between 18–30 years working in subsistence production are mainly female, at 63.6 percent. Disturbingly, the majority of women in paid employment do not earn enough to move out of

poverty, the 2012/13 Uganda National Household Survey (UNHS) findings reveal that close to 20 percent of the women are classified as the 'working poor'.

## 20%

**The working poor.**

The 2012/13 Uganda National Household Survey (UNHS) findings reveal that close to 20 percent of the women are classified as the 'working poor'.

Whereas the median monthly earnings for male youth aged 18–30 years is UGX 130,000, females in the same age group earn 35 percent less with median monthly wages of UGX 84,000. Although the disparity in pay has been attributed to differences in education, sector of employment and level of experience; research by EPRC reveals that even after accounting for these differences, women still earn less than men particularly in the private sector.

The transition from school to work remains lengthy and difficult. About 42.1 percent of females take more than one year between school and their first job compared to 33.9 percent for males.

One in four teenage girls in Uganda aged 15–19





***Although Uganda has made major strides towards gender equality, having achieved a Gender Parity Index (GPI) of 1 in primary school enrolment, the struggle for equality in the labour market is still an uphill task.***

have had a child or are pregnant but also 42% of all the pregnancies among adolescents in Uganda are unintended. It has been further observed that 94% of adolescents are aware about HIV but only 43% adolescents have ever tested for HIV.

Every year 9,600 young people aged 15-19 years are newly infected with HIV; 66% of all the new HIV infections are concentrated among adolescent girls.

We should note also that 10% of women aged 20-24 get married by age 15. And 40% of women age 20-24 get married by age 18. Another contributor to teenage pregnancy is Gender-Based Violence. It is observed that 60% of adolescents 10-19 years have experienced physical violence, 42% emotional violence and 10% sexual violence.

As we embark on the journey towards sustainable development (Agenda 2030), in particular the eighth SDG which calls for the promotion of inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive

employment and decent work for all; including productive employment for all young people, we need to ensure that macro-economic growth translates into micro-economic development for both men and women.

The government is already implementing the existing policies that seek to promote decent livelihood to include; - employment, health, education among others with a special attention to the female youth.

I applaud government for putting in place the required frameworks, spaces and platforms to enable the female youth advance their agenda. I also call upon the female youth to equip themselves with the various instruments meant to enforce female youth emancipation.

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**Ms. Mastulla Namatovu** Is the Secretary for Publicity, National Women's Council and the Secretary Female Youth Kamuli District Youth Council





THE  
HUNGER  
PROJECT  
UGANDA

## Empowering 1

grassroot Women to end their own Hunger and Poverty

The Hunger Project Uganda (THP-U) is a strategic non-profit international NGO founded in 1977 with its Headquarters in New York and it works in 22 countries around the world. In 1999, the organisation started operations in Uganda and currently covers the nine districts of Mpigi, Butambala, Wakiso, Kiboga, Kyankwazi, Mbarara, Kiruhura, Iganga, Mbale and this year we are launching our 12th epicenter in Oruka in Nwoya District,

*As part of our commitment to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 – to achieve Gender Equality for Women & Girls by 2030, THP-U joins the global community to commemorate International Women's Day 2019.*

This year's theme of Empowering Women through innovative approaches to social protection; a prerequisite for inclusive and sustainable development strategically relates very well to the core business of THP-U.

**THP-U MAIN OBJECTIVE** to empower communities to achieve sustainable end of hunger by providing rural communities with appropriate opportunities to earn a livelihood for improved standard of living.

### VISION

A world where every woman, man and child leads a healthy, fulfilling life of self-reliance and dignity

### MISSION

To end hunger and poverty by pioneering sustainable, grassroots, women-centred strategies and advocating for their widespread adoption in countries throughout the world

### CORE VALUES

While adapted to meet local challenges and opportunities wherever we work, all our programs have at their foundation three essential pillars

- Empowering women as key change agents
- Mobilizing entire communities into self-reliant action
- Fostering effective partnerships to engage local government

2

## How THP-U is empowering Women through innovative approaches to social protection

THP-U in collaboration with THP-Sweden, PELUM Uganda and Swedish Society for Nature Conservation is implementing an Agroecology project with an overall objective to enable small-scale farmers in Uganda to switch from chemical-based agriculture to chemical-free agro-ecological farming.

Using a Climate Resilient Agro Ecosystems Model, the project has supported small holder women farmers to respond to the challenges caused by climate change as well as change their attitude from using inorganic chemicals to agro ecological farming practices.

The agro-ecological farming systems has increased biodiversity through, among other things, the use of composting and diversity of crops and varieties, the project has increased opportunities for self-reliance and improved household incomes, increased production of agro-ecological crops for sale to market & improved living conditions and health of grassroot women





### 3 Reducing Child Mortality and improving maternal Health

THP-U collaborates with District Health Departments in the respective areas of operation to deliver health care services through epicenter health facilities.

So far 36,791 mothers have accessed Antenatal care services while 4701 mothers have given birth supported by a qualified health worker in the 11 THP-U supported facilities.

All health facilities have designated youth friendly health-care corners to provide confidential healthcare services to the young people



### 4 Supporting girls to remain in school

Under its Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) flagship project of Her Choice, THP-U has trained teachers and other school administrators to create girl-child friendly school environment, supported create safe spaces in schools where girls discuss SRHR issues from their own perspectives and collectively devise mechanism of addressing them.

To break stigma around menstruation and also avoid girls dropping out of school because of menstrual hygiene issues, THP-U trained boys and girls to make re-usable sanitary pads both in schools and in communities

## 5 Supporting financial inclusion among women

THP-U Microfinance program was established with an aim of financially empowering the “African Woman Farmer”, though the program later incorporated men, its main focus is still on empowering women.

The program currently enables access to affordable financial services to over 20,000 people from 10 districts, 65% of who are women. All the SACCOs under the program are headed by women to help them improve on their leadership skills. THP's Microfinance program employs the solidarity group methodology which favors Women to access credit.

The Methodology allows the women through their groups to access loans without collateral since it is common for the collateral in the household to be owned by Men. Scores of women across the districts in which THP operates have since been able to start and grow their own businesses.





# BUNYANGABU CHAIRPERSON

## SPEAKS ABOUT HOSTING THE WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

**BY HAJARA NAKIWOLO**

**M**s. Jennifer Kengaju the newly elected District Women's Council Chairperson for Bunyangabu is the first Women's Council Chairperson to host the International Women's Day celebrations.

Ms. Kengaju a wife and mother of three is a marketer, farmer and businesswoman.

The hardworking, loyal, hands-on person also a women activist, found it easy to sail through the Women's Council elections unopposed.

Ms Kengaju has actively embarked on mobilising women for development, promoted a harmonious relationship with other leaders which she emphasizes has been key in enabling her execute her role as Women Council chairperson.

**QN: How does it feel for Bunyangabu District to host this year's Women's Day?**

Hosting this special day is a great honour and I am excited to be the first district Women's Council chairperson to host the International Women's Day.

Bunyangabu is one of the new districts that are developing at a high speed, it is peaceful and with loving people. The status of women in this district has significantly changed over the years despite some gender issues that are still evident and negatively affecting their lives. Having the national celebrations in our district gives us leaders and the people a big opportunity to focus on the issues concerning women and also use the available platforms to advocate the necessary change.

**QN: Why do you think it is important to celebrate Women's Day?**

Women's Day is our day, it is when we celebrate our womanhood irrespective of our differences. On this day women come together to celebrate their successes, reflect on their journey to attaining this freedom and draw attention on the challenges they still face and



how they overcome them.

To us the leaders it is also time to actively advocate women's rights, empower each other and fully mobilise women and all the people on issues stressed in the year's theme so as to attain women empowerment and gender equality.

I thank the government of Uganda for giving us this opportunity as women, for the peace and stability, for women's rights and different empowerment endeavours. I also appreciate my fellow women for working towards achieving this milestone in their lives.

**QN: According to this year's International Women's day theme, what do you think are the issues affecting women in Bunyangabu district?**

Poverty among women; I must say women here are hardworking by nature. They are mainly engaged in agriculture which takes a lot of their time. The household chores that are timeless make it difficult for some women to engage in income generating activities and that has caused a lot of poverty and dependency among women.

Gender based violence is also an area of concern which mainly affects women in this district. Physical violence is on the rise and has led to broken families and sometimes death. Recently we had a case where a woman killed her husband - this kind of violence is inhuman and we strongly condemn it.

When it comes to women's health, especially maternal mortality, I blame the poor infrastructure but also the women themselves because some fail to go for antenatal care on time, while others fail to deliver in the care of health workers.

We also are challenged with the few health centres in the district that at times lack the necessary equipment to handle complicated cases during childbirth.

Education of girls mainly is another issue. Bunyangabu has had so many cases of early marriages among the girls, which directly results into dropping out of school. Some parents have a negative attitude towards educating girls.

**QN: What can be done to address the issues you raise in your view?**

I know that policies and laws have been put in place by the government. These can wholesomely address most of the problems women are facing in my district but the weakness is in the enforcement and implementation of these policies and laws. As women's council, besides the mobilisation role, we are working towards ensuring that

there is accountability and effective service delivery in the district.

The government would also invest more in infrastructure like roads and hospitals. Our district has roads but not in the rural areas, this affects transportation of products from the remote areas to the towns. This [road construction] would increase on the access to the markets, increase productivity and reduce poverty.

I request for vocational training schools in the district for children who can't access university education especially girls, skills trainings and entrepreneurship among women is important, this will reduce unemployment and spending lots of time in non-income generating activities. At this point I request the government to increase the money under UWEF so that a big number of women can benefit and become more productive. Because I believe that with economic empowerment of women a lot of these challenges will be [addressed].



## Women's rights.

*It is time to actively advocate women's rights, empower each other and fully mobilise women and all the people on issues stressed in the year's theme so as to attain women empowerment and gender equality.*

**QN: What is your message to the women as they celebrate International Women's day 2019?**

I call upon them to change their mindset, seize every opportunity even in the predominately male spaces, be innovative enough to start up something however small it may be, to boost their incomes. And to my fellow leaders, to advocate more for Gender Based Violence free communities and also ensure that the services and programmes that target women are effectively delivered and well utilised.

### Last word

I am so grateful to the National Women's Council secretariat for the Induction trainings, Bunyangabu District Local Government, the two ministers, Hon. Peace Mutuuzo the State Minister for Gender and Culture affairs, Hon. Adolf Mwesige the Minister for Local Government for the guidance and the entire Women's Council leaders for information sharing.

MS. JENNIFER  
KENGAIU THE  
BUNYANGABU  
WOMEN'S  
COUNCIL CHAIR



# WOMEN COUNCILS ELECTED AFTER 15-YEAR LULL

HAJARA NAKIWOLO

**A**fter a period of more than fifteen years without holding Women Councils and Committees elections, the Electoral Commission organised women council elections to fill all women council structures from the village to the National level between. The elections were conducted from 3rd July 2018 to 24th August 2018.

The Women's Council elections created a pool of 304,000 elected Women Council leaders at the village level, 41,935 at the parish, 8,360 at the sub county and 512 at the district level.

The composition of women councils includes:

- the chairperson,
- vice chairperson,
- secretary for finance,
- secretary for publicity and
- general secretary

These joined at the Sub County and district by:

- Representative of women with disabilities,
- female youth,
- Secretary for gender from the respective local councils ,
- Technical officer in charge of women's affairs at local government level/ Secretary
- women NGO representative
- District woman member of Parliament in the case of district women's council

The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social development together with the National Women's Council secretariat organised and conducted a national induction and inauguration of the newly elected Women

Council leaders at Hotel Africana in Kampala on the 25th -26th August 2018 with the aim of informing the newly elected leaders of their roles and expectations. The training was attended by all the 128 District Women's council leaders.

H.E the President of Uganda, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni presided over the closing ceremony, a gesture that confirms his commitment to the women of Uganda through the Women's Councils and also his endless efforts to ensure that women are fully empowered to realize their full potential.

On the 20th September 2018 the Minister for Gender, Labour and Social Development Hajjat Janat Mukwaya, presided over the official handover and taking oath of office by the incoming team of the National Women Council Executive Committee members.

The National Women's Council Executive runs the affairs of the council and hence a special induction was organised to strengthen their leadership capacity, easily execute their mandate at a policy level and also information sharing with the outgoing team.

In her remarks the outgoing chairperson Hon. Mariam Najjemba implored the new Executive Committee to always bring out their issues to the public and advocate the women cause tirelessly

Having Women's Council leaders is vital because they ensure effective implementation and monitoring of government programmes like UWEP, mobilisation and sensitisation of fellow women right from the grassroots, a great machinery for advocacy, grooming ground for women in leadership, and a channel to air out the views of the biggest percentage of Uganda's population (women)



# District Women's Council Chairpersons

	DIRTICT	NAME OF CHAIRPERSON
1	ABIM	Achan Prudence
2	ADJUMANI	Asio Alice
3	AGAGO	Lamwaka Regina
4	ALEBTONG	Akullu Emily
5	AMOLATAR	Atime Agnes Apea
6	AMUDAT	Chepokunur Susan
7	AMURIA	Alungat Judith
8	AMURU	Akello Rose
9	APAC	Akello Florence
10	ARUA	Ezaru Florence Dradiku
11	BUDAKA	Stima Hellen Muluga
12	BUDUDA	Namono Rose
13	BUGIRI	Kakayi Jane
14	BUGWERI	Nambeko Prossy
15	BUHWEJU	Nyakahoza Constance
16	BUIKWE	Namuyanja Rosemary
17	BUKEDEA	Kitaka Gorreti Mary
18	BUKOMANSIMBI	Nassiwa Ancillia Kavuma
19	BUKWO	Chemisto Failine
20	BULAMBULI	Bigala Mary
21	BULIISA	Mbabazi Victoria
22	BUNDIBUGYO	Masika Adnas Nyakihili
23	BUNYANGABU	Kengaju Jennifer Asuman
24	BUSHENYI	Nakanwagi Yudaya Mwesigye
25	BUSIA	Taaka Florence Maganda
26	BUTALEJA	Negesa Alice
27	BUTAMBALA	Namuli Rehemah
28	BUTEBO	Takali Frida
29	BUVUMA	Nakyobe Betty
30	BUYENDE	Nanyonjo Aisha
31	DOKOLO	Adero Stella
32	GOMBA	Nakakembo Harriet
33	GULU	Atim Betty
35	IBANDA	Kabasonga Bibian
36	IGANGA	Bukyabubi Constance Sylvia
37	ISINGIRO	Tukamushaba Christine
38	JINJA	Musitwa Norah
39	KAABONG	Apero Anna
40	KABALE	Twenda Norah
41	KABAROLE	Komuhimbo Harriet
42	KABERAMAIDO	Adongo Babra
43	KAGADI	Tibaleka Adrine
44	KAKUMIRO	Nasande Justine
45	KALANGALA	Namulindwa Josephine
46	KALIRO	Bulolo Agnes Khainza
47	KALUNGU	Nansamba Kirunda Josephine
48	KAMPALA	Kanyike Grace
49	KAMULI	Namatovu Masitula
50	KAMWENGE	Natukunda Constance
51	KANUNGU	Kinanga Annet
52	KAPELEBYONG	Akol Margret
53	KAPCHORWA	Muduwa Caroline
54	KASESE	Birungi Angella
55	KASSANDA	Muganyizi Serina
56	KATAKWI	Asekenye Flavia
57	KAYUNGA	Kibowa Faridah
58	KIBALE	Ndadewaziwa Lydia
59	KIBOGA	Namuwaya Caroline Musokea
60	KIBUKU	Nasio Farida
61	KIKUBE	Kayonza Sarah
62	KIRUHURA	Tindimwebwa Enid
63	KIRYANDONGO	Katusime Biingi
64	KISORO	Mugisha Lydia
65	KITGUM	Okumu Grace

	DIRTICT	NAME OF CHAIRPERSON
66	KOBOKO	Agere Beatrice Candiru
67	KOLE	Alum Anne
68	KOTIDO	Igira Mary
69	KUMI	Atiang Grace
70	KWANIA	Awino Dorothy
71	KWEEN	Chemutai Betty
72	KYANKWANZI	Namatovu Miriam
73	KYEGEGWA	Kaahwa Annah
74	KYENJOJO	Kaija Joyce Bitekerezozo
75	KYOTERA	Nakimera D. Zulfar
76	LAMWO	Angoyo Mary
77	LIRA	Auma Linda
78	LUUKA	Namuwaya Fiida
79	LUWEERO	Jumia Musa Senkanja
80	LWENGO	Wamala Annet Naluwada
81	LYANTONDE	Namuli Hanifa
82	MANAFWA	Wasike Eunice
83	MARACHA	Antumaru Esther
84	MASAKA	Nanziri Filda Mubanda
85	MASINDI	Sarah Gonzaga
86	MAYUGE	Namukose Edith
87	MBALE	Wazikwi Esther
88	MBARARA	Monica Mutabarura
89	MITOOMA	Natuhwera Jenepher
90	MITYANA	Nabisubi Mary
91	MOROTO	Apuun Bonista
92	MOYO	Welli Santa Maria
93	MPIGI	Nalule Jane
94	MUBENDE	Birungi Frida
95	MUKONO	Nakyazze Esther Baroma
96	NABILATUK	Boyo Anna Nancy
97	NAKAPIRIPIT	Akwi Norah Robinah
98	NAKASEKE	Nakaye Teddy
99	NAKASONGOLA	Nabbale Joyce Sekyanzi
100	NAMAYINGO	Sitakote Susan Asembo
101	NAMISINDWA	Khayonga Maimuna
102	NAMUTUMBA	Baita Janepher
103	NAPAK	Eruu Jema
104	NEBBI	Ongwech Anzila Anyolitho
105	NGORA	Akurut Rose
106	NTOROKO	Tembe Betty Mercy
107	NTUNGAMO	Musiime Peace
108	NWOYA	Kipwola Grace
109	OMORO	Lamunu Ketty Girigiri
110	OTUKE	Angom Betty
111	OYAM	Acan Janet Proscovia
112	PADER	Apio Jennifer
113	PAKWACH	Akumu Christine
114	PALLISA	Tino Saida
115	RAKAI	Nabasaggi Annet
116	RUBANDA	Kyarikunda Mantirida
117	RUBIRIZI	Kyomugasho Sophia
118	RUKIGA	Ninsiima Joseline Arinaitwe
119	RUKUNGIRI	Masheija Jolly
120	SERERE	Adongo Catherine
121	SHEEMA	Nyonyozi Clare
122	SIRONKO	Wibule Patience Edith
123	SOROTI	Ikilai Mary
124	SSEMBABULE	Nassiwa Cotty
125	TORORO	Obel Stella Negesa Norah
126	WAKISO	Kalyebara Sherry
127	YUMBE	Adong Kadja
128	ZOMBO	Yemima Oneiga



# FORMER KITGUM CHAIRPERSON WINS MEDAL, MOVES TO LAMWO

BY ROBINAH KIMBUGWE

**M**s Mary Angeyo is the Women Council Chairperson for Lamwo District.

A graduate teacher with over 30 years professional experience, Angeyo served on the National Women's Council Executive as Finance Secretary for 15 years.

Ms. Angeyo received a medal on 8th March 2018 during the International Women's Day National celebrations in recognition of her outstanding contribution to women empowerment.

Mama Angeyo talks of her experience of serving the women through the National Women's Council with pride. She says the 15 years she served at the National Women's Council executive had its challenges but also had exciting moments and achievements.

"The biggest challenge is when the women councils were legally challenged because they were not elected under a multiparty system and the amendment of the Act took so long that they had to serve for 15 years. This made it extremely difficult for the Council to

successfully lobby for women and it felt like they had disappointed the women who elected them. However, among the achievements was lobbying and securing the Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme (UWEP). This is what I consider the greatest achievement

**“** **Medal from the President.**  
“It felt great to be recognised at the national level. I felt I was being appreciated and in a way it motivated me to come back and serve the women,” Angeyo says.

of the Council in the 15 years I served. And I think it is addressing the mother of the core women issues and is being implemented countrywide and benefiting a wider community,” Angeyo said. Angeyo believes when women are economically empowered, it translates directly into social protection at the household level. This implies that a household is able to;

- Send the children to school



*Mary Angeyo receives a medal from President Yoweri Museveni.*



**Mary Angeyo Women Council Chairperson for Lamwo.**

- Cater for the family medical expenses
- Ensure food security for the family
- Provide proper sanitation and hygiene management for the family

And all these would lead the family, community and finally the nation to sustainable development.

Angeyo says the most exciting moment for her is when she received her medal from the President.

# 15

## **Years of service.**

**The number of years Ms Mary Angeyo served at the National Women's Council executive as as Finance Secretary.**

"It felt great to be recognised at the national level. I felt I was being appreciated and in a way it motivated me to come back and serve the women," Angeyo says.

She further says that the medal made her compete favourably in the Women Council elections as everyone

at her home district looks at her differently since the achievement.

"It satisfies me to see/hear everyone say thank you," she said.

Angeyo hastens to add that other than the medal, her passion as a woman activist determined a lot that she stands for elective office. "For the 15 years I served at policy making level, I gained a wealth of knowledge about women issues locally and internationally, which I can bring back to Lamwo and make a difference in the lives of women."

Angeyo feels that her experience and exposure will make her work much easier. She is very confident about her roles and responsibilities and understands Women Council systems very well, knows the right approach and is sure to have no conflicts with the other stakeholders. She believes she can serve women better at the district level, nearer to the community where the real women issues are.

Furthermore, she says she joined the National Women's Council Executive as a chairperson for Kitgum and was re-elected as chairperson of Lamwo District, a new district carved out of Kitgum, due to her hard work. During her term of office she never gave up on the women of Kitgum, she mobilized them to tap into the government development programs like UWEP, Youth Livelihood Program. Now that she is at the district where implementation is taking place, she is very sure people of Lamwo will benefit more. She advises the new National Women Council Executive to ensure proper and timely monitoring of the women programmes. "They need to go down to the grassroots to identify the women issues and work on them promptly," she says.

She calls on them to guard the UWEP jealously to ensure it is sustained because when women are economically empowered they can ably reduce on the women and thus community issues that come with poverty in homes.



# CLIMATE CHANGE

## NWC RESPONDS TO GLOBAL, ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS THROUGH SKILLING WOMEN

**BY ROY MUZIRA**

**U**ganda is one of the countries in Africa that has been on the forefront in getting women more involved in areas of social development in an attempt to achieve gender equality and equity at national level.

Governments all over the world are aware of the environmental challenges like climate changes, ozone depletion, poor waste management, destruction of forests and wetlands among other things.

Women cannot be left out in any campaign as they are directly linked to the environment. It is the women that are into agriculture, especially on small scale, they are the ones that cook family meals, therefore being directly in charge of the energy used for cooking and they are also the nurturers of children (tomorrow's adults).

It is the women that experience the effects of climate change but they can also easily be big change agents in the mitigation of climate change. It is the women for example that support the charcoal business because it is the commonly used energy in homesteads. SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

"Women are vulnerable in issues of climate change. It is they that walk long distances looking for food, water and firewood. Women are normally the ones engaged in activities that directly or indirectly destroy the environment. Most importantly women are quick to change, adapt and take in alternatives and most of all, they impart knowledge to families and communities," says Uganda Metrological Department publicist Lillian Nkwenge.

The UNDP Human Development report of 2011 recommended that it is essential that climate initiatives at all levels pay particular attention to the inter-linkages



between gender and climate change and that women are engaged at all levels of the decision-making process in the post-Kyoto era.

In addition to the fact that gender equality is a fundamental human right, there are other imperatives for promoting it in climate and development policy.

The UN Secretary-General, according to [www.un.org](http://www.un.org), singled out women's leadership for their unique ability as "drivers of solutions" when they are empowered. The UN believes that if women, who are the providers of food and main care-takers, are empowered and skilled they will play a significant role in protecting the environment.

According to the website, the UN focuses on women around the world as agents of change, teaching them how to integrate climate-smart solutions in the work they do. These community-driven approaches not only benefit the environment, but also empower women to help improve the quality of life for their families and communities, while advancing sustainable development.

The Beijing Declaration and platform for Action adopted by 189 countries including Uganda, in 1995 reflected the need to focus on women in the fight against poverty. The governments agreed to change economic policies to provide more opportunities for women, improve laws to uphold economic rights and boost access to credit. The countries committed to collecting better information to track how poverty affects women differently and also solve the problem.

Poverty and environmental degradation are closely interrelated – depleting natural resources deprives already vulnerable communities of income-generating opportunities, while contributing to the burden of unpaid work. For women, this only furthers the distance to accessing equal opportunities. SDG 1: No poverty.

The National Women's Council has under their objective of engaging women of Uganda in activities that are of benefit to them, empowered women to become economically independent. Through the implementation of such activities like the Income Generating Grant and Uganda Women Empowerment Programme (UWEP), the council has helped women get finances to start enterprises and also skilled them to effectively manage and sustain their enterprises.

The South Western Women in Development group, a 16-person team of Women Council Chairpersons from the Greater Kigezi and Greater Ankole sub-regions, started the Greening Uganda initiative to spearhead environment protection in their region.



## South Western women striving to protect, preserve the environment using their mandate

BY HAJARA NAKIWOLO

**D**riven by a motto "Greening Uganda", the South Western Women in Development group, which is composed of 16 Women Council Chairpersons from the Greater Kigezi and Greater Ankole sub-regions, have taken it upon themselves to protect the environment. "Immediately after finishing the Women's Council elections in 2018, we felt a great need to form a group as women from the same region and work towards preserving the environment and development," Ms. Peace Musiime the chairperson.

Given the fact that in Uganda 56.3% of women are employed in the agricultural sector, they continue to be the most vulnerable population to climate change as they bear the major responsibility of providing food and health for their families. Prolonged droughts due to environmental degradation have serious impacts on agricultural production, therefore leading to famine, pasture insufficiency, low production and productivity of crops and animals.

This being no different to their region, the group has decided to become change agents that mobilise and sensitise the communities about the dangers of environmental degradation. They have innovated making non-woven bags to replace the polythene bags and tree-planting campaigns that have brought a significant impact in the environment.

With bigger dreams, the group acquired land in Ntugamo to start a factory and buy machines for large scale Non-Woven bags production, toilet paper and re-usable sanitary towels. The group hopes to create a pool of jobs and share skills among women in the region and at the same time preserving the environment.



# MATERNAL HEALTH REMAINS A PRIORITY FOR WOMEN IN UGANDA

BY HAJARA NAKIWOLO

**T**he health of a mother, whether during childbirth or after impacts her family greatly and indeed the community she lives in. Women are exposed to many dangers during pregnancy if they do not receive adequate health care, proper nutrition and hygiene services.

Maternal mortality reduction remains a priority for Uganda under “Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages” in the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agenda through 2030. Within this goal, there are targets for neonatal mortality (10 deaths per 1000 live births), stillbirths (10 per 1000 live births) and maternal mortality (70 deaths per 100,000 live births) to be achieved by all countries by 2030.

Like other developing countries, Uganda’s maternal mortality has consistently been one of the highest in the world with 440 deaths per 100,000 live births, according to UNICEF’s latest data.

Uganda is one of the signatories to the SDGs through the “Review report on Uganda’s readiness for implementation of 2030 agenda 2016” plans to reduce the maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live births from 438 to 320 by 2020 and Reduce infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births from 54 to 44 by 2020. Currently according to UNICEF, Uganda’s Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) has consistently been one of the highest in the world with 440 deaths per 100,000 live births.

According to the Ministry of Health, it is estimated that

80 % of maternal and newborn deaths are preventable with the implementation of known evidenced-based, high-impact interventions.

Commendable efforts by the Government and other stakeholders to reduce maternal mortality are already visible with an increase in Health Centres closer to the people, hospitals like Kawempe Women’s Hospital and the new referral Mulago Specialised Women and Neonatal Hospital and the increase in health workers in different government hospitals.

Issues like the delay in making a timely decision to seek medical assistance, the delay in reaching a health facility, and the delay in provision of adequate care at a health facility should be stressed. Additionally initiatives that increase educational and financial status of women, antenatal care, women’s access to skilled care before, during and after they give birth, Health providers trained in obstetric care, availing emergency supplies to handle complications, improving transport facilities even in the rural areas, reducing child pregnancies among others can be done to maternal mortality in Uganda.

The National Women’s Council has through the years stressed issues to do with women’s health and activities like distribution of treated mosquito nets to pregnant mothers, mobilisation on antenatal care visits among women, advocacy on better health packages, organising of health camps popularising early childhood development among others has been done which have also been depicted in the new National Women’s Council strategic plan.

# 440

## Maternal mortality.

Uganda’s maternal mortality has consistently been one of the highest in the world with 440 deaths per 100,000 live births, according to UNICEF’s latest data.

# Changing lives one pad at a time...

BY NEHEMIA NATUKUNDA

**A**FRIPads (U) Ltd. is a Ugandan business headquartered in Kampala, Uganda with local production of high quality reusable sanitary pads in Masaka, Uganda. Since 2009 AFRIpads and its Ugandan retail brand “So Sure” have supported over three million women and girls to live more productive lives through their reusable sanitary pad product solution. AFRIpads is a menstrual hygiene management champion, a pioneer in the reusable sanitary pad industry and an opinion leader.

AFRIpads has been a valued partner of the National Women’s Council in promotion of menstrual hygiene management (MHM). Our reporter talked to AFRIpads Ag. Communications Manager, Gertrude Adeker Emojong, below are excerpts:

## **Menstruation has been there since time immemorial, why make it an issue now?**

We realised that menstrual hygiene management is a real challenge to women and girls especially from poor families; some cannot afford the high cost sanitary towels on the market. Often, they improvise with pieces of clothing, towels, foam mattresses, toilet paper and so on, which, are neither hygienic nor safe. When most girls start their menstruation, they more often than not soil their uniforms, and they are ridiculed. That way they get embarrassed, lose their self-esteem and decide to stay out of school during their monthly periods or completely drop out. AFRIpads’ So Sure is a safe and affordable solution that provides a year of menstrual hygiene protection because it is designed to be reused.

## **Why reusable sanitary towels?**

We manufacture reusable sanitary towels because they offer a long-lasting and affordable solution to menstrual hygiene. One AFRIpads’ So Sure Menstrual Hygiene Kit can last over 12 months, providing a beneficiary with high quality protection.

## **What prompted you to put up a factory? And why in Masaka?**

Other than providing affordable sanitary towels, a factory grows the industrial sector and promotes development. We believe in building communities especially the underprivileged. A factory creates jobs in an area where ordinarily jobs would be scarce, such as Masaka. We have proudly created over 150 jobs, with over 80 % of our employees being women.



## **Why the keen interest in women?**

Menstrual hygiene is not only a health issue but a human rights and development issue as well. Women are the pillars of society and deserve to go through their menstrual periods with dignity and safety. Menstruation should not hold them back from any development activities. Secondly, women are less privileged when it comes to formal employment, yet they have proved to be hard working and will always support and provide for their families. So we need them empowered economically if we are to attain inclusive and sustainable development. Our mission is to empower women and girls through business, innovation and opportunity.

## **Apart from the employment opportunities and distribution of sanitary towels, what else has AFRIpads done to benefit the women of Uganda?**

We have touched over three million women and girls worldwide with our menstrual hygiene kits and still counting. We developed a menstrual hygiene curriculum in partnership with WoMena for primary and secondary school girls. The curriculum equips the girls with basic knowledge on menstruation, adolescence and coping strategies. We offer this training free of charge to our Afripads partners.

## **Other than National Women’s Council, which other organisations have you partnered with?**

We often partner with relief, non-governmental and/or humanitarian organisations to provide reusable sanitary pads to underprivileged women and girls in refugee situations. However, we donate to other women and girls in need through our AFRIpads Foundation. The AFRIpads Foundation has impacted over 40,000 women and girls in Uganda through donations.



# MENSTRUAL HYGIENE

FOCUS MUST SHIFT FROM PROVIDING PADS, FACILITIES TO SENSITISATION

52%

**Productive age.**

The percentage of the female population of Uganda that is of productive age.



BY MARIA LEDOCHOWSKA NNATABI

**A**pproximately 52% of the female population of Uganda is of productive age and most of these menstruate every month. However, both communities and system players have largely overlooked menstrual health. Menstrual health matters because it is a cross-sector issue that affects all areas of the life of women and girls as their ability to perform adequately is directly linked to menstrual management.

Menstrual health management involves ability and access to menstrual hygiene management, accurate

information, affordable and safe menstrual products, clean and safe water, sanitation and hygiene facilities, privacy, medical services, sexual and reproductive health decision-making, education and economic opportunities.

Menstruation is a monthly challenge for millions of girls and women in Uganda. On any given day more than a thousand girls and women of reproductive age are menstruating. A 2014 research from SNV shows that 84% of rural adolescents are unable to access and/or afford sanitary pads. This is an estimate of 3.75 girls leaving without proper sanitary ware. Many rural girls rely on crude methods like old clothing, pieces of



**Myths, taboos, stigma.** As the Uganda National Women's Council, there is an allocated budget for ensuring proper menstrual health management. We have carried out menstrual health projects in all regions. We had school menstrual health trainings and gave out sanitary kits to pupils in Dokolo and Mityana; this has improved menstrual habits, increased knowledge and information about menstruation and reduced school absenteeism related to menstruation.

mattresses, toilet paper, leaves and banana fibres for menstrual hygiene yet those are unhygienic, ineffective, unsafe and uncomfortable. Faced with embarrassing leaks and susceptibility to recurrent infections, the menstrual period turns into a deterrent one to women and girls, as they cannot freely engage in their routine activities; whether it is going to school or work, or carrying out normal domestic responsibilities. The result is many girls dropping out of school and reduction in wages for the working women.

Challenges of menstruation go beyond practical management to issues that affect females and their role in the community. These range from menstrual disorders, access and affordability of menstrual products and facilities, effects of using unhealthy materials, deep-rooted myths and taboos, stigma, cultural and religious discrimination to less productive days. The effects of poor menstrual management are also gross, such as the high rate of school dropouts, menstrual related diseases and infections which can also lead to infertility, teenage pregnancies, child unions, gender inequality and undermining the rights to sanitation, health and education.

Having realised this, as the Uganda National Women's Council there is an allocated budget for ensuring proper menstrual health management. We have carried out menstrual health projects in all regions. We had school menstrual health trainings and gave out sanitary kits to pupils in Dokolo and Mityana; this has improved menstrual habits, increased knowledge and information about menstruation and reduced school absenteeism related to menstruation. We in addition, organised community menstrual health sessions and taught them to make local reusable sanitary pads in Sheema and Jinja. The training helped break the silence around menstruation, increase knowledge and information, dismantle the taboos and myths and empowered women and girls with skills to make local reusable pads for their own use and sale. There has also been an increased momentum from donors, organisations, private players and government to address challenges of menstrual health management. A motion on menstrual hygiene management was passed by the parliament of Uganda in 2014 and the speaker Rt. Hon Rebecca

Alitwala Kadaga and the line ministries endorsed the menstrual hygiene management charter in 2015.

However, the focus has been largely on the "hardware" (products and facilities). Menstrual health is a systemic problem that should be addressed sustainably through "software" such as education and information for women and girls to make informed decisions, empower women and girls to voice out menstrual related challenges, communitywide approaches involving men and boys to reduce taboos, myths and stigma, policy advocacy and budget allocation so that school-going girls receive free sanitary ware and tax exemption on pads so that they can be easily accessible and affordable also taking into account the need for creating an environment that provides privacy.

Many organisations such as Afripads provide sanitary products to the less privileged girls.

We will then have a Uganda in which every woman and girl can manage her menstruation in a hygienic, private, safe and dignified way, be it at home, school and even at the workplace.

A WOMAN  
MAKING  
REUSABLE  
SANITARY  
TOWELS





# JOSEPHINE KAKOOZA

**LONGEST SERVING POLICE OFFICER, FIRST FEMALE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC BOWS OUT**

ROBINAH KIMBUGWE

**C**ommissioner of Police Josephine Kakooza was the head of the Music, Dance and Drama Department of the Uganda Police Force at the time of her death.

Kakooza joined the force as a 16-year old girl in 1969. During her almost 50 years in service, she rose from the lowest rank of Probation Police Constable to Commissioner of Police.

Kakooza, the Director of the Uganda Police Band was enrolled into music training at Kibuli Police Training School for two years.

She was enlisted in the Uganda Police Force for a three months training on September 1, 1969, passed out as Band Woman Constable on December 2, 1969.

It took long for her to be promoted, but that did not deter the spirit of the music devotee.

Kakooza served at the lowest rank, Police Constable for 13 years. She was only promoted to corporal in 1982, to sergeant in 1983 and to Assistant Inspector of Police in 1993.

In 1997 Kakooza attended the Junior Command course and in 2000, she was promoted to Inspector of Police. It was in 2004 that she was promoted to Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP).

In 2008 she rose to Superintendant of Police (SP) up to 2012 when she was promoted to Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP).

In 2014 Kakooza was promoted to full Commissioner of Police (CP).

A woman of many firsts, Kakooza in 1973 emerged number one in the Police Force Weaponry training.

In December 2011 she was appointed the first woman



*(Above) Josephine Kakooza talks to President Museveni while inspecting a guard of honour during the International Women's Day celebrations in Nebbi.*

Director of Music in the Police force. She was in effect the first woman since independence to head the Music Dance and Drama Department in the Uganda Police Force.

The longest serving police officer was nicknamed Maama Police, not only because she was the longest serving officer but because she also inspired, mentored and groomed many police officers.

Because of her notable service, she was the only Senior Police Officer introduced to Pope Francis when he visited Uganda in November 2015.

Kakooza died on January 9, 2019 at Namirembe Hospital.



# UGANDA WOMEN ANTHEM

## CHORUS

Mothers, daughters  
All women everywhere  
Stand up and embrace  
Your role today

We are the proud mothers of our Nation  
The Backbone without which it can never stand  
We wake up, wake up  
Wake up at the crack of dawn  
And feed the nation with our brains  
With love and joy we care  
For our baby Uganda.

## CHORUS

Step by step with tender care  
We nurse her; we mould her at home and in school  
Leading, leading  
Spearheading her identity, production and development  
In government and profession  
Name it woman is there.

## CHORUS

We call on you women of Uganda  
Wake up if you have not yet embraced your role  
Wake up, wake up  
Beside our men let's play our role  
In solving all our national's needs  
In every walk of life to develop Uganda.

## CHORUS



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## THE DIGITAL CENTURY

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BY JAVIRA SSEBWAMI

**Q**uiin Abenakyo, 22, last year rose to fame when she was crowned Miss World Africa during the highly competitive Miss World contest in Sanya City Arena in Santa, China.

The model is the first Miss Uganda to reach the top five of an international beauty pageant. She was also the only African to make it to the top five.

In her presentation, Abenakyo fronted the use of food as a means of bringing together girls to find solutions to the high levels of teenage pregnancies in the eastern part of Uganda.

According to the Uganda Demographic Health Survey (UDHS) 2016, 25 percent of adolescents aged 15-19 have begun childbearing while 19 percent of women aged 15-19, have already given birth.

Prior to the coronation night, 14 candidates secured their spots in the top 30. They were the winners of the fast-track events and the head-to-head challenge.

One of the winners of the Head-to-Head challenge was Abenakyo.

At that point, she had already made history as the first Miss Uganda to reach Top 30 in Miss World.

With the new format, the top 30 of Miss World were grouped into five continental groups namely Africa, America, Asia and Oceania, Caribbean and Europe.

Two or three candidates from each group were selected to advance to the Top 12.

From Africa, Abenakyo and Murielle Ravina of Mauritius made it to the Top 12.

Between the two, the Ugandan

# UGANDAN BECOMES FIRST AFRICAN TO MAKE IT TO TOP FIVE IN MISS WORLD CONTEST



representative was crowned Miss World Africa 2018, which qualified her to the top five.

Joining Abenakyo in the top five were Miss World America 2018 Vanessa Ponce of Mexico, Miss Asia and Oceania 2018 Nicolene Limsnukan of Thailand, Miss World Caribbean Kadijah Robinson of Jamaica and Miss World Europe Maria Vasilevich of Belarus.

Based on the public vote, Abenakyo ranked third while Ponce and Limsnukan ranked second and first, respectively.

On August 10, 2018 Abenakyo was also crowned Miss Uganda at Sheraton Kampala Hotel after edging 21 other contestants.

Born in Kampala, Abenakyo graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Business Computing in January 2019 Makerere University Business School (MUBS).

Speaking to the press recently, Abenakyo said she is not planning to abandon her 'Beauty with Purpose' project because of her Miss World Africa Crown.

The reigning Miss Uganda, said fighting for a girl child is something that goes beyond her duties as a beauty queen but is also a personal drive.

Abenakyo also says that Miss Uganda Foundation gave her the platform to reach out to those who lost hope in life.

Although her reign as Miss Uganda ends after one year, Abenakyo says her project will keep running.

Abenakyo also used this chance to advise young girls to choose right role models for a better future. This project moved all three Miss World judges thus voting her to the top 30 contestants after defeating Miss Argentina.

The Speaker of Parliament, Rebecca Kadaga also pledged support to Abenakyo in her programmes to empower the girl child.





# A SINGLE UNIT OF BLOOD COULD SAVE MORE THAN ONE LIFE

BY DR. BAHIZI N.S. ARCHBALD

**T**he National Health Policy, 1999, recognizes blood safety as an essential component of the Ministry of Health's Minimum Health Care package and an effective HIV preventive measure. Provision of safe blood is a key component in Uganda's minimum health care package.

The Uganda Blood Transfusion Service (UBTS) is a semi-autonomous entity under the Ministry of Health responsible for making available safe and adequate quantities of blood and blood products to all hospitals for management of patients.

The headquarters at Nakasero Blood Bank acts as a reference centre for the regional blood banks and other public and private hospitals. UBTS has seven regional blood banks in Arua, Fort-Portal, Gulu, Kitovu, Mbale, Mbarara & Nakasero; and seven-blood collection centres in Hoima, Jinja, Kabale, Rukungiri, Angal, Lira and Soroti.

The UBTS is a semi-autonomous body in the Ministry of Health sufficiently decentralised to render services to all regions of the country.

UBTS is mandated to provide blood and blood components through voluntary blood donations for use in health care service delivery. The body closely works with the Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) in voluntary blood donor recruitment.

The UBTS operates within the framework of the National Health Policy and the Health Sector Strategic plan to ensure that the increased demand for safe blood transfusion especially at Health Centre IVs which attend to most of the population is met.

## Operational Schedules

UBTS operates 24 hours each day through the year. Field teams work from Monday to Friday i.e. 8:00 Am- 5:00Pm. However, on special arrangements, field teams may be required to work through the entire week.

## Blood donation activities are performed in a number of ways;

Daily Sessions in a distance of 50Kms and below, Blood Drives in cities, Municipalities, communities, and townships, Blood donation camps in distances of 100Kms and above.

Why should I donate blood?

Emergencies occur every minute. For each patient requiring blood, it is an emergency and the patients could suffer a setback if blood is not readily available. For example a mother who delivers and bleeds too much will need blood or else she may die or survive with complications that could affect her entire reproductive potential.

A single blood donation can help one or more patients. Whole blood is made up of several useful components

which perform special functions in the body. The various blood components are Red Blood Cells, White Blood Cells, Platelets, Plasma and selected Plasma Proteins. Each of these components can be separated from a donated volume of blood and transfused into a specific patient requiring that particular component. Thus, many can benefit from a single unit of blood.

## What happens when I donate blood?

One single donation can be split into three separate parts, helping save or improve the lives of patients. Just three teaspoons of blood can save the life of a premature baby. If you donate blood, you can help save many lives.

Transfusion of blood and products should be undertaken only to treat a condition that would lead to illness or death and cannot be prevented by other means.

Donating blood is not dangerous and it is a healthy habit that helps blood renewal. The volume of blood donation is 370:400 ml, almost 7.5% of the adult blood volume and it is compensated in a short period of time.

When you donate blood, you will get a medical examination including medical history, haemoglobin estimation and blood group determination. The donated blood will be tested for hepatitis B, C, HIV viruses, syphilis microbe and ELISA. You receive the results confidentially.

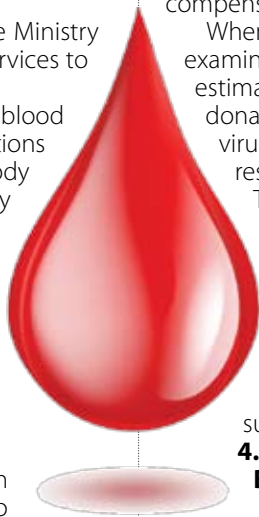
The need for transfusion can often be avoided by:

1. The prevention or early diagnosis and treatment of anaemia and conditions that cause anaemia
2. The correction of anaemia and the replacement of depleted iron stores before planned surgery
3. The use of simple alternatives to transfusion, such as intravenous replacement fluids
4. Good anaesthetic and surgical management.

## Blood Safety

The quality and safety of all blood and blood products must be assured throughout the process from the selection of blood donors through to their administration to the patient. This requires:

1. The establishment of a well-organized blood transfusion service.
2. The collection of blood only from voluntary non-remunerated donors from low-risk populations and rigorous procedures for donor selection.
3. The screening of all donated blood for transfusion-transmissible infections.
4. Good laboratory practices in aspects of blood grouping, compatibility testing, component preparation and the storage and transportation of blood and blood products.
5. A reduction in unnecessary transfusions through the appropriate clinical use of blood and blood products, and the use of simple alternatives to transfusion.





8 March  
HAPPY WOMEN'S DAY



## BELLA WINE MANUFACTURER SAYS IN FIVE YEARS SHE WILL HAVE COVERED THE WORLD



**Prudence Ukkonika Busingye**  
Proprietor Of Bella Wine

### 1. Briefly tell us about Bella Wine

Bella wine started 19 years ago and officially we are now 15 years in the business. We are located in Wandegaya at Moil Petrol Station Opposite YMCA and our Factory is located in Kira Namugongo.

### 2. Bella wine has received many accolades year in and out, what keeps you at the top?

In fact last year we got three accolades I was awarded a medal on Women's Day in Mityana, the PEOPLE'S CHOICE QUALITY AWARD and the CONSUMER CHOICE AWARD. Hard work and being God fearing, is what keeps us at the top. When you put God in your business everything you do moves smoothly and He blesses you, but of course I am a hard working lady.

If I look back it is 19 years, I still wake up very early and sleep very late and put a lot of effort in the business. Perseverance, when most people get challenges they drop out and some think I was lucky but it is not the case, challenges come but you fight and make the business thrive. I'm a very busy person and this is possible because I have a gift of multi-tasking, which most don't have.

### 3. What are your plans for the next 5-10 years?

I have started marketing abroad and I have received very positive responses. In the next 5 years I will have covered the whole world. I covered East Africa, I have been to Italy, China, Portugal, Spain, France, Turkey, India and South Africa among others.

We have set the bar high and with the stakeholders in the business, it will grow bigger and better whether I am around or not because my family is highly involved.

### 4. What motivates you?

The support from the public, for example the People Choice Award (2015), among others keeps me going. Customers insist on Bella Wine, which is an indicator that they love and support what I am doing and I see growth. I started small with my family and my son did the packing while I went to the market. When I see the children I am supporting I feel very happy.

### 5. You have diversified into making healthy drinks what prompted that decision?

I feel very proud to make medicinal wine. I started when I read a paper about a certain plant called Malakwang, that was able to make wine. I researched about and it was Hibiscus. I am proud that Bella Wine, hibiscus and tea are doing health wonders. Most diseases are caused by what we eat, although I am not a doctor I know these products are addressing those issues.

### 6. Have you started any mentorship programmes to help women entrepreneurs grow their businesses?

I have mentored very many people and one of them is a woman who was selling mangoes in the village on the roadside. I encouraged her to supply me and also introduced her to the markets in Nakasero and right now she is doing well.

### 7. You are a beacon of hope for most women, what advice would you give to corporate women?

I tell them not to fear suffering. Those jobs are temporary because they are working for someone. I have seen people suffering after offices and it really breaks my heart, I encourage them to think out of the ordinary setting, although it has a lot of challenges, they can be overcome. If you are beyond 35 years please come up with something that you can do on your own, it might not be making wine like me but something else. God has given every one a gift so let everyone embrace theirs.

### 8. The theme for this year is "Innovative approaches to social protection, a pre-requisite for inclusive and sustainable development. What's your take on this?"

I always encourage people to add skills and go ahead and study especially in the line of their business so that they can empower themselves and add value to the products or service and it does not matter what job they are doing whether it is mechanics, hairdressing, tailoring, farming etc.

I studied Business Administration and Marketing to improve my business. For the women this empowerment should be taken at a slow pace because we rely on men so much in almost everything. Let's not just talk but work so that you are not a problem to our dear men although I am not encouraging men to be lazy. We want to be equal all the time let's all work and complement one another both in our families and keeping our marriages strong.

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## PICTORIAL



*Women Council representatives and other officials after the elections at Hotel Africana in Kampala.*



*The chairperson Bunyangabu and Ntungamo and her group in general cleaning.*



*Women making reusable pads in Jinja.*



*Minister Janat Mukwaya congratulates Robinah Akwi.*



*The President inspects stalls during Women's Day 2018.*





*The Gender Ministry Permanent Secretary Pius Bigirimana welcomes President Yoweri Museveni to the inauguration ceremony of the newly elected Women Council leaders at Hotel Africana.*



NWC  
SECRETARIATE  
STAFF AT THE  
SWEARING-IN



*Justice Margaret Oguli and the then Director of Gender Jane Mpagi during the induction of new Women Council.*



*Women train in making books.*



## VICTORY SCHOOL OF BEAUTY AND HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT



*Graduands and some officials of Victory School of Beauty pose for photos with President Yoweri Museveni.*

# FIVE YEARS JOURNEY OF SUPPORTING WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

**BY ROBERT KASIBANTE**

**V**ictory school of beauty and hospitality management is one of the colleges affiliated to Victory Education Foundation. Inspired by the desire to empower women with vocational skills and accelerate growth in the economy with a highly professional skilled labour force, the school was founded in 2015 in Kampala.

With a population of 2,000 disciplined and hardworking students, and 85 dedicated staff, the

school has rapidly developed into a modern vocational training college with well facilitated training centres, a library, a hostel and classrooms with smart boards.

The school has maintained a broad based curriculum in vocational courses, as it offers certificate and diploma courses in Catering and Hotel Management, Tailoring and Fashion Design, Cosmetology, Handcrafts and ICT, among others.

The students are trained and mentored in personal financial management, entrepreneurship and business management skills as well as career counselling and





***An instructor teaches computer skills to students in a computer laboratory.***

guidance as they need to discover their personal gifts and talents and use them to achieve their goals. It has training centres in Masaka, Isingiro, Mityana and Bushenyi respectively.

The vocational training programmes have built the confidence of young women and girls to reach their full potential and have helped reduce poverty levels among households as employment opportunities have been created as some start their own businesses and employ others.

The training has also promoted consumption of local products such as clothes and handcrafts.

Young girls have become less vulnerable as poverty levels have reduced.

I am proud to say that as the school strives to attain a national status among the giants in the country, the number of students who have successfully completed continues to increase and their impact within the community is remarkable. The biggest problem in Africa and Uganda in particular is not limited resources

but under utilisation and mismanagement of resources. I therefore thank God for the different stakeholders of Victory Education Foundation and the Government of the Republic of Uganda who continue to mobilise resources within and outside the country to support the development of the institution.

Special appreciation to His Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda, for his visionary leadership to ensure that all these available and idle resources are fully utilised for the growth and development of this country, but in a special way his commitment to supporting women empowerment through vocational skills training.

As we commemorate the International women's day, the challenge ahead of us is demanding and taxing we have to work hard as a country and with God at the helm of it all we shall move on.

**— Robert Kasibante is the Director of Victory Education Foundation**





*Women perform during celebrations marking the International Women's Day.*

# The International Women's Day 2018

BY ROBINAH KIMBUGWE

**T**he International Women's Day has occurred for well over a century, with the first International Women's Day gathering in 1911 supported by over a million people. Today the International Women's Day belongs to all groups of people collectively everywhere in the world, Uganda inclusive.

The day which falls on March 8th is a global day celebrating social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity. Annually on this day, thousands of events are held throughout the world to inspire women and celebrate achievements. The activities are closely linked with the year's Theme.

Each year Uganda selects a theme aligned with the global theme for the Day. Uganda's theme for 2018 was **"Empowerment of Rural Women and Girls: Opportunities and challenges."**

During this time Ugandans especially women, reflect on the progress of women empowerment. The National celebrations for the International Women's Day celebrations were held in Mityana District at

Busuubizi Teachers' College officiated over by H.E the president of Uganda.

The activities of the day included market exhibitions, art performances and speeches among others; all these reflected the year's theme. Medals were also awarded to women for their outstanding contributions to the struggle in women empowerment, some of the women council leaders inclusive.

During her speech, the chairperson of the National Women's Council brought to the attention of the President the key women concerns; The high costs of electricity and connections fees for the rural women, consideration of women in the government procuring processes-in the awarding of tenders and contracts, the high taxes on women's small scale businesses, the counterfeit agricultural inputs, the small financial releases of UWED funds, The increased cases of kidnapping, raping and killing of women and girls.

In response, the president reacted positively to each of the six issues presented. He gave directives on the taxes for the petty traders and condemned domestic violence and the rampant killings of women and girls especially Entebbe and Masaka among others.

# IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO ADDRESS FACTORS THAT AFFECT WOMEN EMPOWERMENT



BY JANE MALE

**N**amirembe Diocese Christian Women's Fellowship (CWF) congratulates the women in Uganda on the occasion to commemorate the International Women's Day, 2019.

The 2019 theme "Empowering women through innovative Approaches to Social Protection; a prerequisite for inclusive and sustainable development" is a reminder and call to all stakeholders to put women at the fore if we are to realise meaningful development.

Namirembe Diocese Christian Women's Fellowship is an organisation that brings all Christian women together. To become a full member, one has to undertake instructional classes, pay membership and inaugurate in the Church. It does not matter whether one is married or not; the cardinal qualification is to be a baptised Christian woman.

The objectives of CWF are; mobilizing members to attend Church services pray for self and others around the member, attending fellowship meetings, groom children in Christian belief and discipline, care for the needy, improve one's spiritual, moral, social and physical welfare of the member and those around her

Namirembe Diocese Christian Women's Fellowship (CWF) has agitated for economic empowerment through sensitization of women to have income generating activities to supplement household incomes. We strongly believe that gone are the days when a man is

the sole bread winner. A woman must contribute to the family wellbeing.

Thus, on top of the Bible studies, preaching of the gospel, music and drama sessions CWF engages its members to engage in poultry, vegetable farming, commercial ventures like weaving of mats, baskets and knitting of sweaters. Our emphasis is the call to move from subsistence farming to target the market. This is intended to reduce on overreliance on their spouses.

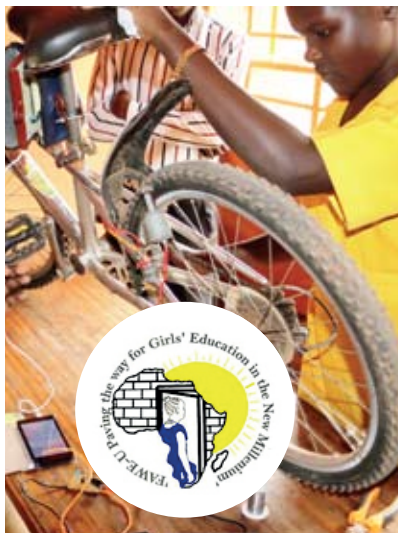
We believe that meaningful empowerment cannot be achieved if girl child education is not scaled up. As CWF, we believe that formal and informal education of girls and women play a cardinal role in the empowerment of women. We organize sessions in churches and schools to address issues which hinder the progress of women. These include among others; maternal issues, HIV/AIDS, prostitution, sanitation, early marriages, unwanted pregnancies, rape, defilement domestic violence, high rate of girl child drop out.

We call upon stakeholders at all levels to address these factors which greatly affect women emancipation. The Theme for Namirembe Diocese in 2019 is "... How then could I do such an immoral thing and sin against God" Genesis 39:9(GNB). It reminds us to shun evil in our midst. In the same way we must collectively address all evils against women bearing in mind that men and women were created in the image of God.

**Mrs Jane Male** is Chairperson, Christian Women's Fellowship (CWF), Namirembe Diocese.







# FAWE UGANDA:

**22** Years of Enhancing Girls and Women's Education for Development.  
1997 – 2019

## PROMOTING GIRL CHILD EDUCATION AS A PRE-CURSOR FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE)** Uganda Chapter is one of the 34 National chapters of Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE) a pan African Non-governmental Organization (NGO) operating in 33 countries across Africa. The mother Organization – FAWE Regional Secretariat (FAWE RS) was started in 1992 by five African Women Ministers of Education.

FAWE Uganda Chapter was established in 1997, and this year 2019 we are celebrating "22 years of Enhancing Girls and Women's Education for Development." Our vision is, "A country in which all girls and women have access to equitable quality education that enables them to effectively participate in development at all levels." Mission "To promote gender equity and equality in Education in Uganda by influencing policies and nurturing positive practices and attitudes towards girls' education."

These contribute to the FAWE Africa's mission of "Ensuring that considerable attention is paid to gender imbalances in Education and that steps are taken to enable more girls access quality Education, complete their studies and perform well at all levels.



**FAWE Uganda Beneficiaries posing for a group photo after their graduation ceremony in 2019.**

Our target audience include vulnerable women, girls, boys, disabled and other socially marginalized groups in the community. The operation of FAWE Uganda is guided by the overall Goal of "Girls across Uganda being able to access quality education."

This is supported by the strategic objectives of; improving the level of gender responsiveness in Education Sector policies for girls and women, enhancing adoption and integration of positive gender pedagogy practices at school level; increasing access, retention and completion rates for girls in school and all levels of education, and strengthening institutional capacity for efficient and effective service delivery.

Our interventions revolve around Education (Secondary, Tertiary and Higher Education Scholarships); Child Protection, Science and Innovation, Service delivery for child mothers, Mentorship and Gender Responsive Pedagogy, Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights, Combating Gender Based Violence, Skills Development and Livelihoods, Economic Empowerment for Vulnerable Groups and, Research and Advocacy.

In a bid to actualize the Sustainable Development Goal 4, "Ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all." FAWE Uganda implements its programs at national level including; the Higher Education Access Program, the Resilient Learners, Teachers and Education Systems Project in both South Sudan and Uganda, Promotion of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) in Secondary Schools - Promoting Gender Responsive Schools, Prevention of Violence against Children in and Around Schools (VACIS), Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (ASRHR) and Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

The Organization has registered numerous milestones and as we commemorate this year's International Women's Day, under the theme **"Empowering Women through Innovative Approaches to Social Protection; a Pre-requisite for Inclusive and Sustainable Development"** we would like to share with the public some of the achievements realized in the last 22 years of



## FAWE UGANDA: “22 Years of Enhancing Girls and Women’s Education for Development.” 1997 – 2019

### PROMOTING GIRL CHILD EDUCATION AS A PRE-CURSOR FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



**The Chief Guest, Prof. George Lada Openjuru, the Vice Chancellor of Gulu University, Mrs. Irene Kiiza-Onyango, the FAWE Uganda Board Member and other guests posing for a group photo with the Winners of the 2018 Higher Education Access Program Bursaries.**

our existence;

- Provided scholarships to over 5,000 young people and vulnerable girls at secondary, tertiary and University level
- Empowered over 40,000 young people – boys and girls, school administrators, teachers, parents and community members on importance of Education
- Conducted various Research Studies for and with the Ministry of Education and Sports and partners including UNICEF, International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW), Mac Arthur Foundation and University of Maryland. The studies informed policy formulation and capacity building for various stakeholders on girls and women's rights. They include the linkage between teenage pregnancy and school dropout, retention and re-entry policy for child mothers, Violence against Children in and around school, and understanding Social Norms to prevent and respond to Violence against Children.
- Policy influencing through advocating for formulation and passing of policies focused on improving Education for women and girls such as the Gender in Education Policy, guidelines on the School Re-entry Policy-enabling child mothers have a second chance in education, sexuality education framework and ordinances on Ending Child Marriage and Teenage Pregnancy in various districts.
- Developed and implemented innovative approaches focused on addressing violence against marginalized groups, gender dynamics and social norms in communities - the Gender Responsive Pedagogy, TUSEME ('Let us speak') model and the Extended Orientation Program as a mechanism for supporting scholars to enroll, complete and complete higher education.
- Strengthened capacity of 80 secondary schools in Uganda to improve girl's interest, participation and performance in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects through adopting Gender Responsive approaches in the learning and teaching process.
- Promoted a safe learning environment for children in schools and communities through building capacity of local government



**A Student demonstrating how the Bicycle Power Charging System Works during the FAWE Uganda National Science and Innovation Competitions. The Innovation is used to charge phones in rural communities in Northern Uganda.**

structures; the Uganda Police Force, local councils, health centre staff, youth groups, community structures, school administrators, teachers and children on child protection and Gender Based Violence prevention; violence against children and its dangers; monitoring, reporting, tracking and referral of cases.

- Livelihood and skills development for 144 vulnerable girls and child mothers (104 Western & 40 Eastern Uganda), 200 from Northern Uganda were supported through education, equipped with life skills and have engaged in income generating activities

**By David Omoding**  
**Advocacy and Communications Officer**  
**Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE) Uganda Chapter**

**Plot 328 Magulu Close, Off Kisaasi Road Bukoto Kampala 24117 Uganda | Email: [fawe@faweuganda.org](mailto:fawe@faweuganda.org)  
 Phone: +256 392 894 901 | Mobile: +256 772 487299 | Website: [www.faweuganda.org](http://www.faweuganda.org)**



# TOGETHER WE CAN AVERT CERVICAL CANCER RATE IN UGANDA

BY CHRISTINE NAMULINDWA

**C**elebration of the International Women's Day 2019 without mention of cancer of the cervix would be a disservice to women and the country at large.

Cervical cancer is one of the leading causes of death among women in Uganda and Africa at large. Most women die of cervical cancer which is regrettable because the disease is highly curable and preventable. This is so because most women present with late stage disease.

The disease is caused by the a virus Human Papillomavirus, which is sexually transmitted, many women can survive with it for years and if undetected, it eventually converts normal cells on the surface of the cervix into cancerous ones.

Unfortunately, cervical cancer does not show signs until advanced stages, where chances of healing are minimal. That is why we advocate early and regular screening because when the cancer is detected early, it can be treated.

According to the World Health Organization, the prevalence of cervical cancer in Uganda is at 34 per cent. In Uganda, cervical cancer is the number one cause of cancer-related death in women. The WHO also estimates that approximately 3915 Ugandan women were diagnosed with cervical cancer and that 2160 died from the disease in 2014. This is due to many factors such as late presentation of disease among others. The low screening uptake has resulted into the country having one of the highest cervical cancer incidence rates in the world with 47.5 per 100,000 women every year.

Infections including those from HIV/Aids and Hepatitis contribute about 50 per cent of cancer deaths with 300,000 new cases annually, according to statistics from the Kampala Cancer Registry.

In addition, cervical cancer cases and deaths are

more likely to increase due to the absence of a national cervical cancer prevention and control programme.

According to the World Health Organisation projection, by 2025, about 6,400 new cervical cancer cases and 4,300 deaths will occur annually if no attempt is accorded to reduce the scourge.

However, all is not lost as the Uganda Cancer Institute has put in place measures to avert these alarming figures. The measures include:

Training of health professionals, the ongoing construction of new radiotherapy bunkers and opening of regional centres.

In addition, the Uganda Cancer Institute Bill dubbed the "UCI Bill 2016" establishes the institute as an autonomous agency mandated to undertake and coordinate the prevention and treatment of cancer. The implementation of this Bill will be a milestone in cervical cancer prevention and control even in other cancers. However, execution will require political will and an increase in domestic and international investment.

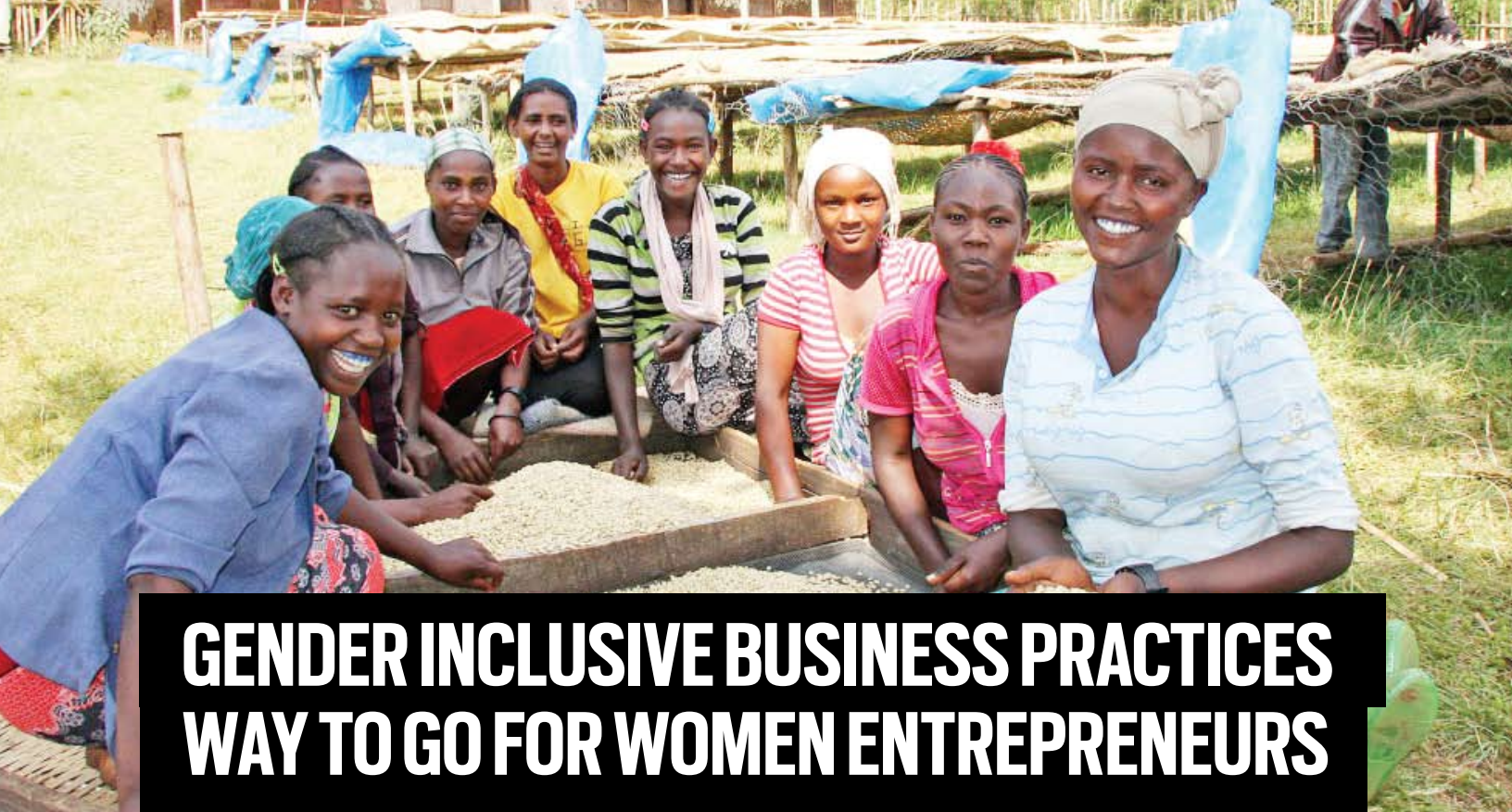
Cervical cancer prevention efforts should be prioritised to avoid the late presentation of women with advanced cervical cancer.

As we celebrate the International Women's Day this year, let us all remember to care about our cervical health through regular cancer screening. Those placed in areas of advocacy should also advocate a National Cervical Cancer and Control Programme. This will be in line with the objectives of the commemoration since the day provides an opportunity to enhance advocacy for inclusion of women's concerns in the development agenda at all levels by calling on United Nations Member States to design and implement interventions aimed at attaining gender equality and the empowerment of women.

— **The writer is the Public Relations Officer at the Uganda Cancer Institute**



**Cervical health care.** As we celebrate the International Women's Day this year, let us all remember to care about our cervical health through regular cancer screening. Those placed in areas of advocacy should also advocate a National Cervical Cancer and Control Programme.



# GENDER INCLUSIVE BUSINESS PRACTICES WAY TO GO FOR WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

BY AIDAH NANYONJO

**“W**e have to inspire young girls and women to take up their positions in terms of how they harness their potential for economic empowerment,” Mr. Gideon Badagawa, the Executive Director for the Private Sector Foundation Uganda said during a breakfast meeting organised by UN Women for Uganda’s top business leaders and Chief Executive Officers at Sheraton Hotel.

Badagawa said that women must be supported to claim their space whether in leadership or decision making. He pledged continued effort towards girl child education, saying that it is through education that girls can be economically empowered. “We must advocate for their education if we want them to be what we want them to be,” he said.

The breakfast meeting intended to discuss ways to achieve Gender Inclusive Business in Uganda; To reinforce the UN’s engagement with the private sector and business leaders to step up innovative actions to advance Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in Uganda; To collect recommendations from private sector partners, on the best and most efficient ways to improve Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in Uganda.

Dr. Maxime Houinato asked the private sector to go beyond the corporate social responsibility and integrate women into the core business, either as suppliers, distributors or employees.

“It’s not about the numbers of female employees working there, but the entire value chain of the business in terms of Governance, Suppliers, Logistics and the people you are being employed,” Dr Maxime said.

He noted that companies need to be sensitised on the importance of integrating gender in the entire value chain of their operations. Such companies/businesses that will incorporate women in their value chain will be supported to get more customers. They will also sign a commitment and will be tracked and recognized so that the public gets to know about them.

“Women’s economic power as consumers is higher than their demographic power /size. When women go for shopping, they will be selecting products produced by gender sensitive companies. That’s why we want to promote and add some components to the gender seal to make it accountable so that women will control how companies are doing and contributing to gender into their business model,” Dr. Maxime added.

Dr. Gudula Naiga Basaza, a board member with Private Sector Foundation said that women will be trained and mentored in order not to compromise with quality within the companies they will be posted.

“They should not be given jobs just because they are women. They should be adding value to companies. We need to prepare them for such opportunities,” she added.

Participants called for the establishment of a database of women entrepreneurs as well as those who can ably represent women on different executive boards.



# WOMEN STATUS FAR BETTER

## COMPARED TO THE UGANDAN WOMAN OF THE PAST

**EMPOWERMENT:** Looking at the journey of women empowerment in Uganda, one may easily notice some improvements, but there are still some challenges and hidden achievements. **Irene Kiiza Onyango** spoke to **Hon. Justice David Batema** the Soroti Resident Judge, and below are excerpts.

**Do you think Uganda is on the right course as regards innovations to advance women empowerment?**

I think we are. We may not see much of innovative approaches but there are efforts that cannot be ignored. Women can now access loans with collateral, salary loans, Nigiina groups have become very instrumental in improving women's lives. In 1995 only 15% of women owned land titles, now the figure is at 36%. Women with land titles can access loans, before men owned the titles and were unwilling to give the women land. We now have inclusive education with UPE, USE and the extra 1.5 points helps women get into higher learning. The more women we have completing higher education, the more we bring to the decision-making table. Women need to be involved in planning.

**We have had challenges in social protection where women are considered secondary, and have to ask for permission to even travel with their children.**

The Children's Act was amended. Now the law recognises that children belong to both parents. A woman does not need a man's consent to have her children included in her passport. Even if it is adoption, both parents have to consent to their children being adopted, if at all. Even when the father dies, a woman should keep her children and whoever wants to help them, finds them in their home, as opposed to dividing the children among relatives, like it was in the past. That practice was denying women guardianship of their children.

Innovations like the small claims procedure allow for people to settle cases involving money that is less than 10 Million UGX faster. You just go to a magistrate who is handling small claims, pick a form and within 14 days



HON. JUSTICE  
DAVID BATEMA  
THE SOROTI  
RESIDENT JUDGE

there must be a decision taken. Most women find the procedure easy to use. It does not involve much paperwork and legal proceedings.

Women have also benefitted a lot from the Alternative Dispute Resolution. Women are very good mediators and arbitrators because they do not want to waste time in court. The ADR allows room for negotiation within 45 days of filing the case, in order to avoid litigation.

**What about the delay in hearing cases... Some women give up on following up cases especially in domestic violence and sexual offences...**

We have introduced the plea bargain. If you know you are guilty, you confess and ask for leniency. That is an innovation we got from America. Normally, a judge can handle only 40 cases in three months, yet in plea bargain you can do unlimited cases. I went to Gulu and did 97 cases in three days and in Moroto I did 93 in two days. There is a starting point and an ending point. The judge has the finality of it though. In cases of manslaughter and domestic violence there is an element of forgiveness, which has not been in the English law. But if the parties have forgiven each other, the matter ends and this has encouraged social security.

We have reformed the police form 3A. We have agreed that one can be assaulted without penetration. We are no longer looking for signs of penetration or scratches. The slightest degree of penetration is enough to prosecute an offender.

We have also introduced special sessions, where we try similar cases at a go. This has enabled us dispose of many cases of SGBV with help from partners like UNFPA and UNWOMEN and some are funded by the government.

**Traditionally women cannot be heirs to men. How can the law help families with only girls?**

Women can now inherit property. If a clan nominates an heir, the person has to go to court first. It does not matter whether you are male or female.

Widows can administer estates and inherit property too. And this has been made easier. If the estate is not more than 50m UGX, the woman does not need to go to the High Court or Administrator General to get letters of administration.

In the past the traditional marriage had to be done at the father's home, now it can happen at a mother's home, if she is a single mother. We are granting single parent custody because the law acts in the best interest of the child. So we do not expect a woman that has raised her child single handedly to be denied her position at the time the child is graduating or getting married.

# Women empower fellow women, a case of WIN

**W**omen Initiative Network-WIN, is a not-for-profit organisation based in Kampala, with other upcountry linkage offices. The organisation started three years ago as a women empowerment group with 15 female market vendors in St Balikuddembe commonly known as Owino Market. Through their savings and loan scheme, the members would take loans of up to 150,000 UGX to expand their businesses. WIN is now a registered Civil Society Organisation, registration number **S.5914/13218** with over 500 members.

WIN has expanded its operations to the western and eastern regions and has just signed memoranda of understanding with the districts of Bukedea, Kumi and Ngora.

The program areas of WIN include;

**1. Economic Empowerment**

In addition to small loans, WIN has organized financial literacy trainings for all its members.

**2. Health and WASH initiatives**

They are currently carrying out sensitization and education among its members on basic of WASH and health including HIV/AIDS.

**3. Education**

Currently WIN, is running a sponsorship program for about 10 vulnerable children from the proceedings of their savings.

**4. Human Rights.**

WIN has actively been carrying out sensitization and education to its members on their basic human rights.

The National Women's Council recommends WIN's efforts in unifying and empowering women.

**Contact us:**

Plot 37/39 William Street  
Hotel Equatorial Building  
P.O.BOX 27007 Kampala, Uganda  
Tel; +256 414 660 845  
Mob; +256 787 660 844  
womeninitiativenetwork@gmail.com  
isamatchristinep@gmail.com



# WOMEN EXCEL IN SPORTS

## SHE CRANES QUALIFY FOR WORLD CUP FINALS



BY SHABAN LUBEGA

SHE CRANES  
HAVE TURNED  
INTO A GLOBAL  
HOUSEHOLD  
NAME

Uganda's women have continued attaining success in the sports world. Last year several women excelled in different disciplines across the world. Some did so individually and others triumphed in team sports:

### She Cranes

The national women's netball team have turned into a household name all over the world and in 2018, they successfully defended their African crown in Zambia and subsequently qualified for the 2019 World Cup that will be held in Liverpool, England.

In the tournament held in Lusaka during August, the team led by the ever green Peace Proscovia won all their five games to be crowned Queens of Africa for the second time. They in the process sealed a spot at the 2019 Netball world Cup.

Some of the She Cranes players featured at the African Netball Championships and also starred as Uganda won the University Netball Championships held at Makerere in

September. Again, they won all their fixtures during the tournament.

### Crested Cranes

The country's women's football team took part in two tournaments last year: In July, they participated in the CECAFA Women's Championships in Kigali and finished second.

Following their brilliant show in Kigali, the team was invited to take part in the 2018 COSAFA Women's Cup held in South Africa. After a bright start that saw them top Group C - two victories and a draw - the Crested Cranes were pitted to face hosts South Africa for a place in the finals and eventually lost 2-0.

### Susan Muwonge

Muwonge is arguably the finest female rally driver in East Africa and in 2018 she did a whole lot of justice to that tag by winning the National Rally Championship. This was her second triumph after achieving the same fate in 2011. She beat a field of 17 cars that managed to finish.



### **Uganda Women Basketball 3\*3 Team**

The 3\*3 Gazelles also had a fairly impressive 2018 as per past standards set. The team finished third in the African Championships qualifiers held in Madagascar to seal a spot at the show piece that would later take place in Lome, Togo.

In Lome, they would only manage the place in the competition, finishing behind the first four Mali, DR Congo, Togo and Nigeria. The team comprised of National Basketball League (NBL) stars - Zainah Lokwameri, Sarah Ageno, Ritah Imanishimwe and Jamila Nansikombi.

### **Stella Chesang**

Chesang was one of only two athletes to win a gold medal for team Uganda at the 2018 Commonwealth games held in Gold Coast, Australia.

The long distance runner clocked 31:45.30 as she won the 10,000 meters race on April 9th.

### **Mercyline Chelangat**

Mercyline also had a good 2018 as she won Bronze at the 2018 Commonwealth games in the 10,000 meters race that was won by Stella.

### **Doreen Chesang**

Doreen did not win any medals in the year 2018 but announced herself to the world when she finished 49th at the 2018 World Half Marathon championships held in Spain, off a personal best time, in a field that featured 122 athletes. She finished the race as the top ranked Ugandan as Emily Chebata (69) and Adha Muguleya finished below her.

### **JKL Lady Dolphins**

The Lady Dolphins won their first ever National Basketball League title, defeating the much-fancied UCU Lady Canons 4-0 in the best of 7 games series finals.

Featuring the likes of Jamila Nansikombi, Mayimuna Namuwaya, Ritah Imanishimwe and Flavia Oketcho, JKL had finished second in regular season.

### **Ritah Nimusiima**

Nimusiima won the inaugural Women's Pool National open that was held side by side with the men's edition held at the MTN Arena in October.

The left-handed women number one seed defeated Rashidah Mutesi 8-4 in the finals to walk away with the grand prize of a car and other goodies.

## **INCLUSIVENESS & SUSTAINABLE DEV'T**

**What kind of innovations should Uganda adopt to empower women in order to achieve inclusiveness and sustainable development? In your view, what is the most significant achievement of the women empowerment initiatives and gender equality campaigns?**



**Nataliey Bitature,  
Chief Operations Officer**

From a policy standpoint, companies should have a mandate to hire more women in managerial and executive positions - like we have Woman MPs to encourage more women to run for political office.



**Susan Opok Tumusiime,  
Executive Director FAWEU**

Initiation of policies that relay to gender equality and women's empowerment are a good starting point. There should be deliberate effort to garner support against negative norms and practices that harm women.



**Hon Pamela Nasiyo, UWOPA Chair**

One of the tools for women empowerment is access to finance. UWEP funds and the Presidential initiative of Skilling the Youth have contributed a lot to women empowerment.



**Dr. Betty Nnanyonga, Senior  
Lecturer, Dept of Maths, Makerere**

Collective efforts should be aimed to both protect the rights of, and promote opportunities for women throughout the economic and social development process. Gender equity is a pre-condition for sustainable development.



**Prof Grace Kibanja**

We must narrow the divide between men and women if we are to achieve the world we want by 2030. We must invest in protecting our children, especially our girls and all societies must respect women and their ability to contribute to the well-being of families, communities and the country at large.





## Trailblazers Mentoring Foundation - TMF Uganda

### TMF providing holistic programs for adolescents especially girls and young women while putting greater emphasis on ending teenage pregnancy

Trailblazers Mentoring Foundation (TMF) Executive Director and Founder **Joyce Atimango** had an interview with Abraham MUTALYEBWA.

#### 1. Tell us about the Trailblazers Mentoring Foundation.

We gave birth to this Organization 5 years ago as child mothers who decided to change their negative experience into positive action to address the critical needs that adolescent girls and young women are facing, particularly putting great emphasis on child marriage and teenage pregnancies but also supporting them to access and complete their education.

As a former child mother, my aspirations were to see that those who dropped out of school were provided with a second chance as it was for me, but also to mentor vulnerable girls that are at risk of dropping out of school and have lost hope in their lives to start thinking differently and know that they have a purpose in life and can fulfill their potential.

It started as a Community Based Organization (CBO) and is now a growing Non-Profit Organization. We have partnered with UNICEF, IRISH AID and Plan International among others, but also with the government notably under the MoES, MoGLSD and with the Local Governments in our districts of implementation.

#### 2. TMF is very involved in activities concerning teenage pregnancies and child marriage. Which areas do you operate in?

We are now in 20 Districts that include; Moroto, Apac, Amudat, Nabilatuk, Nakapiripirit, Kaabong, Kotido, Abim, Tororo, Bukedea, Kamuli, Buyende, Lira, Alebtong, Packwach, Nebbi, Arua, Adjumani, Yumbe and Kampala.



Joyce Atimango having a chat with a disabled girl in one of the beneficiary schools of Trailblazers Mentoring Foundation (TMF).



Joyce Atimango  
Executive director and founder-TMF

#### 3. Which part of the Country has the highest number of child marriage and why?

Northern at 59%, Busoga at 52%, and West Nile Region at 50%, these have the highest number and of course the contributing factor is poverty, because of this, parents are seeing girls as an alternative to wealth. Lack of knowledge and information to make proper decisions and also manage the complexities of adolescence as they grow up also contribute to girls getting pregnant and eventually ending up in child marriage.

#### 4. In Kampala the streets are littered with child mothers which relate to your work, what initiative do you have for such girls?

Most of them are coming from districts like Napak and Nakapiripirit in northern Karamoja. One of the reasons they are dropping out is due to hunger at School but World Food Programme currently has interventions to address this. As Trailblazers Mentoring Foundation, we work with partners because as an entity we haven't been addressing child trafficking but have partners doing that like Dwelling Places and FIDA.

During our engagement with the District councils, communities and children we try to address this by stressing the importance of education and parents playing their role. In Karamoja, there is a huge gap in parenting due to parents focusing on search of income, while others in Karamoja don't appreciate the value of education, especially for girls. Through our Go to School, Be in School and Stay in School (GBS) campaigns, TMF is ensuring that children in Karamoja are encouraged to go to school and support systems to keep them in school are strengthened, both within the school system and the community.

#### 5. Normally girls resort to marriage because they have dropped out of school due to poverty, cultural norms, family issues among others. What are you doing to solve this challenge?

TMF is implementing two projects supported by Plan International on ending child marriage in Six Districts of Lira, Alebtong, Buyende, Bukedea, Tororo and Kamuli. We have formed Anti-Child marriage District committees consisting of CAO, LC5, RDC, Police and Heads of departments and their role is to ensure integration of activities addressing child marriage into district work plans and budgets which has yielded results since there was no budget allocation, TMF pushed for this and some funds have been allocated towards ending child marriage and protection for example in Buyende, Bukedea and Tororo.



Community theatre for edutainment towards sensitizing communities on ending child marriage: A session in Bal-Pe market, Adekokwok S/C, Lira district

Other districts have spearheaded the passing of Ordinances like Kamuli and Alebtong. Another Project is supported by UNICEF and IRISH AID, the Adolescent Development Programme in 13 districts of Uganda in Karamoja, West Nile and Busoga regions which also aim at reducing vulnerability of adolescent girls to teenage pregnancy, child marriages and mentorship to support adolescents access, stay and complete school. As a result of the programme, adolescent girls have been rescued from marriage, child mothers are returning to school and are being empowered to make informed decision and speak against rights violations.

The children have been empowered and recruited into clubs, these platforms are used for them to engage and speak out on issues that are critical to their lives. The niche for Trailblazers is working with the boys and Men as champions of change and they engage their fellow men to denounce the negative norms and practices that accelerate gender based violence.



Shamim, GAA adolescent girl champion, Bugaya Sub County, Buyende district



GEC leaders of Morulinga Primary School, Napak pose for a photo with a boy they recently returned to school.

In and out of school adolescents and young women are being trained on Income generating activities and supported with a small seed capital of Shs 60,000/=, It's amazing how these Girls Education clubs in Karamoja, West Nile and Busoga are making a profit of between 200,000/= to 600,000/= and proceeds used to support the most vulnerable children at the risk of dropping out of school through providing them with scholastic materials like Books, Pens, Pencils and Pads and for the out of school young women, we have referred them to government opportunities like the livelihood projects.

#### 6. What challenges are you facing and how you are addressing them?

The greatest challenge is the negative cultural norms and practices in the communities we operate in, negative attitude towards education by some parents and communities and of course poverty. To address this, TMF is engaging with religious and cultural leaders who are the gatekeepers of power in the communities, conducting continuous advocacy and awareness creation and a lot of results have been achieved for instance, some of the religious and cultural leaders are denouncing child marriage and other negative norms/practices we also hold radio-talk shows. Continuous community dialogues have helped us a lot in seeing communities realizing the need to protect the girl child from abuse and exploitation. Economically empowering these girls with business skills and knowledge for them to have a source of income to sustain themselves.

#### 7. Have you thought of helping girls in starting up small income generating activities so that they are focused and able to earn an income so that they are not swayed away.

Yes ofcourse the girls have been helped to start up small business Initiatives and as I told you we give them a seed capital through their clubs of Shs 60,000 and it has yielded tremendous results and multiplied 10 times and this has given us hope as an organization.



Community members of Kaabong district during Go to school, Back to school, Stay in school (GBS) meeting.

#### 8. These young girls are the future women and this year's theme is "empowering women through innovative approaches to social protection a pre-requisite for inclusive and sustainable development. What is your say on this and what should be done?"

This is timely as an organisation, we are engaging at the national level and what should be done is to continuously create opportunities for women and girls to be able to speak for themselves and use this international day as a platform to showcase some of their innovative works in different aspects like protection, development and share with the world what they are doing to promote and empower others with those skills.

#### 9. Trailblazers Mentoring Foundation addresses matters of Gender Equality and men are normally left out. Which role should they play since they are part of the equation?

We have been working with men and boys as our gender allies, you can't talk about promoting gender equality and leave out the boys and men. As Trailblazers Mentoring Foundation we are working with boy/male champions to promote gender equality and engage other men and boys to appreciate the need for fair treatment, equal allocation of resources and providing women and girls opportunity in decision making.

#### 10. What is your message to the public?

A lot needs to be done in terms of promoting gender equality, ending teenage pregnancies, child marriages and empowerment of girls and women. We all have a role to play, the media has to continue creating awareness, publicly denouncing the negative norms and practices, religious leaders as change agents should use platforms such as churches, burials, condemning negative vices and abuse, and NGOs to continue with advocacy as the state ensures the effective implementation of policies and strategies on child protection.

The struggle still continues. As an organisation we remain committed to empowering and promoting rights of children, especially and working with boys and men as our allies.

#### REACH US

Plot 22, Kenneth Dale Drive, Off Kira Road, Kamwokya P.O Box 33389 Kampala  
Email: info@trailblazersuganda.org, Tel: +414379910



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**Head Office:** 4 Wampewo Avenue, Kololo, P. O Box 1539 Kampala