



NEW CONVOCATION LEADERSHIP



With the long count down having reached an eventual halt, on Sept 1 2023, MUST finally held the highly anticipated convocation annual General Assembly and general elections for the new executive to stir assemblage to greater heights.

This saw the ushering in of Dr. Medard Bitekyerezo as the new Chairperson, Mr. Solomon Agum as the Vice chairperson, Mr. Yoas Ainamazima as the Treasurer and Mr. John Bosco Tumuhimbise as the Publicity secretary after respectively well-earned wins at the polls. Furthermore, the polls also had the under listed pass through as regional representatives:

Central regional: Ms. Mary Namukisa and Ms. Grace Kimbuggwe (unopposed)

Northern Region: Ms. Charllotte Dorcus Achen and Dr. Richard Muhangi (unopposed)

Western region: Ms. Mellon Ainembabazi and Capt. Johnson Kwiringira

Eastern region: Mr. Simba Maleka Emmanuel and Mr. Genesis Atukunda Masaba

Dr. Medard Bitekyerezo-Chairperson

Dr. Medard Bitekyerezo also known as Biteks was at MUST not only for his Bachelors but also Master's degree.

1992 saw him received into MUST as a first year student of bachelor of medicine and bachelor of surgery, a course which he concluded five years later. In 2000, he found his way back to MUST, this time as a young doctor pursuing a master's degree of medicine (MMED) in internal medicine. His competences contributed to his appointment as an assistant lecturer in 2000, a role he served until 2005. He later eventually rose to the level of a lecturer from 2005 until 2010 when he left for political leadership as the Member of Parliament of Mbarara Municipality 2011 - 2016. Biteks has held a number of positions and served in very many capacities but to outline the most outstanding ones:



2022 to date, he was appointed as the Chairman Mbarara High School Old Boy's Association. He mobilized the old boys of Mbarara High School to raise 2 billion UGX to construct a 3-storeyed dormitory which will appropriately accommodate 300 students. This dormitory was commissioned by the 1st Lady / Minister of Education and Sports Hon. Maama Janet Museveni.

January 2017 to date Dr. Bitekyerezo is the Chairman National Drug Authority Uganda (NDA). He streamlined the human resource manual and refined the NDA organogram to ease governance and monitoring

for appropriate service delivery at NDA.

He established the NDA 5-year strategic plan, constructed the NDA laboratory tower and instituted good corporate governance and leadership at the institution.

John Zenger once said,

“Great leaders are not defined by the absence of weakness, but rather by the presence of clear strengths.”

With the above autobiography, we are certain that Dr. Medard has got all it takes to change the face of the MUST convocation, continue with the projects of the previous executive and increase MUST's visibility through networks.

Mr. Solomon Agum - the Vice Chairperson



Mr. Agum pursued a Bachelor of Computer Science of MUST in 2006 – 2009. He later enrolled for a Master of Science in Information Systems (2014 – 2017)

Service Experience

Vice Chairman – MUST Senior Administrators' Forum (2023 – to-date) an association that brings together all MUST administrators, he served as the Publicity Secretary – MUST Convocation (2019 – 2023). He was at the forefront of all convocation award designs and printings of the best students during graduations.

His admirable character and eloquence in English has positioned him as an orator at MUST not withstanding a master of ceremonies during graduations.

Solomon currently serves Mbarara University of Science and Technology as the Assistant Registrar responsible for Admissions, Records and Alumni Engagement.

A leader takes people where they want to go, there is no better way to describe the leader in Solomon than this, we look forward to his unexampled leadership skills.

Mr. Yoas Ainamazima - Treasurer



Mr. Yoas pursued a Bachelor's of Science in Computer Engineering 2008 - 2012

He has held positions of responsibility as below:

2012 to date, Founder & Managing Director Codinex Computers Ltd

2019; Volunteer MUST-FAST; Robotics & Artificial Intelligence

Others

March 2023 to date: Church warden, St. Paul's Katete Church of Uganda

2018 to date: Treasurer, THE KTC Trusted Association

2019 to date; Chairman, Elites Togetherness group (ETA)

2021 to date: Treasurer, Mbarara ICT Specialists Association (MISA)

2021 to date; Chairman, Kimbusa Power Team Association (KPTA)

2021 to date; Investments Team Leader, Smart Elites Development Association (SEDA)

June August 2023; Leader of Constitution review committee, Katete Unique Families Association

John Bosco Tumuhimbise - Publicity Secretary



John Bosco Tumuhimbise popularly known as Concord joined Mbarara University as student in 2009 and graduated in 2013 with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree, specializing in Marketing. His quest for knowledge led him to Aeres University (Netherlands), where he completed courses in milk processing and entrepreneurship; and currently pursuing an MBA with focus on Entrepreneurship, Innovation, and Startups at Vignan University's online program (India). His professional journey has been equally dynamic, with experience in banking, research, business development and community mobilization. John Bosco is currently serving as a Business Advisor for Yoba for Life foundation (Dutch NGO) at SNV, where he supports a network of dairy processors not only in Uganda but also across various countries where this impactful project is being implemented. He is dedicated to leveraging his education and experience to promote the Convocation and its mission.

ICT- 4MRPQ TO CHANGE THE FACE OF MASTERS RESEARCH PROCESS MANAGEMENT



On September 14, 2023, Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) hosted the ICT-4MRPQ Project Breakfast meeting. A dynamic gathering of educational visionaries took place, shaping the future of research management in Uganda's Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). The event bore the theme

"Strengthening Capacity for ICT Usage and Policy Reforms for Relevant and Quality Masters Research Process Management in Uganda's HEIs - ICT-4MRPQ."

In attendance were distinguished members of the University top management, Deans, Directors, members from the University grants office and team members. These were joined by a team from Makerere Business School (MUBs), a leading institution in the project. The delegation was led by Prof. Vincent Bangire, the Dean Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research -MUBs.



The event was managed by the University Public Relations Officer and Breakfast manager Ms. Angella Nakato Musingo. She requested the members present to introduce themselves for the team to get acquainted.

The gathering was welcomed by Assoc. Prof. Charles Tushabomwe-Kazooba, the MUST ICT Project Coordinator. He thanked the audience for finding time to attend the event despite the busy schedule.

Observing protocol, Prof. Charles welcomed Top Management Committee members, the Deans, Directors and the other MUST staff. In a special way, he welcomed the team from Makerere University Business School, (MUBs) the Lead Partner institution for the ICT-4MRPQ project.

He pointed out the participating institutions as Makerere University Business School, Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Stichting VU Amsterdam - Netherlands, Kyazze Kankaka & Co. Advocates, Makerere University, Uganda Chapter for Corporate Social Responsibility Initiatives, Universidade De Lisboa - Portugal and National Council for Higher Education.

He also introduced the MUST ICT-4MRPQ Project coordination team who included Assoc. Prof.

Edgar Mugema Mulogo, Ms. Barbara Rita Nag-gayi, Mr. Moses Ntaro, Dr. Deborah Natumanya, Dr. Imelda Kemeza, Mr. Amos Baryashaba, Ms. Margaret Mbabazi, Ms. Winfred Aliguma and Ms. Viola Nabaasa as team members.

Assoc. Prof. Charles Tushabomwe-Kazooba is the MUST Project Coordinator.

He explained that the main objective of the project was to strengthen higher education institutions' capacity to use ICT in the Masters' research journey quality management processes and devise policy reforms for relevant high-quality research outputs at HEIs in Uganda. He further explained the working objectives: to update the research process quality management policies and guidelines at national level – NCHE and at university level in the context of master's students research; to increase the capacity of Uganda NCHE and HEIs to participate in the definition, implementation and monitoring of masters research policy reforms necessary for setting up a national common master's student research agenda; to document critical aspects of the master's student research journey which should be monitored for relevancy to national development; to build capacity in using ICT as a digital skill inclusion mechanism which can reduce various forms of discrimination against women/girls (both students and facilitators/lecturers);

to increase the number of master graduates capable of conducting quality and impactful and relevant research along with increased skilled research supervisors and administrators; and to promote local and international mobility and cooperation in exchanging good practices among NCHE, individual HEIs in Uganda and HEIs in Europe at institutional level fostering systemic improvements in master's degree research process quality and innovations management. He mentioned that the project fulfills three sustainable development goals i.e. SDG 4, 5 and 9.

The key outputs of the project were a revised national master research policy framework, NCHE approved e-supervision platform and a mobile App. connecting the participating universities. Assoc. Prof. Kazooba explained the key results both short term and long term. The former includes timely graduation of students, reduced supervision inconsistencies, relevant and high quality research outputs and reliable student research assessment processes. The latter included enhanced research capacity in Uganda, increased stock of relevant research and employable graduates.



He mentioned that Uganda HEIs counterparts would benefit from demonstrated increased knowledge, mobility & adoption of new technologies while the European partners would benefit from knowledge and internationalization. He noted that at least 700 staff and 1,500 students would be inter-connected on a NCHE approved Research E-Supervision Platform. 500 supervisors and 100 administrators will improve their work efficiency and interaction with students. NCHE will enhance capacity and accreditation. The employers will upgrade their sustainable development data tracking skills.

His remarks were followed by the Vice Chancellor's address. Professor Celestino Obua, the Vice Chancellor MUST, thanked the Project Coordinator, Assoc. Prof. Charles Tushabomwe-Kazooba for the presentation and for organising the breakfast meeting with Top Management members. He noted that it was a pleasure for him to attend.

He welcomed participants from the prime recipient of the grant, Makerere University Business School. He noted that it was important to appreciate when one acquires a grant. He remarked that the funders nowadays believe that the more hands, the greater the impact, unlike in the earlier days when grants would be given to individuals or a single institution. He explained that in the implementation of the ICT-4MRPQ project there were eight (08) institutions, among them being a regulator participating in the grant. It meant that the grant was meant to facilitate the regulator to monitor the implementation and also to know the challenges that delay master's students to complete their study programmes. Among the challenges could be that the lecturers/research supervisors do not want to review and help the students to progress.

He mentioned that at the previous Senate meeting, the same issue had been raised and that postgraduate students were not

well assisted to complete their research. That despite having ICT in place, lecturers still opted for physical meetings with the students under their supervision. He termed it a form of torture to those students yet one could interact distantly other than calling students to meet them in hotels at awkward times. He hastened to add that ICT was a form of infrastructure to help institutions improve. He remarked that institutions had guidelines but when it comes to implementation, things were different which affirms the maxima that Uganda was good at forming policies but poor at implementing them.





L-R : Mr. Tom Tamale Team member, Dr. Matha Kyoshaba Twinamasiko Academic Registrar and Dr. Robert Buwule University Librarian

In a special way he thanked the coordinator for putting up a multidisciplinary team for the project. He explained that lately donors highly consider multidisciplinary teams before awarding grants. This plays a big role in securing a mega grant.

“Scientists working with humanities, engineers, medics among others is good to have diversity so that the policies and system being developed are all round. It is important to involve everyone from the different fields who have something to contribute”.

He mentioned that it was his prayer that the participating institutions work together and implement the grant as required. He noted that European Union grants normally go by work packages which necessitate partnering institutions to work as a team.

He concluded by congratulating all the team members upon the grant and pledging Management’s support for the project. He affirmed that all Faculties in the University will be at the project’s disposal for the implementation.

This was followed by -Supervision demonstration by the team members from both MUST and MUBs. Mr. Tom Tamale, team member of the software developers at MUBS, Mr. Juma Lubega, software developer, MUBs and Dr. Deborah Natumanya from the faculty of Computing and Informatics – MUST, shared the e-supervision system proposed solution to the issues that were brought about by the COVID-19 which disorganized the entire education system.

Mr. Tom Tamale explained that the previous week a hackathon for the development of a mobile Application had been held at Makerere University Business School where Dr. Deborah Natumanya, MUST was one of the judges. He mentioned that the e-supervision system had three main stakeholders; the student, research supervisor and administrator. The other stakeholders include the reviewer, examiners among others.



Mr. Juma Lubega during the E-Demonstration

The e-supervision demonstration was conducted by Mr. Tom Tamale, Mr. Juma Lubega, software developer, MUBS and Dr. Deborah Natumanya. Dr. Shakilah Nagujja was the key software developer at MUBS but was unable to come. Mr. Tom Tamale acted as the Student; Mr. Juma Lubega as the Administrator and Dr. Deborah Natumanya as the Research Supervisor.

Mr. Lubega mentioned that the Administrator was able to create accounts for the different users and was able to monitor what was being carried out on the platform. The Administrator can feed in the name of student, registration number, academic programme for which the student is registered, name of research supervisor allocated to the student with their areas of expertise and research interests, and monitor the progress of the students. He/she can know how many students have completed and those who are overdue. A Masters student is allocated one main research supervisor and a second research supervisor. It was practically demonstrated that once the administrator has assigned the student a research

supervisor, that research supervisor receives an e-mail about the students allocated to him/her. The research supervisor has a choice of accepting or denying the student who in the latter case can be allocated to another research supervisor. The student as well when allocated a research supervisor, receives an e-mail informing them of the research supervisor he/she has been allocated. The Administrator can also receive complaints from students and research supervisors, which he/she handles accordingly. When a student submits a complaint to the Administrator, the Research Supervisor will not see it as it is confidential. The system works just like the manual system following the research guidelines in place and has iteration of the stages when need arises, meaning that the stage at which a student is, does not hinder him/her to go back to an earlier stage. The system works in a way that the student must have completed all the course units without a retake and must have fully paid all the fees. The system is connected to the finance system so it will automatically tell if the student has fully paid.



Mr. Juma Lubega Mr. Tom Tamale and Dr. Deborah Natumanya during a presentation

The Administrator created a student account in the names of Mr. Tom Tamale, with a random registration number and a random student number. He assumed that the student was in second year. The student Mr. Tom Tamale logged onto the system. The first step was for Mr. Tom Tamale to create a title of the research project. The title could be typed in or attached as an attachment and then click on the submit button. Then the Administrator assigned him a research supervisor, Dr. Deborah Natumanya who received an e-mail to that effect. It was noted that the concept submitted is time stamped which is helpful that if a supervisor denies receiving it, the truth can be verified. The Administrator stops at allocating a research supervisor, what follows is the interactions between the student and research supervisor unless there is a complaint to be handled. The system has sections that the student has to follow. For example, introduction, background etc. The sections are followed in a chronological order. After receiving the title or any submission from the student, the supervisor can suggest edits or approve for the student to continue.

It was explained that “Turnitin” software was to be embedded in the system to check plagiarism.

Once the student is done with the proposal, the Administrator can assign a reviewer following the same procedure like allocating a research supervisor. In the case that there is need for the research supervisor to meet the student physically, then the outcome can be input into the system for record purposes. The Administrator is able to see the research supervisors’ load of students, levels at which the students are and for those who have completed, viva voce can be arranged. It was noted that the system does not take away the traditional way but only tries to improve transparency and efficiency.

It was noted that students have a habit of choosing a particular research supervisor who has interacted well with them, so it is the work of the Administrator to ensure fair allocation of research supervisors and not overloading some supervisors. Important to note also is that before the reviewer gives marks; he/she has to look at the guidelines. He/she can submit the reviewer marks for students to get to know whether to go ahead or to edit some areas.



Prof. Vincent Bagire giving his remarks

In the closing remarks Prof. Vincent Bagire extended heartfelt appreciation to all attendees and emphasized the vital importance of implementing this groundbreaking project. He re-echoed what the Vice Chancellor had said that it was easy to write a proposal and win a grant but implementation was not easy. He called upon all participants to join hands and ensure that the project is implemented as required.

He mentioned that the Deans suffer a lot to ensure that the Masters Students finish on time yet some students are the problem themselves as they do not want to read and learn. He noted that the project was funded by the European Union and emphasized the need to implement it well. He remarked that academicians usually want to do things quickly but the auditors keep guiding them on how to go about accountability.

He concluded by thanking Assoc. Prof. Charles Tushabomwe-Kazooba for the good cooperation between MUST and MUBS in the implementation of the project. He thanked all participants once again for their time and ideas.

The event ended with a closing prayer by Mr. Moses Ntaro.



Cyber School to enhance E-Learning at MUST.



On September 14- September 15, 2023, Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) was abuzz with innovative ideas as it hosted a game-changing event: The E-Learning Policy Development Training. This transformative initiative is part of Uganda's dynamic E-Learning journey, spearheaded by Cyber School Technology Solutions in collaboration with the Mastercard Foundation.

The event kicked off with an inspiring opening by the talented team from Eight Tech Consultants. Their introduction set the tone for the day, outlining the exciting program ahead. They began by shedding light on the essence of E-Learning and its pivotal role in higher education, underlining its significance for the future.



The event's agenda encompassed various key components, including the crafting of institution-specific E-Learning policies. Participants engaged in strategic brainstorming sessions to define E-Learning goals and objectives, identify target audiences and stakeholders, and devise strategies aligning E-Learning with institutional goals.

A critical aspect addressed was the creation of sustainable revenue models for E-Learning, with discussions on budgeting and cost considerations. Strategies for scalability and growth in this digital education landscape were also at the forefront.

Feedback collection from all attendees ensured that voices and ideas were heard, fostering a collaborative and inclusive environment.



Distinguished attendees included Mr. Kamuganga Francis, an assistant lecturer at MUST; Charity Namara, the project lead in charge of Partnerships at Cyber School; Mr. Amos Baryashaba, the Principal IT Officer at MUST; Mr. CPA Baker Ssekito, the Chief Operations Officer of Eight Tech Consultants; Mr. Drake Patrick Mirembe, the Chief Technology Officer of Eight Tech Consultants; Mr. Dickson Karungi, Deputy Academic Registrar at MUST; Mr. Wilson Adriko, the Senior Librarian at MUST; Drakani Celestine from MUST; Araka Nickson, a lab technician; Among Mary, an Assistant Registrar; and Julius Opio, the lead institution and personnel capacity building.

This event marks a significant step forward in Uganda's E-Learning landscape, and we look forward to witnessing the positive impact it will have on higher education.



Skills enhancement: Global health department and MGH support the nursing faculty



Skills enhancement: Global health department and MGH support the nursing faculty

Three Nursing department staff, went for a leadership training in Massachusetts General Hospital-Global Health Department. These included Dr. Cathy Atuhaire, Ms. Evelyn Wanyenze (RN) and Ms. Hanifah Nantongo (RN). The trio were supported by the first mile grant.

The two weeks training involved physical class room sessions and clinical rotation based on the candidate's field of interest/specialization. They were attached to mentors in their fields and while on ward, the mode of learning was by observation.

The candidate's clinical attachment was as below:

Dr. Cathy Atuhaire was attached to the psychiatric ward. Her focus was on maternal mental health with a purpose of doing more research in the field. Cathy also wished to benchmark the practices of maternal mental health.



L-R Evelyn wanyenze (RN) Dr. Cathy Atuhaire(PhD) and Hanifah Nantongo., Cathy and Hanifa in the waiting lobby

The other candidate was Ms. Evelyn Wanyenze (RN) who was attached to the midwifery ward. Her expectation during the training was to see how the midwives handle labour and the general management of the labour.

Ms. Hanifah Nantongo (RN) was attached to the trauma department. While at the department, she shadowed advanced nurse practitioners whose roles are equivalent to medical officers in Uganda with the exception of operations. Hanifah was expected to get skills and knowledge on how these nurse practitioners independently manage their patients with minimal guidance from attending doctors. As a result, the doctors had plenty of time to do operations.

On return, the candidates promised to implement what they learned during the training.

“We have learnt a lot and when supported by the University administration and the Faculty we are ready to change the face of nursing at MUST and the country at large. Working with the relevant stakeholders, I intend to design a curriculum for advanced nurse practitioners (master’s program) at MUST. This will fill the shortage of medical officers while optimizing the quality of patient care” said Ms. Hanifah on behalf of the team.

“From my observation, care providers also known as coddlers, are employed to look after preterm babies. I was inspired to develop a training program for community volunteer doulas to offer emotional support to women who have no one to stay with during labor. This is to promote respectful maternity care for women in Uganda”. Said Evelyn Wanyenze.

Dr. Cathy promises to promote research in the field of maternal mental health care for both under and postgraduate training at MUST. Cathy added that the field of mental health needed immediate attention not forgetting the mothers who need this attention more.

She appreciates support by MGH and Global Health for choosing to support her in her research. Cathy vowed to carry on with research and also encourage other researchers to pick interest in the field



The University appreciates the support from Global health department and MGH rendered to MUST, to the 3 candidates, the sky is no longer the limit, the faculty looks forward to the implementation of the acquired skills and knowledge. Welcome back and congratulations.

Achievers: Ranking the stars at MUST as students, alumni, Staff and well-wishers Shine



MUST Wins the Africa Young Innovators in Dakar, Senegal

Three MUST alumni participated in the Africa Young Innovators for Health Award, in Senegal Dakar. These included Ms. Izath Nura, Dr. Moses Ochora and Ms. Sheeba Niwensiima. Nura presented the Autothermo while Dr. Ochora and Sheeba, presented the Photokabada

What is the Africa Young Innovators for Health Award in the International Federation?

The Africa Young Innovators for Health Award is the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations (IFPMA) and Speak Up, Africa's flagship program focused on supporting young health entrepreneurs across Africa with the tools they need to advance promising healthcare innovations for the betterment of their communities. Launched in 2021, the first edition of the Award focused on solutions that supported, equipped, protected, and trained healthcare workers working tirelessly to protect and treat the public amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. In the Award's second edition, we seek to find and nurture health innovations that will aid us draw closer to the vision of Universal Health Coverage (UHC). UHC means everyone has access to the healthcare services that they need, of good quality, without the risk of financial constraint (WHO 2007). We are interested in hearing from those whose health innovations strive to ensure "Health for all, everywhere." This can be through helping to improve access to health products and services, using digital technologies to train health workers, connecting patients and healthcare providers, creating new ways of raising health awareness and improving health literacy, developing supply chain solutions, and more.

The photokabada was the first prize winner and the auto was the second prize winner making Uganda the best country at the award ceremony.

Project 1 : The Photokabada by Dr. Moses Ochora team leader and Ms. Sheeba Niwensiima, Team member



The Photokabada is a remotely monitored phototherapy machine capable of simultaneously treating at least three babies with jaundice (yellowing of skin and eyes).

It has the following features;

1. Hybrid power system with a solar battery that lasts 96 hours
2. Three semi-autonomous photomods that provide a 360 illumination to the baby. This will reduce treatment time by over 40%
3. Inbuilt vital signs monitor that is remotely monitored.
4. Remote device functionality diagnosis and maintenance scheduling

Thus, our device provides a one stop point for a baby with jaundice.

Impact

Photokabada will improve access to effective phototherapy through an affordable, versatile, contextually designed device.

We shall reduce treatment time by over 40%, avert more than 40,000 deaths and over 60,000 complications annually.

We shall also provide direct employment to at least 20 people.



Who is Moses Ochora ?

The great innovator hails from Agago District in Northern Uganda. He pursued his Bachelor's degree in medicine and Bachelor of Surgery from Gulu University. Since completion, he has worked at MUST in the department of pediatrics and child health.

Moses has engaged in a number of researches investigating new born(neonatal)sepsis and hydrocephalus.

In 2019, he enrolled for a Masters in Medicine in paedrics and child care. This he successfully completed and was awarded the degree in May 2023

As a medical officer, he was disturbed by the long term complications of inadequately treated jaundice and decided that he needed to do something about it. He then put together a team at the 2018 CAMTech hackathon to solve the challenge at source. The team has worked together since then and have won numerous accolades and been invited to present at different health tech summits. Currently their device is at clinical trial stage.

Moses Ochora is a young, innovative and vibrant Pediatrician passionate about how to leverage medical technology to improve clinical care among children. While not at work, Moses enjoys networking, partying, writing Poems and travelling.



L-R Sheeba and Nura in Dakar , Senegal (BCE alumni), Sheeba at the innovation consortium

Who is Sheeba Niwensiima ?



The notable Innovator and MedTechpreneur hails from Kanga in Mbarara District, she joined MUST in 2015 to pursue a bachelor's degree in computer engineering, she successfully completed and was awarded the degree in 2019. During the 2018 CAMTech Hackathon, Sheeba was part of the Photokabada innovation team. The team did not rank among the top 3. This did not demotivate them an inch but rather motivated them to think deep and keep pitching it in different forums.

While at campus, Sheeba was mentored by Dr. Evarist Naabasa (current Dean of the Faculty of Computer Informatics) and Mr. Richard Kimera.

She participated in a number of Innovation activities like Technovation, numerous Technology camps as a Robotics Instructor, the FCI innovation awards and others

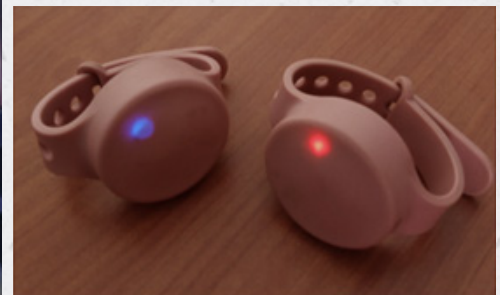
On completion in 2019, Sheeba has embarked on creating technologies and designing STEM curricula for Remote learning of youth in last mile populations through Yiya Airscience, an offline remote learning platform by Yiya Solutions. Her goal is to empower youth to leverage technology in addressing challenges within their local communities.



Photokabada innovators Moses and Sheeba

Project II: Autothermo by Ms. Nura Izath, was voted the first runners up project during Africa Young Innovators for Health Award

Autothermo is a wearable bracelet that continuously measures and transmits temperature readings to a central display screen, for easy identification and timely delivery of thermal care interventions to sick admitted newborns.



Impact and Significance

The use of Autothermo may ease the burden of work for the health workers in low resource settings and with potential to improve neonatal survival from hypothermia related deaths.

The innovation was funded by the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance, Villgro Africa under the Gender Lens Program and the Africa Young Innovators for Health Award.

Supported and mentored by CAMTech Uganda

Team members included

Nura Izath, Dr. Gloria Karirirwe, Dr. Stella Kyogala, Ankunda Prossy, Mukama Martin, Dr. Chris Magambo and Agaba Joas

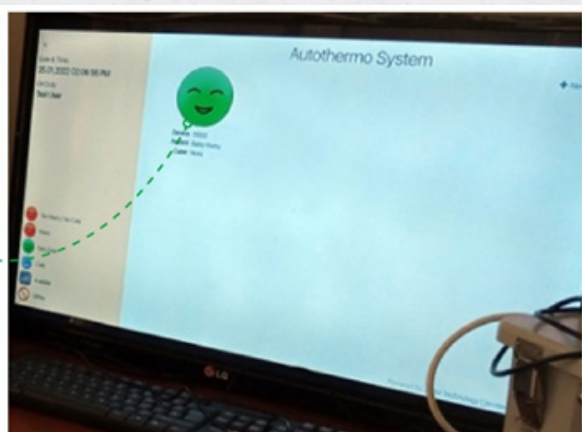
Mentors

Dr. Aggrey Obbo for her undergraduate studies and Dr. Simon Kawuma for the post graduate

Dr. Data Santoriono Uganda Country Manager at the Consortium for Affordable Medical Technologies (CAMTech), Lecturer Department of Pediatrics and Child Health Mbarara University of Science and Technology

Associate Professor Edgar Mulogo from the Faculty of Medicine Department of Community Health is an expert in Health care delivery and experienced researcher in epidemiology and Biostatistics.

Dr. Atim Michael from the department of Physics MUST skilled in optoelectronics ,semiconductor devices Physics ,nanoelectronics, nanophotonics.



The project has the MUST Research Ethical Committee approval to do clinical tests at Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital. The same project submitted to the Ministry of Health and Uganda National council for science and Technology

Who is Nura Izath?

The admirable innovator's roots are from Soroti District eastern part of Uganda. She joined MUST in 2013 to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Computer Engineering. She successfully completed the program and was awarded the degree in October 2017. After studies, Ms. Nura worked with the Mo-biCare project under CAMTech Uganda. The project links patients to health workers through a convenient appointment scheduling system. She also worked with Dr. Banabas Atwiine a paediatrics oncologist under the PEDCan project an application that helps health workers in the health centres do early detection of cancer in children.

Nura also worked on a, digital speech assistant, an application that helps health workers communicate with hearing impairment challenges

In 2021 she enrolled for a masters in information systems at MUST. She is sponsored by MUST pathogen epidemiological.

In her free time, Nura likes working out, site seeing, watching movies, touring and networking.

Motivation

While at University, Nura used to commute from home, one day she was tasked to babysit her one-day old nephew as his mother had to go for an exam that morning. Nura was excited and at the same time understood the importance of this task. At the beginning, she held the baby until he slept then kept checking every 10 minutes while she was doing other house chores. To Nura's honesty, the back and forth was tiresome and it's when she thought of a tech-Autothermo to help her address the challenge of multi-tasking with the baby. Nura shared the idea of Autothermo with her sister in law Dr. Gloria and Dr. Data who both mentioned to her that, the solution could support health workers during newborn admission. Dr. Gloria encouraged her to go on with the innovation, from then she did not turn back. Nura formed a team to design and develop the Autothermo, making her the founder and CEO of Neosave Technologies. Nura achieved the 2019 prestigious title of: The Woman of Transformational Ideas under the category of innovations, a recognition from the Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development of the Republic of Uganda and the United Nations Equality and the Empowerment of Women together with the Girl Flourish Initiative for a trans-generational transformational agenda.

The Trio innovators take up another stage of innovation in Rwanda Kigali



As winners of the AYIH4 in Dakar Senegal, the digital health champions were invited to the 2nd Africa Health Tech Summit (AHTS 2023), 17-19 October 2023 at the Kigali Convention Center in Kigali, Rwanda.

This was mainly to inspire and champion the youth involved in digital health and women in digital health. The three innovators presented during the summit.

This was under the Session Title: Youth in Digital Health Network – Youth in Digital Health Lead Partner: Africa CDC

This was to address the growing need to empower and engage youth in digital health in Africa. This is because the young people make up the majority of the African population and will be critical to shaping the continent & a healthy future.

However, youth are often left out of key conversations and lack opportunities in digital health. Discussing and creating a dedicated network for youth in digital health will help amplify youth voices, promote youth-led innovation, and build bridges between young leaders and established organizations. This will ultimately strengthen Africa & the digital health ecosystem.

The panel will discuss key priorities and opportunities for youth in Digital Health.



Extreme right is Dr. Moses Ochora on the panel

Ms. Nura Izath discussing digital health matters

AFRICAN WOMEN in DIGITAL HEALTH
Breaking Barriers: Women shaping the future of Digital Health in Africa

AFRICA HEALTHTECH SUMMIT 2023

NURA IZATH
AFRICA YOUNG INNOVATORS FOR HEALTH AWARD WINNER, NEOSAVE LIMITED

I will be a panelist in the **#AWiDH** parallel session at **#AHTS2023**

OCTOBER 18TH, 4-5:15PM CAT KIGALI CONVENTION CENTER

AFRICA CDC USAID chi/su SpeakUpAfrica

Panel discussion titled “Breaking Barriers: Women Shaping the Future of Digital Health in Africa,” It will explore the challenges and opportunities for women in digital health in Africa and highlight the pivotal role of women in driving innovation and progress in the digital health sector across the African continent. This panel is a kick-off session for the African Women in Digital Health (AWiDH) Initiative which aims to address the digital gender gap through a multidisciplinary platform bringing together stakeholders working on health issues to ensure effective collaboration and coordination action for women’s meaningful engagement and leadership in dig-

ital health. The panel is co-hosted by SpeakUp Africa, an organization working with leaders and change-makers in Africa and beyond, to solve sustainable development challenges; USAID’s Country Health Information Systems and Data Use (CHISU) program led by JSI; and GIZ African Union’s Strengthening Crisis and Pandemic Response project. As the Young African Innovators for Health award winner, we believe that the participants would benefit immensely from your experience in Africa’s digital health sector, and we would be honored to have you join us as one of our panelists for the panel discussion.



Sheeba being interviewed about women in digital health
Ms. Nura Izath Dr. Moses Ochora and Ms. Sheeba Niwensiima,



The team had a chance to meet with the Minister of Health-Rwanda, Dr. Sabin Nsanzimana



L-R Sheeba, Moses, Nura, Jean Philbert Nsengimana chief digital advisor Africa centres for Disease control and Prevention another innovator from Nigeria and Yacine Gibo- founder Speak Up Africa

We congratulate the trio innovators, your hard work, dedication and determination have risen the MUST flag so high that it is noticeable in the entire country and in Africa, thank you for bringing visibility to MUST and confirming her mission and vision. Best of luck, the sky is no longer the limit.

ACP Governor Arkansas, honors Dr. Roy Kamoga Gilbert Bukenya MBChB 2000.



Dr. Roy Kamoga received the early Career Physician Award by the American college of physicians (ACP). He was presented with a certificate of merit by the ACP Governor, Arkansas Chapter, Dr. Keyur Vyas, Professor of Medicine, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Little Rock, Arkansas, USA.

Award brief

This early Career Physician Award is given within 15 years of internal medicine training. Colleagues vote among themselves for someone who is highly respected, with outstanding clinical and leadership skills, and who has been a role model in the community. This individual has distinguished themselves in service to patients, the physician community, and the community at large.

The American College of physicians (ACP) is a diverse community of about 161000 internal medicine physicians subspecialists, residents, fellows and medical students worldwide. <https://www.acponline.org/membership>

Who is Dr. Roy?

Dr. Gilbert-Roy Bukenya Kamoga received his Bachelor of Medicine & Bachelor of Surgery degree from MUST. He successfully completed the program in 2005 and was awarded the degree in January 2006. He later went for his internal medicine residency training in the USA at the University Hospitals Case Medical Center/Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. Roy is currently the Program Director of the Internal Medicine Residency Program at White River Health in Batesville, AR. Roy is happily married to Dr. Doreen Kamoga, a classmate and dear friend. Doreen is currently the head of the White River Health Family Care - Harrison Street, Batesville, Arkansas, USA.

Gilbert-Roy Kamoga, MD, FACP, CPE, discusses the importance of imparting the values of patient-first medicine to the next generation.



Why did you choose to become a physician?

I wanted to connect with and care for people, help them feel better when ill, and guide them on how to live healthy lives. My version of “saving lives.”

What field of internal medicine did you select and why?

I am a traditional internal medicine physician, which implies that I see both inpatients and outpatients. This is my preferred practice model, though it is becoming rare. I, however, spend more time as a hospitalist. Seeing both hospitalized and clinic patients offers me the ability to connect with my patients at a granular level. It allows me to view health more holistically and try to understand the varying determinants of health for the population I serve.

Please describe a typical day in your practice.

Well, my clinical practice often depends on what clinical responsibility I have on a particular day. On my days as a hospitalist, I start at 7 a.m., review my patients' cases on the computer, and focus on those who are critical (ICU), then those who are to be discharged. I then meet with the residents and “round” on the patients. Over the Noon hour,

I am involved in educational activities for the residents. During the afternoon, I do my documentation, revisit certain patients, do small group learning for mostly my interns, see new admissions, and review all patients intermittently with the residents. My day ends at about 7 p.m. most days. When I am in the clinic, my day starts at 8 a.m., and I precept the residents who are seeing their patients in the clinic, teaching and reviewing their plan of care and follow-up. We break for Noon didactics and resume the clinic in the afternoon until about 5.



Dr. Roy is happily married to Dr. Doreen Kamoga who is the head of the White River Health Family Care - Harrison Street Internal Medicine
Congratulations to you Dr. Roy Kamoga and your family upon this milestone. You have made your alma mater proud. Best of Luck.

Celebrating a grant Winner: Dr. Esther Cathlyn Atukunda makes MUST proud



First-ever at MUST
Dr. Esther Cathlyn Atukunda wins,
a prestigious NIH Grant.

**Congratulations to Dr. Esther C. Atukunda (PD/PI),
Dr. Godfrey Mugenyi (Co-I), Prof. Celestino
Obua (Co-I), Prof Peter Waiswa (Co-I) & the
MGH/ UAB teams, upon winning a 5 year
competitive ROI research grant ever
PRIMED at MUST.**

Dr. Esther C. Atukunda, PhD is a Pharmaco-epidemiologist and Senior Lecturer in department of Pharmacy at Mbarara University of Science and Technology. She has invested in investigating alternative user centered, appropriate medicine and intervention use in low resource settings, utilizing observation studies, surveys, modelling cost-effectiveness and randomized controlled trials over the last 10 years in Uganda. She is a proud recipient of a CFAR, and a K43 award (K43TW011004) among others, focused on developing and testing a novel intervention using Health technology and social support to support women to access maternity care and improve maternal-child health outcomes, for which the current grant is premised. She also supports & supervises work of several MSc/MMed and PhD students in Uganda on medicine access, adherence, maternal health and health service utilization.

Assoc. Prof. Samuel Maling: A great mentor and Teacher stands out as he wins a grant from Harvard University



Big win for MUST & Harvard Dental School of Medicine!!!!

Associate Professor Samuel Maling wins a notable NIH Grant.

Congratulations to Assoc. Prof. Samuel Maling (PI), Prof. Steffany Chamut (Co-PI), Dr. Wilfred Arubaku (Co-I), Dr. Deus Tusubira (Co-I) upon winning a 2 year grant to MUST, titled "Oral diseases and quality of life in older adults on ART in Uganda".

Mbarara University of science and Technology (MUST) together with Harvard school of Dental Medicine (HSDM) have won an NIH grant entitled "Oral diseases and quality of life in older adults on ART in Uganda (ODQoL-UG)". Grant Number: 1R21DE031981-01A1

The Principal Investigator is **Assoc. Prof. Samuel Maling** from the Faculty of Medicine, MUST. He will be co-directing this grant with Prof. Steffany Chamut from Harvard Medical School (USA).

The other investigators include Dr. Deus Tusubira from the department of Biochemistry Mbarara University of science and technology. He is a bi marker who is interested in investing in aging persons.

The grant focusing on oral challenges, Dr. Wilfred Arubaku is the other investigator on the team. He is from the dental department at MUST

According to Dr. Deus one of the investigators, oral problems are a big challenge, which are associated with many medical conditions. In most cases these are not given due attention, in the long run causing unreversed medical conditions.

The project will aim at bringing the services closer to the people so as to prevent medical complications.



Dr. Wilfred Arubaku

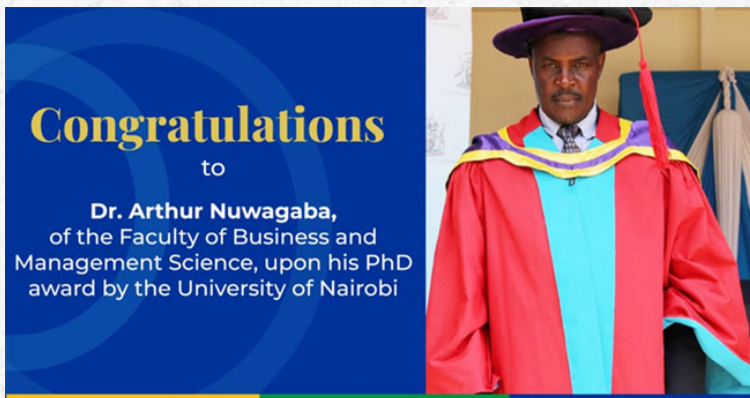


Dr. Deus Tusubiira

Dr. Wilfred Arubaku is the team lead of oral health in Uganda, his opinion is not different from Dr. Deus'. He said that oral health is so neglected in terms of research support and sensitization. He added that this worsens as people grow older. The project will explore the barriers and facilitators to dental care, in the long run provide a policy brief shared with the Ministry of Health.

The project's overarching goal is to elucidate the impacts of multimorbidity and mental health on oral health and quality of life for people with HIV, and to explore the mechanisms of integration of oral health services into routine HIV care in the context of rural Sub-Saharan Africa.

Congratulations to Assoc. Prof. Maling and the entire team for winning such a notable grant. This not only increases MUST'S viability but also impacts communities through giving hope to the victims.



MUST 8th Council inaugurated by the Minister of Education and Sports



On September 20, 2023, the 8th University council was invited to the Statehouse for an inauguration ceremony.

Led by the chairman council Dr. Warren Naamara, the council members were received at State house Nakasero by the First Lady and Minister for education and sport, Hon. Janet Kataha Museveni.



The event started with the Vice Chancellor's remarks, Prof. Celestino Obua thanked the government of Uganda for supporting MUST since 1989. "We can never tell our history of development and growth without mentioning the government of Uganda's support. Through you, Mama Janet we wish to convey our gratitude to H.E Yoweri Kaguta Museveni for not only being our founding father and Chancellor but also for the unweaving support to MUST". Prof. Obua later invited the chairman council Dr. Warren Naamara who presented the achievements, progress and challenges of MUST.

Dr. Warren Naamara pointed out that for MUST to achieve her vision of "A Centre of Academic and Professional Excellence in Science and Technology", we are geared towards:



1. Learner centered problem-based instruction providing experiential and flexible learning.
2. Being a research driven University, where research and teaching/learning are mutually reinforcing.
3. Enhancing knowledge transfer partnerships and networking, because knowledge production and transfer between universities and broad public and private sectors should be a two -way traffic that calls for cultivation and fostering of symbiotic relationships.

Dr. Warren revealed that while they are determined to achieve all the above and more, as council and management they face several challenges that hinder critical operations of the University. Among them are the following: -

- a. Potential risk of closure of the Medical School of MUST due to the dilapidated infrastructure at the town campus. The infrastructure was condemned by the Uganda Medical and Dental Practitioners Council (UMDPC) and National Counsel for Higher Education (NCHE) when they visited the Faculty of Medicine in a facility verification process
- b. Constrained to fully develop Kihumuro campus with teaching facilities, administrative blocks, accommodation, sports facilities and a student's center. The transfer of other faculties would decongest the Town campus and leave room for expansion of the Medical School.
- c. Unfriendly process of Engaging of PPP to develop infrastructure at University.
- d. The low staffing capacity at MUST, currently at about 22% and various audits have indicated that this is a low capacity that greatly affects performance and deliverables of the University. (full speech attached below).

Dr. Warren's presentation was followed by the host, Hon. Janet Kataha Museveni, the hon. Minister of Education and sports. She welcomed the MUST Council Members to statehouse for the inauguration ceremony

She appreciated the University Management, led by the Vice Chancellor Prof. Celestino Obua, for ably managing the University and implementing Council decisions, thus making this University one of the best in Uganda. Your work with previous Councils has resulted in the University's growth and steady advancement. "Despite the financial constraints, I appreciate MUST staff and students for keeping calm and having better negotiating channels rather than striking". She also thanked the outgoing council members for their dedication to the University and for ensuring that MUST continues with its growth.

Hon. Janet Kataha Museveni, welcomed the MUST 8th council and reminded them that they were chosen by God and granted the leadership role to steer into the future.

She mentioned that great institutions are built and sustained by great leaders who understand and purposefully implement their mission and vision. I have no doubt in my mind, that the calibre of leaders on this Council will rise to the occasion, and through their efforts the University will experience significant growth and development.

Hon. Janet Kataha Museveni urged the MUST staff to support students in achieving academic excellence, as well as instilling values of integrity and noble character so as to produce an all-round graduate. "I need not remind you that the main mission of a university is to produce a skilled and productive workforce, for national development".

She pointed out that many of our students are challenged economically, socially, and academically and they face hurdles to success, as they go through University education. They need our support, guidance and encouragement.

She added that the world is dealing with a generation of youth who are challenged by various situations, including drug abuse, homosexuality, corruption, immorality, and many other unacceptable vices. "We can no longer ignore these vices among our youth at Mbarara University of Science and Technology or any other University in our country". Said Mama Janet

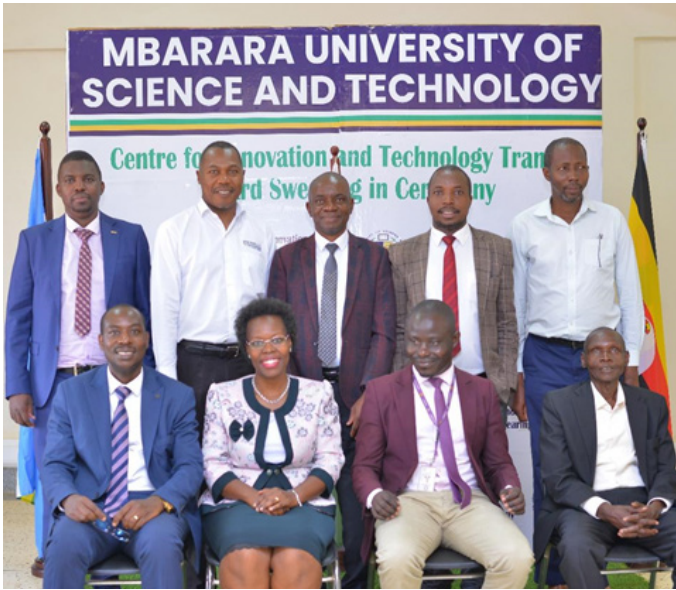
The minister urged the, Council Members to work towards sustaining the stability of this great institution.

She pledged continued support from the Ministry of Education and Sports for a better Mbarara University of Science and Technology. "This University is still relatively young, having been in existence for 34 years, and as such it requires the support of every stakeholder, to contribute to its growth and sustainability (full speech attached below).

Succeed we MUST



NEW CITT BOARD VOWS TO SERVE DILIGENTLY



In a momentous occasion at Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST), the Center for Innovation and Technology Transfer (CITT) welcomed its newly appointed board members through a solemn swearing-in ceremony. The event, held on September 26, 2023, marked a significant step forward for the university's commitment to innovation and technology transfer.

The event was guided and directed by Ms. Angella Nakato Musingo the university PRO. She ensured the smooth execution and effective communication of the significance of the ceremony. She welcomed the people to the event, and asked Dr. Medard Twinamasiko the secretary to the CITT board, to give insights of the CITT and the role of the board.



L-R: Dr. Martha, Dr. Jonans during the swearing in ceremony. Dr. Medard Twinamasiko addressing the congregation

Dr. Medard shared with the purpose of letting members know the role they are about to take. He highlighted the gravity of the oaths in relation to the board's roles, emphasized the importance of adhering to them. Dr. Medard Twinamatsiko, urged the members to give their unwavering commitment to serving the board as they uphold the core values of the CITT board.

This was followed by, Dr. Martha Kyosha Twinamasiko the Academic Registrar, standing in for the chairperson Prof. Nixon Kamukama who welcomed the congregation. In her remarks Dr. Martha thanked the new members urged them to work with dedication and diligence to support innovators at MUST, uphold the University's name to become the icon of innovations in the region in alignment of the University's mission and vision.

In a special way she welcomed, his Worship Nsibambi Lwanga (Esq), the City Court Magistrate of Mbarara City, who was to preside over the event and was at MUST for the first time official. She thanked him for his precious time despite his tight schedule. Martha asked him to make MUST one of his great friend and partner in the city.

Martha gave apologies from the Chairperson of the board Prof. Nixon Kamukama who was out of the country on official duty but was in support of the event.



His Worship Nsibambi Lwanga (Esq)

L-R: Dr. Rogers Bariyo and Dr. Stevens Asiimwe

This was followed the remarks by his Worship Nsibambi Lwanga (Esq). He pointed out valuable insights of the significance of taking the oaths and underscored the consequences of breaching them, reinforcing the solemnity of the occasion.

Oath taking

Presiding over by his Worship Magistrate Nsibambi Lwanga, the City Court Magistrate of Mbarara City. The oath taking started he asked the members to choose the holy books of their denomination (holy bible or the Qur'an). He emphasized the two difference of taking an oath.

“Christian swear to the Almighty God while Muslim affirm to the Almighty Allah”

He further said

“The word "oath" and the phrase "I swear" refer to a solemn vow. For those who choose not to, the alternative terms "solemn promise" or "solemnly affirm" and "I promise" or "I affirm" are sometimes used.”

The ceremony began with the Academic Registrar of MUST, Dr. Martha Kyoshaba Twinamasiko, taking the oath of allegiance and secrecy, pledging of loyalty, faithfully perform the duties,

- Dr. Julius Lejju, the Dean Faculty of Science.
- Dr. Rogers Bariyo, Dean Faculty of interdisciplinary Studies
- Dr. Stephen Asiimwe, Director Global Health Collaborative Uganda
- Dr. Fredrick Nsambu Kijjambu, Dean Faculty of Business and Management Sciences
- Counsel Timothy Mugumya (Esq), the University's Legal Advisor
- Dr. William Wasswa assistant secretary to the CITT board

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Taking the oaths ,signing the oaths and witnessing the sealing



Other board members include:

- Associate Professor Joseph Ngonzi, Dean Faculty of Medicine
- Dr. Evarist Nabaasa, Dean Faculty of Computing and informatics
- Professor Nixon Kamukama Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Affairs

NB. These were to take the oaths before they attend any meeting, this was to be on a special arrangement in the magistrate's chambers

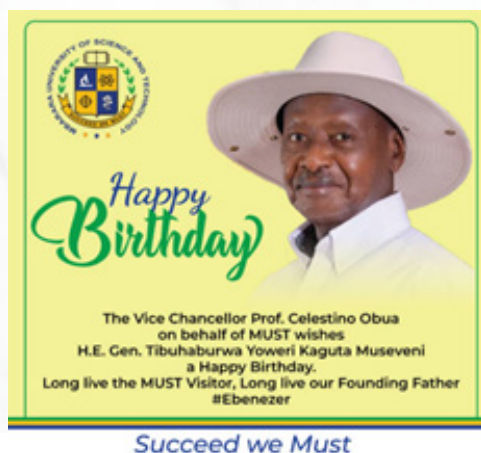
The swearing-in ceremony marked a crucial milestone for MUST, signifying a collective dedication to fostering innovation and technology transfer within the university community. The newly sworn-in CITT board members now stand ready to contribute to the university's continued growth and advancement in the realms of science and technology.



First Board Meeting chaired by Dr. Martha Kyoshiba Twinamasiko

September babies are unstoppable, notable and admirable

Ruth Oriowo, a motivational speaker has this to say about September babies



September is the ninth month starting the last quarter of the year, and many people are born in the month. September borns have qualities and personalities which make them differ from other months.

People born in September have a number of wonderful traits that make them great friends, leaders and innovators in general. They are smart, well-known, hard-working, forward-thinking and amazing. People born in this month have their own originality. They shouldn't copy others, as they should be true to themselves.

September-born people are, for the most part, able to withstand life's tragedies and hardships with ease. They have a rare, insurmountable spirit

as big as the ocean when it comes to weathering storms, which helps them rise from their depths every time with even greater force on top.

The zodiac sign for September is Libra. People born in this month are more emotionally expressive than Libra natives, who often find it hard to show their feelings. The good news is that it's easier for them to be open with those they love.

September-born people are sensitive and intuitive. They're very intelligent but can be a little scattered about things.

September born are quite versatile and come up with great ideas, but their moodiness can sometimes detract them from their work, making them appear less motivated.



September born people are loyal and trustworthy, as well as energetic and kind.

People born in the month of September are unique individuals. They are charming, cute and interesting people deep inside. September borns are steadfastly loyal and generous people. They are creative and visionary, yet this is often offset by the fact that they can be a bit self-absorbed or overly sensitive.

Those who are born in this month are lucky to have a lot of things going for them. Aside from being blessed with excellent looks, they have a lot of brains that they can use to their advantage.



. September born people are elegant, creative and intelligent. They have a unique personality that is fascinating to others. They can express their ideas through different mediums like paintings, drawings, writing and more.

September people are usually good listeners who always put others' needs ahead of theirs. They respect their loved ones and always treat them with utmost care and love.

. Most September born people have a natural ability to lead, protect and comfort others. These people work extremely well under pressure, especially when the safety of others is at stake.

Those born in the month of September are often admired for their ability to remain calm when others panic.

Their ability to assess situations and make correct decisions gives them confidence

September babies are charming, likeable and never boring. The positive and happy attitude that these people possess is the key to their success in life.

Spending forever alone is not possible for September borns because they never feel loneliness and love surrounding almost everyone who is near them.

September is the ninth month of the year in the Gregorian calendar. It's a month which has just started, and so many people born in this month are freshly born, lively and energetic. They are often cheerful, humorous,

People born in September are often quite strong individuals who can show a lot of versatility and be able to adapt to different situations. These and more others stand out.

We celebrate them with best wishes.



EDITOR



Mr. Dickens Muhwezi



Angella Nakato Muyingo PRO