



MUST HOSTS THE SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY MINISTER AT THE 2ND ANNUAL AGRIC-BIOTECHNOLOGY EXHIBITION 2023



On December 8, 2023, Mbarara University of Science and Technology was honored to host the Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, Honorable Dr. Monica Musenero at the 2nd annual agricultural innovations exhibition day 2023, under the theme: Agro-biotechnology innovation, a key pathway towards achieving Youth employability in Uganda. The exhibition which took place at the Pharmacology grounds, was graced by MUST students, staff, partners in development and the community.

The event was organized by the Faculty of Interdisciplinary studies, under the department of Environment and Livelihoods Support Systems headed by Dr. Ronald Twongyirwe.

The Centre for Innovation and Technology Transfer (CITT) was at the forefront of the event in terms of planning, coordinating and funding. According to the Director CITT Dr. Medard Twinamasiko, MUST Agricultural innovations have supported farmers in Southwestern Uganda in various ways such as increased productivity, increased quality of products, and implementation of better farming methods. He also pointed out that the students have learnt a lot from the community farmers in terms of hands on practices.



L-R. Dr. Medard Twinamasiko, Prof. Nixon Kamukama, Dr. Ronald Twongyirwe and Ms. Ahirirwe Leticia

Headed by the **Deputy Vice Chancellor Prof. Nixon Kamukama**, the Dean Faculty of interdisciplinary Studies **Dr. Rogers Bariyo**, the President MUST Agriculture Students Association **Ms. Leticia Ahirirwe** and other MUST staff, received the minister's delegation to MUST.

This started with an in-house meeting with the University administration, faculty, student leaders and community representative leaders. In there, the Deputy Vice Chancellor Prof. Nixon Kamukama represented the University top Management. He welcomed the Minister and his delegation to MUST, thanked them for the time and support they have rendered to MUST. He pointed out that MUST has put the best foot forward in relation to innovations in the different Faculties, promoted Science and technology and worked with the community to implement the relevant innovations.

Kamukama thanked the minister for the financial support to MUST. He said that the minister is supporting 5 projects at MUST where the staff and Faculty are benefiting from highly. He however, requested the minister to increase the funding especially in research and innovation.

This was followed by a presentation of what the MUST Centre for innovation and Technology Transfer is all about. Dr. Medard Twinamasiko gave the insights of the center, and showed how the different Faculties and units in the University entwine with the center. He also shared the successful stories of CIIT notwithstanding the projects under Centre.

This was followed by Hon. Monica Musenero's presentation on giving the goal of STI as:

To grow the contribution of knowledge-based goods and services to the national economy by increasing domestic productivity, import substitution and export of products resulting from Science, Technology and innovation. She added that Science-led economic development can be defined as an approach to development that prioritizes the use of scientific research and technological innovation, and thanked MUST administration for letting MUST play a pivotal role in advancing the science led socio-economic development agenda.

Dr. Musenero highlighted the role played by Universities in their vision to industrialize the country, "Universities have a concentration of brains which is largely academic, The Science, Technology and Innovation department was set up with the aim (among others) of helping universities turn this knowledge into innovation that will impact communities and help industrialize the country".

She commended MUST for the student-community approach used in teaching and urged them to support government programs in the community such as the Parish Development Model (PDM).



The Rangers from the ministry of STI

With the minister's delegation was the Bishop Emeritus of the National Pentecostal Churches in Uganda, Bishop Joshua Lwere, who is passionate and enthusiastic about innovations in agriculture. He gave remarks about innovation and the impact it has had in different communities. He quoted the book of genesis in the Bible and asked the exhibitors to exercise dominion by industrializing and creating more and use science and technology as a solution to the two major problems in the country of poverty and corruption.



Bishop Joshua Lwere addressing the meeting.

A discussion of the two groups went on in relation to supporting MUST as well as working with the STI team.

The two teams later joined the exhibitors at the Pharmacology grounds, toured the stalls, and also bought some items as a way of motivating the innovators.



L-R; Minister arrives, Bishop Lwere and Hon. Monica Musenero DRCC. Hon .Robert Kanusu and Hon Robert Rukaari

Touring of the stalls



At the end of the tours of the stalls, the congregation converged to listen to remarks from the different dignitaries.

The Dean, Faculty of Interdisciplinary Studies, Dr. Rogers Bariyo welcomed the Minister and her delegation. He pointed out that Dr. Musenero is/was a spot on minister who uses elaborate and informative power point presentations to deliver her communication as opposed to just giving speeches, this was after Dr. Musenero did an impactful presentation about the vision of STI and the role of universities as being Centers for Regional Transformation and realizing the vision of seeing science in every village.

In his remarks, Dr. Medard Twinamasiko, the director MUST-CITT, thanked the minister for honoring the invitation despite her busy schedule and remarked that the meeting held demonstrated what MUST can do. He also assured the minister that MUST is ready to walk the innovation journey with her and her team as they drive the agenda of INDUSTRIALIZE OR PERISH!



He requested Ms. Leticia, the President of the MUST Agriculture Students Association to give her remarks. Leticia thanked the minister and her delegation for the time they had taken off their busy schedules to be at MUST. She thanked and recognized the exhibitors for the time and patience to attend and carry their innovations to the grounds. On behalf of the students, she requested the minister for an Agricultural Innovation Laboratory, one that will offer services to support agricultural activities innovations and tests at MUST, such as soil testing, water testing, pre-treatment of soil samples prior to testing, seed testing, seed analysis, offer agricultural practicals among others. She pointed out that they travel to Makerere University for such activities, but if the laboratory is established at MUST, a lot will change, said Leticia.

The Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Affairs Professor Nixon Kamukama represented the Vice Chancellor at the event and thanked the minister for always thinking about MUST.

Prof. Kamukama told the Minister that in a bid to reduce dependency, MUST started Mbarara University of Science and Technology Holdings Ltd as a business arm of the University. He later invited the area member of Parliament Hon. Robert Rukaari to address the congregation



L-R: Dr. Rogers Bariyo, Dean FIS Hon Robert Rukaari, MP Mbarara North Hon. Monica Musenero Min. of STI

He said that basing on Dr. Musenero's biography, she is best suited for the job and that she had transformed the ministry in the two years she has been in office. Hon Rukaari said that, him being the chairman of the entrepreneur's league, he learnt that innovators have similarities with entrepreneurs, because they both spend invaluable time and resources researching and both take risks for the development of the country. Hon Rukaari suggested that industries in the area should be represented at the next symposium so that students can directly learn from them.



Dr. Musenero thanked the exhibitors for stepping forward to showcase their innovations and added that there is rapid growth of science and that the main purpose of science is to create opportunities for jobs. The reason is that science creates industries and these industries create jobs for everyone, including non-scientists.

Dr. Musenero introduced her team and commended them for the hard work, dedication and commitment. "This team works without supervision, I get to office and they are there, I go home and sometimes they are still in office, they don't work on time they work to deliver. We call them the Rangers." As the minister I could not ask for more.



She introduced Ranger Dr. Joshua Isiko as the new focal person for MUST. (The link between the ministry and MUST). The Minister urged the MUST administration to make good use of him.

"He will be in touch with you, disturb him, call him, update him, and share with him. As STI we are out to support ideas that later become solutions to the community." Mr. Isiko is also the focal person of Bishop Stuart University.

Entertainment by the Batwa community with the oldest man being 106 years old



Succeed we must

MUST-FAST Hosted the Energy4Me Conference, Championing Sustainable Solutions

Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) made history on November 24, 2023, with the first-ever Energy4Me Conference, held at its Main Campus. This landmark event united 235 participants, including industry leaders and experts, to brainstorm and chart a path towards sustainable energy practices.

Dr. Johnes Obongloch, Dean Faculty of Applied Sciences and Technology (FAST), officially inaugurated the event. He lauded the organizers and attendees, stressing the crucial role of clean energy adoption in everyday life to safeguard our natural resources, especially trees.



The prestigious gathering welcomed prominent figures like Ronnie Katungi (CEO, Barrel Magazine), representatives from the Uganda Chamber of Mines and Petroleum (Ronnia Tukamuhebwa and Arthur Natukunda), and energy specialists like Gilbert Mugenyi and Bruce Namara (Petroleum Authority of Uganda), Anita Ankunda (Uganda National Oil Company), and Sankara Byaruhanga (Kreative Campus and Innovation Village).



L-R Ronnie Katungi, Ronnia Tukamuhebwa, Gilbert Mugenyi, Bruce Namara, Arthur Natukunda

Collaborating with key stakeholders like the Uganda Chamber of Mines and Petroleum, UCOBS, Vlirous, Uganda National Oil Company, Centenary Bank, Petroleum Authority of Uganda, Kreative Campus, and Innovation Village, the conference aimed to explore innovative solutions for a sustainable energy future.



Throughout the day, engaging sessions facilitated knowledge exchange and strategic partnerships among participants. From expert speakers delving into critical energy solutions to lively discussions highlighting the power of collaboration, the Energy4Me Conference resonated through the campus, marking a defining moment in MUST's commitment to tackling energy challenges and creating a more sustainable future

MUST empowers Healthcare Workers as “Architects of Health” through Evidence-Based Planning Training.



From December 18- 20, 2023 the department of community health, Faculty of Medicine at MUST, under the Global Health Collaborative, held a training at Tuzza Hotel in Bushenyi.

This was in relation to Evidence-Based Planning (EBP). Healthcare workers from 14 South Western Ugandan districts attended the training and were equipped with the tools and knowledge to become architects of a healthier future for their communities. The training provided participants with in-depth knowledge on tools and knowledge to translate data into action, paving the way for community-focused healthcare solutions.



The trainers included experts from the different Community health units and these included: Assoc. Prof. Edgar Mulogo, Dr. Bagenda Fred, Dr. Brian Turigye, Dr. Fancis Mugabi and Dr. Peter kawungezi



L-R Dr. Brian Turigye facilitating on day one and Day two

Associate Professor Edgar Mulogo kicked off the training with a powerful session on the essence of EBP, urging participants to leverage their data collection and analysis expertise to develop impactful plans with their communities at heart. This resonated deeply with the diverse group representing 14 districts, held lively discussions, dissecting their communities' top health concerns and crafting strategic solutions to address them.



Community health team behind the success of the training

The training also tackled bottleneck analysis, meticulously dissecting the barriers hindering optimal healthcare delivery in their regions. With new found skills and unwavering determination, this dedicated group transformed from observers of challenges to proactive agents of change, ready to make a difference in their communities.

The intensity of the program triggered the participants to a design thinking session, which brought them together to think about practice scenarios. Together, they identified and tackled their most pressing health issues, in accordance to the group discussion flow.



Assoc. Prof. Edgar Mulogo during the presentation

They were challenged to come up with a road-map for positive transformation.

The impact of this initiative promises to extend far beyond the training room. With their newfound EBP skills, these healthcare workers are now empowered to lead the change towards a healthier South Western Uganda. Their dedicated efforts, fueled by data-driven insights and community engagement, hold the potential to significantly improve healthcare access, delivery, and ultimately, outcomes for countless individuals across the region.

Mbarara University of Science and Technology is proud to support initiatives like this, empowering healthcare professionals to become proactive agents of change and drive positive healthcare transformations within their communities.*





On behalf of the mentees, Dr. Bampabwire Geoffrey medical officer from Rubanda District appreciated the mentors from MUST. He urged his colleagues to Implement what they have learnt during the training. "This training was an eye-opener, I Learnt how to translate data into actionable insights. This will allow us to advocate for and implement solutions that truly address the specific needs of our communities. Let us go put into practice what has been taught".

"We are incredibly proud to see this dedicated group of healthcare workers equipped with the skills and knowledge to drive positive change in their communities," said Dr. Fred Bagenda. "The EBP approach has the potential to revolutionize healthcare delivery in South Western Uganda, leading to more effective and sustainable solutions for a healthier future."



With 42 participants representing diverse districts like Mbarara, Kabale, Bushenyi, and Rukungiri, the training promises to have a significant impact across the region.

Dr. Brian believes together, we can build a healthier future for Uganda, one evidence-based decision at a time. He is positive that the EBP training has great potential to improve healthcare in South Western Uganda. Mbarara University of Science and Technology is proud to support initiatives like this, empowering healthcare professionals to become proactive agents of change and drive positive healthcare transformations within their communities.



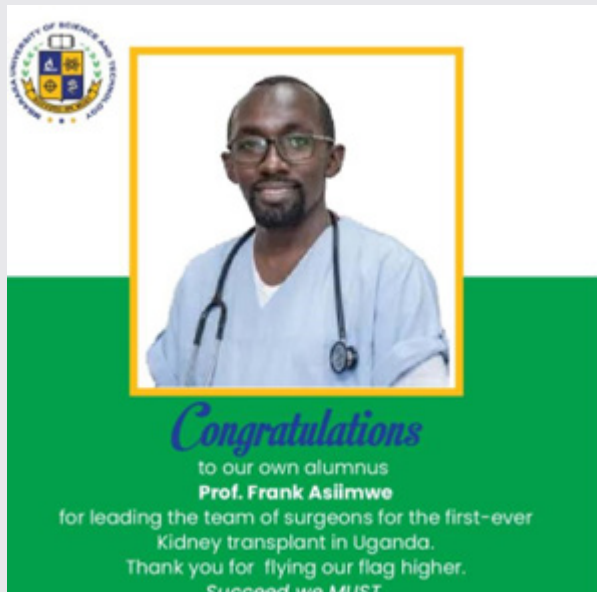
Group discussions



Mentees were awarded with certificates of Attendance. The awarding was done the mentors of the day.



Ranking the stars at MUST: Prof. Frank takes the December lead.



Professor Frank Asiimwe played a pivotal role in performing the first-ever kidney transplant at Mulago National Referral Hospital in Uganda! He led a team of Ugandan surgeons, assisted by specialists from Yashoda Hospitals in India, in successfully transplanting a kidney from a living donor to a recipient on December 20, 2023.

Who is Prof. Frank Asiimwe?

This historic surgery marked a significant milestone for Uganda's healthcare system, offering hope to countless patients suffering from kidney failure who previously had to seek treatment abroad. Professor Asiimwe's dedication and expertise were instrumental in making this breakthrough possible. Prof. Frank Asiimwe is a Ugandan medical professional who wears many hats, all of them aimed at improving healthcare in his home country. Here is a glimpse into his diverse expertise:

1. Renowned Urologist and Transplant Surgeon:

- He serves as a Consultant Urologist and Transplant Surgeon at the prestigious Mulago National Referral Hospital in Uganda.
- He played a pivotal role in establishing the hospital's organ transplant unit, a major step towards offering kidney transplants within the country.
- His skilled hands and years of experience have brought this life-saving procedure to patients who previously had to travel abroad for treatment.

2. Leader and Mentor:

- Prof. Asiimwe's dedication extends beyond performing surgeries. He actively trains the next generation of Ugandan medical professionals in the intricacies of transplant surgery.
- He serves as the Chair of the Department of Urology and the Chair of the Organ Transplant Committee at Mulago Hospital.
- His mentorship and guidance are crucial in ensuring Uganda has a sustainable pool of skilled personnel to carry forward the torch of organ transplantation.

3. Advocate for Change:

Recognizing the legal framework as a vital foundation for ethical organ donation and transplantation, Prof. Asiimwe played a key role in advocating for the Uganda Human Organ Transplant and Donation Act 2022. His tireless efforts helped establish a clear legal framework that governs organ donation and transplantation practices in Uganda, safeguarding both donors and recipients.

He played a key role in establishing the hospital's organ transplant unit and spearheading the training of Ugandan medical personnel in transplant surgery.

Professor Asiimwe's achievement has been widely lauded, with many praising his leadership, skill, and unwavering commitment to improving healthcare in Uganda. His story is an inspiration to aspiring medical professionals and a testament to the power of innovation and collaboration in advancing medical care.

Beyond Surgery:

Prof. Asiimwe's dedication to improving healthcare extends beyond the operating room. He is also a Fistula Surgery Consultant for international organizations like Mercy Ships and Danja Fistula Center.

He works tirelessly to treat obstetric fistula, a devastating childbirth injury that affects countless women in Uganda and other developing countries.

His commitment to providing these crucial surgeries and rehabilitation services empowers women to reclaim their lives and health.

Prof. Frank Asiimwe's story is one of dedication, innovation, and a deep-seated desire to improve healthcare for all Ugandans. He is a true pioneer in the field of organ transplantation in Uganda, a skilled mentor, and a passionate advocate for ethical and accessible healthcare practices. His contributions are already making a significant difference, and his future endeavors hold even greater promise for the healthcare of his nation.

Frank Asiimwe in medical school at MUST

Dr. Frank was at MUST from 1991- 1996, to pursue a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB) In 2000 Frank joined Makerere University to pursue Master of Medicine (MMed) in Surgery, he successfully completed the program in 2004.

The unstoppable Frank joined Kilimanjaro Christian Medical University College for a Master of Science (MSc) in Urology. This was between the period of 2010-2012.

In 2010-2012, he joined the Fellowship of the College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa (FCS) in Urology from COSECSA.

The unstoppable Asiimwe

Prof. Asiimwe's extensive educational background and commitment to urological care have undoubtedly made a significant impact on individuals and the medical community. His contributions touch many aspects of the field, such as:

Providing advanced urological care to patients: Prof. Asiimwe's expertise in areas like surgery and minimally invasive procedures empowers him to offer high-quality treatment options to people in need.

He enhances the education and training of future urologists. His skills, experience and knowledge can be invaluable in shaping the next generation of urological professionals in Uganda and beyond.

His participation in research contributes to the advancement of urological knowledge in Uganda. This is an area with few experts but with many patients. Prof. Asiimwe's scholarly background allows him to participate in research that expands understanding and improves treatment methods in urology.

It is important to recognize and celebrate as the MUST community, we congratulate and celebrate our own alumnus for such milestones, as he inspires others and contributes to the overall progress of healthcare.

Prof. Frank Asiimwe! We at MUST wholeheartedly join you in celebrating your milestone achievements in the field of urology. It's inspiring to see your dedication and expertise changing lives and raising the flag of Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST). Kudos!!!!

Hail the Champions: MUST sets standards at the ultimate National quiz.



The Ultimate University Quiz organized by Vision Group and Bank of Uganda alongside other partners had 16 Public and Private Chartered universities tussling it out in a match-up of wits on topics covering history, politics, current affairs, STEM, music, art, Greek mythology, economics, geography and world events and many more. The game was a first time knock out as universities faced each other. This was hosted by the quiz mistress Lydia Lakwonyero. She gave the quiz instructions as below:



The quiz has 3 rounds, each question was scored at 10 points, if a team failed it was passed on to their competition. This was done in 5 seconds

The 4th round was a rapid round and no question was passed on to the competition even when the teams failed.

The central player was the one to answer on behalf of the team after consultation of both players on the left and on the right

MUST was represented by a team of four students as follows

1. **Ahirirwe Leticia;** Year IV student of Bachelor of Science in Agriculture and Livelihoods in the Faculty of Interdisciplinary Studies.
2. **Edgar Reagan Ssenyonga;** Year IV student of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery in the Faculty of Medicine.
3. **Atukwaase Vitah;** Year III student of Bachelor of Science in Economics from the Faculty of Business and Management Sciences.
4. **Silver Evans Makanga;** Year V student of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery in the Faculty of Medicine.



The team of students was selected and coached by;

1. **Ms. Angella Nakato Muyingo** the MUST Public Relations Officer who was the lead coach of the team.
2. **Mr. Solomon Agum** the Principal Assistant Academic Registrar responsible for Admissions, Records and Alumni Engagement who assisted with selection and the team's researcher.
3. **HE. Musa Kiyemba** the Guild President who assisted with team selection.



Coach Angella during half time

Highlights of the MUST Victory speech by the chairman council, Dr. Warren Naamara



The governor bank of Uganda Michael Atingi-Ego, Silver, Dr. Warren Naamara, Leticia, Edgar, and Vitah

I am extremely proud of the performance of our students who managed to score over 300 points, in each race of their competition, this is more than 80%. I congratulate and thank them for this outstanding performance, which has made them the champions of this year's Ultimate University Quiz.

To the coaching team, thank you for picking the right team and preparing them to ensure today's success.



Chair Council Dr. Warren (in white) Team's Researcher Mr. Solomon Agum with the team

My appreciation also goes to the MUST Management Team led by the Vice Chancellor Prof. Celestino Obua for providing the team with the needed support to ensure their participation.

Quiz Organizers and Sponsors

I would like to thank the organizers Vision Group and Bank of Uganda together with their sponsors Centenary Bank, Georgina Optical and production team Net studios for this platform that has not only given our students a chance to showcase their brilliance, but also put upcountry universities like Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) on the national stage.



MUST is nationally perceived as a medical training institution but from the compositions of our team, you can see that we have students across various disciplines like Business and Management Sciences, Computing and Informatics, Applied Sciences and Technology, Science and Education, as well as Humanities programs offered across our six faculties and two research institutes of;

- **Faculty of Applied Sciences and Technology**
- **Faculty of Business and Management Sciences**
- **Faculty of Computing and Informatics**
- **Faculty of Interdisciplinary Studies**
- **Faculty of Medicine**
- **Faculty of Science**
- **Institute of Tropical Forest Conservation**
- **Institute of Maternal, Newborn and Child Health**

Thank you all for listening, for God and my country, Succeed we MUST.



MUST's victory in this prestigious quiz is an inspiration to all Ugandan universities and students. It demonstrates the importance of academic excellence, collaboration, and dedication. It also shows that with hard work and commitment, Ugandan universities can compete and excel at the highest levels.

Word from the coach: Angella Nakato Muyingo

This was a victory attributed to God's will, the sleepless nights motivated by the students' different slogans like: "twagala sente" a circulating meme on social media.





Pressure and tension: The coaches and reserve players bench

The support from colleagues, Mr. Solomon was always our fallback for guidance on the question categories, the motivation calls from the Deans of the participating Faculties, Assoc. Prof. Joseph Ngonzi, Dean Faculty of Medicine, Dr. Rogers Bariyo, Dean Faculty of Interdisciplinary Studies and Dr. Fredrick Kijjambu. Those calls were timely and encouraging. The students were excited and motivated to speak to Vice Chancellor on phone and the deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Affairs, before the final match. The felt like they owed it to MUST. Despite the tight budget, the University secretary and the Bursar made it possible for the facilitation of the team. Thank you, I trust we did you proud. Mr. Edson the driver of the team was always on time for all activities, the guild president H.E Musa Kiyemba, thank you for helping me put the team together. Being a holiday, reaching out to students was made easy with your effort.





I believe this win will undoubtedly boost the morale and confidence of MUST students and faculty and also bring visibility to the different programs at MUST.



The stars raise the flag succeed we MUST

From Jobless to Job Creators: MUST-IUC-UCoBS Sub-Project Five Empowers Youth in Southwest Uganda

On 1st December 2023, a boot camp was held in Rubirizi District geared towards empowering youth to develop their entrepreneurship skills. This initiative by the MUST-IUC-UCoBS Project 5 led by Dr. Manasseh Tumuhimbise is focused on improving youth employability. The Rubirizi camp is one of the five boot camps held in 2023 that has provided youth with innovative teaching and experiential learning entrepreneurship courses that include hands-on skills, coaching, mentorship, feedback, follow-up and twinning with industry/artisans to benefit the youth for gainful employment.

In the boot camps, groups of five youth are challenged to use fifty thousand Ugandan shillings (50,000 UGX) to start a business and make profits in just five hours. It is interesting how these funds gain profit in a short time. One of the groups gained a profit of eighty one thousand shillings 81,000 UGX attesting to their business acumen, project inclusivity and focus on personal growth.

The boot camps have also been at Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) in Mbarara City, Katukuru Village in Nyakayojo, Kaberebere Town, Bwizibwera and Kashari in Mbarara District and Nyakashaaru in Rubirizi Town Council Rubirizi District.

Boot camps empower young people to become change makers in their communities. By fostering a growth mindset and equipping them with the tools to thrive, the MUST-IUC-UCoBS sub-project 5 is unlocking boundless potential and paving the way for a brighter future in Southwest Uganda.



Participants posing with their certificates after the Rubirizi Boot camp on December 1, 2023



Participants engaging in an energizer called opportunity spotting (where one has to occupy a seat of another person that is standing up



Above: Participants in session



Above: A group of participants brain storming about their idea

Global Harmony at MUST: Annual International Dinner Unveils Cultural Splendour and Academic Excellence



The Vice Chancellor through the International Relations Office(IRO) hosted a diverse group of international students and staff at its 7th annual dinner held at MUST-Kihumuro Campus on December 15, 2023. The event was graced by the presence the Deputy Vice Chancellor Finance and Administration, Associate Prof. Charles Tushabomwe- Kazooba , H.E Kiyemba Musa, the 35th MUST Guild President and Mr. George Byabagambi the University Counsellor who represented the Dean of Students.



Prof. Charles Tushabomwe- Kazooba

The event, a tradition at the University, brought together students and staff from various countries for an evening of cultural exchange and celebration.



The IRO Sheila Niinye Twinamatsiko (Mrs), giving her remarks

The evening commenced with warm welcoming remarks from . Sheila Niinye Twinamatsiko (Mrs), the International Relations Officer (IRO), who highlighted the pivotal role played by the International Relations Office premised under the Vice Chancellor’s office. She emphasized their commitment to ensuring the well-being and success of international students, managing staff and student mobility, and fostering collaborations with global partners to advance teaching, research, and community engagement. Sheila Niinye Twinamatsiko (Mrs) reminded the guests that the launch of the Kiswahili Club in 2022 aimed at promoting the Swahili language and culture began with staff training. Student training is scheduled for 2024, and the University plans to introduce online short courses in Runyankole, any other Ugandan local language to help students community to the local communities. “MUST is well known for community engagement and community development. Local languages in Uganda will help you during your community placement. Remember you don’t have to be perfect at it, just a few words can make our local people feel involved”. said Sheila. She added that the commitment to linguistic diversity enables international students and visitors acquaint themselves with their new environments.



The IRO further gave statistics of the current international student body, which stands at 148, with 129 full-time students representing 14 different countries and 19 occasional students. At present the fulltime students are from Sierra Leone, Somalia, Rwanda, Tanzania, Cameroon, Nigeria, Burundi, Kenya, South Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, India, Malawi, Ghana and Liberia. Occasional students in 2023 are from USA, Germany, Canada, Austria and Somalia. Full-time undergraduates constitute 60% of the international students, while postgraduates, numbering 52, make up the remaining 40%. Notably, the number of international students increased from 116 last year to 129 this year.



The primary objective of the dinner was to provide an orientation session, allowing first-year students to connect with their peers, student and staff leaders, and gain insights into diverse cultures within the University community. MUST pioneered opening its doors to East African students, treating them as national students and significantly reducing fees for non-East Africans to encourage greater international enrolment. A highlight of the evening was the recognition of student achievements, with awards and certificates. They also presented an award to the outstanding individuals like:

1 Dr. Dan Kisitu, the Head of Surgery Department, Faculty of Medicine received an appreciation award for advancing internationalisation through hosting the biggest number of international students on electives over the years. The program featured captivating entertainment from various East African countries, including Tanzania, Kenya, Somalia, and Rwanda, show casing the rich diversity of talent among the international students.

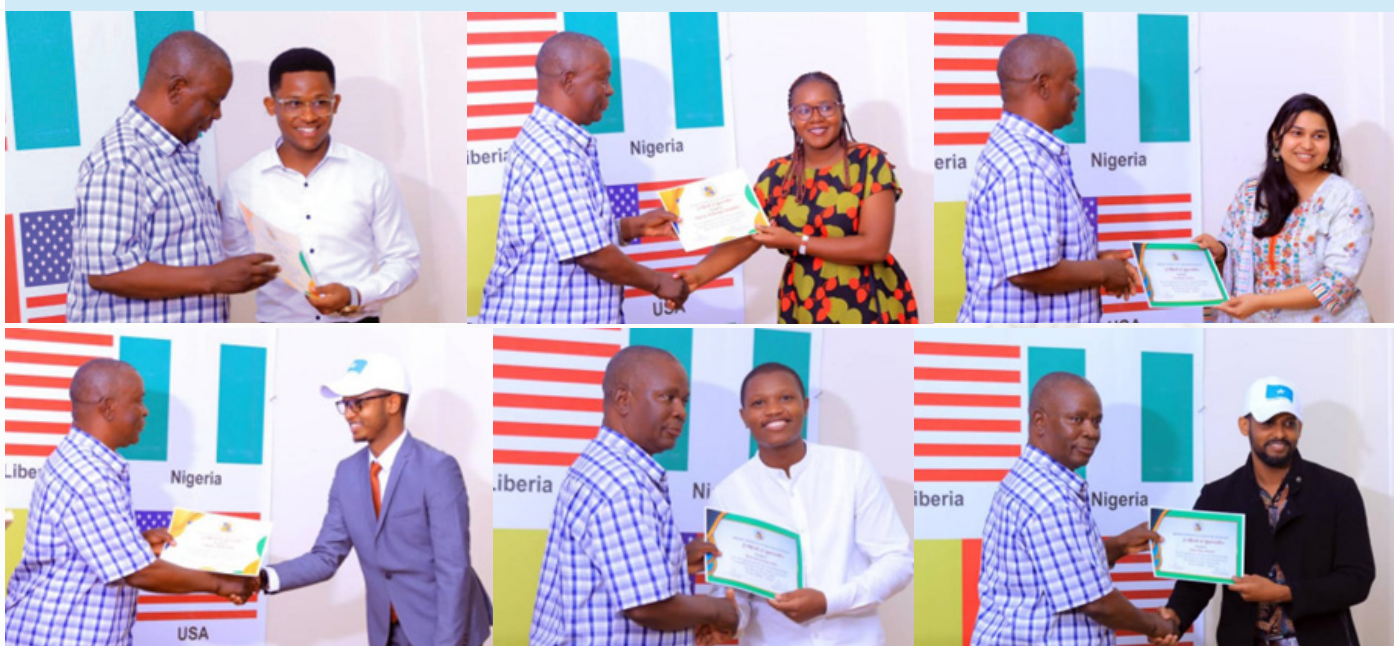


Appreciated for outstanding contribution to the International Relations Office

- 1) Sampson Edodi
- 2) Omar Abdi Bile
- 3) Harun Swed
- 4) Slyvia Achieng Umumba

Appreciated Active Country leaders

- 1) Bessong-Ojong Christine - Cameroon
- 2) Kasereka Tsongo Fidel- DRC
- 3) Omar Abas Ahmed -Somalia
- 4) Ebenezer Debrah - Ghana
- 5) Sampson Edodi - Nigeria
- 6) Andrew Ajang - South Sudan
- 7) Gor Maahi Umesh - India
- 8) John Stevens Mbete - Sierra Leone
- 9) Sibali Gidimali Gibu - Tanzania



Representing the Vice Chancellor Assoc. Prof. Charles delivered a compelling speech, underscoring the University's unwavering commitment to fostering student mobility. Charles,

Emphasised the effort to open doors for MUST students to embark on educational journeys abroad, enriching their academic horizons and strengthening the institution's global footprint.

The evening unfolded with further heartfelt messages from H.E Kiyemba Musa, the 35th MUST Guild President, and Mr. George Byabagambi, the University Counsellor, representing the Dean of Students. Each spoke of the importance of inclusivity, understanding, and appreciating the tapestry of cultures that make MUST such a vibrant learning environment.

The true magic of the evening unfolded beyond the speeches and the food. As students and guests mingled, stories were exchanged, laughter rang out, and friendships blossomed across cultural boundaries. The event had boundless boards as we saw it with the sitting arrangement as Deans, Directors and other invited guest had a free sitting style.

Other guests at the dinner included:, the University Librarian Dr. Robert Buwule, The Dean FAST Dr. Johnes Obungoloch, Dean FS. Assoc. Prof. Julius B. Lejju, the director CITT Dr. Medard Twinamatsiko, Dr. Wendo Mlahagwa the University legal officer Timothy Mugumya (Esq) and Guild leaders

With a beautiful traditional dance from Somalia, the audience watched with amusement. with the cutting of a symbolic cake, a group photo capturing the unity of the diverse student body, a sumptuous dinner

The International Dinner at MUST was a testament to the power of shared humanity, where differences become bridges, not walls, and the world shrinks to the size of a single table, united by the joy of a shared meal. It was a reminder that in the vast and diverse tapestry of the world, we are all, ultimately, fellow travelers on this journey called life, and it is through appreciating each other's stories and flavors that we truly discover the richness of our own.



L-R: The Somali students community at MUST, IRO dressed up in the kinyankole out fit

The Dinner became a bridge across oceans, connecting hearts through shared experiences and shaping the kind of understanding that go past borders and builds a brighter future. Special thanks go to the organizers under the able status of the IRO Sheila Niinye Twinamatsiko, the sponsors of the event, that is the university administration, the international students who also contributed dearly to the success of the event, Guild president and his minsters, the staff and students that honored the invitation of the day, work input will forever be remembered Succeed we Must



L-R Mr. George Byabagambi the Guild ministers as the Guild speaker Rt. Hon Ayiine Jonathan gives his speech

Christmas at Mbarara University of Science and Technology: A Symphony of Joy and Knowledge



Not even the exams set for January 2024 could spoil the Christmas mood at Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST). The spirit of celebration, Christmas carols, photoshoots with santa hats and glasses covered MUST community at both campuses.

As Christmas approached the spirit of giving flourished as staff and students from diverse backgrounds came together to give back to the less advantaged within mbarara. This was guided with the believe that Christmas is about the love joy and peace brought to us by the born king, thus share with the less privileged in our community.

The season saw a beautiful outpouring of generosity. Guided by the true essence of Christmas, the MUST community organized caroling sessions and fundraising drives to spread cheer to less fortunate neighbors. Their visits brought festive joy to local prisons, orphanages, hospitals, slums, and even the Nakivale refugee camp

Feliz Navidad

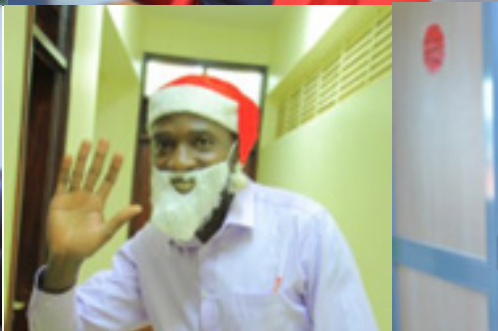




Bin Bin Emanvelu , Rubanga Tyekweddwa bindo bindo Emmanuel

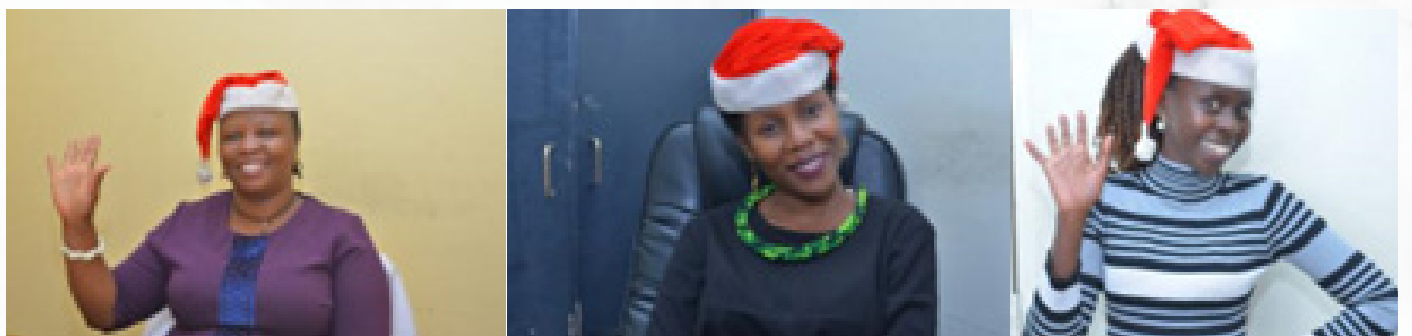
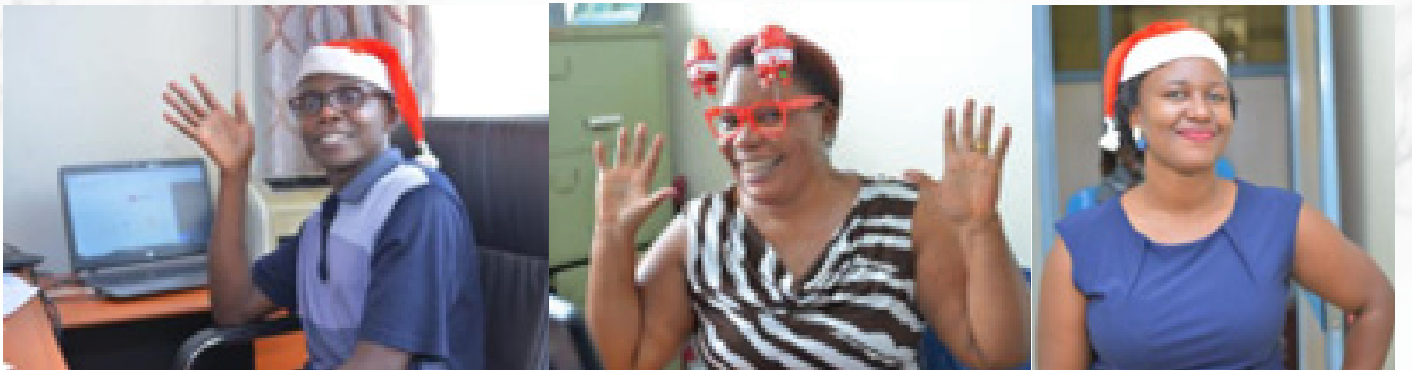


Azairwe omwerere Ruhanga Nyamamuhanga

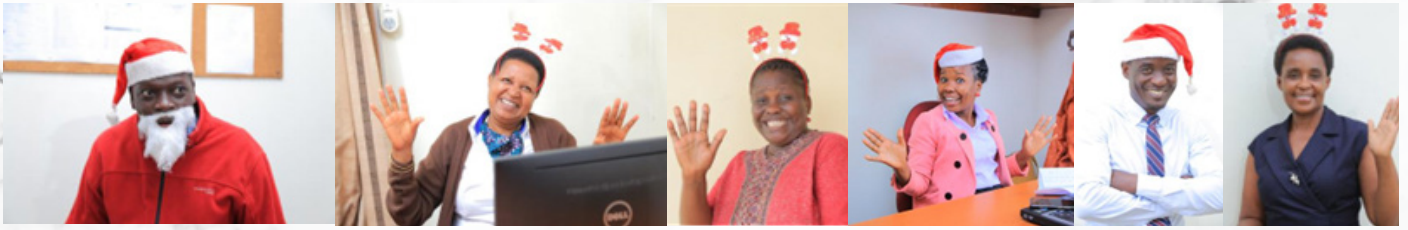




Tulabakuki Azze Ssabalangira azzeeee kuno kungsi tumulamusa azze Ssabalangira



Mwokozi Yesu Amezaliwa



Azairwe Mukama Muzahura



Oh holy Night the stars are brightly shining





Kuganisa Christmas Endai



EDITOR



Mr. Dickens Muhwezi

