

New Vision

ADVERTISER SUPPLEMENT

By Ritah Mukasa

Today, all roads lead to the Nkumba University grounds along Entebbe Road to celebrate the institution's 25-year-old journey, one arrayed with great milestones.

Prof. Wilson Muyinda Mande, the vice-chancellor, says they expect over 10,000 people, including the chief guest, President Yoweri Museveni, dignitaries, alumni and well-wishers.

"It will be a memorable day, the peak of the silver jubilee week that started on September 21," he says.

During the week, students from different schools of the university participated in various sports activities, a fashion show, alumni activities and skits. In addition, cultural engagements, a conference to disseminate new knowledge, as well as a public lecture by renowned academicians were also organised.

Muyinda says the university has evidently grown over the last 25 years. It has contributed enormously in terms of human resource, hence the theme of the Silver Jubilee celebrations: *25 Years of Academic and Professional Service*.

"We are grateful to all who have stood by us over the years, especially those who began the predecessor institutions that eventually evolved into the university," he says.

The university has come from far
Since its inception in 1952, Muyinda says, Nkumba is the only institution in Uganda that has evolved from a humble background. It has transformed itself several times from a kindergarten, to primary school, junior secondary, college of commerce and advanced studies and finally into a university in 1994.

"The university's origin stems from a community infant school way back in 1952. This was a vision and an initiative of Ssalongo Erisa Kintu, a businessman," he recollects.

On July 29, 1951, Ssalongo Kintu shared the idea with his two friends; Charles Kisitu Pfulu, the former parish chief of Nkumba village and Zefania Mpanga, a civil servant. The two welcomed the idea and the three agreed to become trustees. Prominent among those invited to join them were late Nelson Edmund Nkalubo Ssebugwawo and Prince Besueri K. L. Mulondo. The infant school was started on February 6, 1952.

This gradually grew into a primary, junior secondary and then vocational secondary school in 1969. In 1974, it became an advanced level commercial school. In 1980, the trustees agreed to transform the school into Nkumba College of Commerce and Advanced Studies (NCCAS) for wider curriculum.

In 1994, they transformed NCCAS into a university, hence the birth of Nkumba University, which was inaugurated in June 1994 as a non-denominational, community private and not-for-profit institution. It was chartered by the Government of Uganda in 2006.

Since then, the university has grown tremendously to contribute enormously

Nkumba marks silver jubilee



Students of Nkumba University during graduation. The university is celebrating 25 years of existence

Buganda, government ties

Nkumba University has always kept good ties with Buganda kingdom and this has continuously been reflected in the fruitful engagements between the two parties.

This year, the university was privileged to host Kabaka Ronald Muwenda Mutebi II's 26th Coronation anniversary celebrations at the main campus in Entebbe.

Nkumba has also maintained good relations with the Central Government and engaged in many activities organised by the Government.

For example, in 2015, they hosted the occasion of the Inaugural National Liberation Struggle Memorial Lecture, organised by the Peace and National Solidarity Initiative. The chief guest was President Museveni.

to the human resource development of not just this country, but the world over.

Second to none

Dr Francis Kasekende, the university secretary, says Nkumba graduates are contributing to humanity in both the private and public sectors worldwide.

"We have produced over 20,000 graduates over the last 25 years and next month, we shall be holding our 22nd graduation ceremony," he says.

The university will be hold its 22nd graduation ceremony next month. On the other hand, Nkumba is well-known for having an upper hand in the teaching of business, it is second to none. This is in line with the university's vision of being the leading national, regional and global hub for academic and professional excellence.

Similarly, their mission of providing quality education that cultivates competence, confidence, creativity and high moral character in teaching and learning, research and community engagement has steered them to excellence.

Kasekende adds that the university's corporate philosophy is embodied in its motto, *I owe you*, which expresses a mutual obligation between members of

the university and the community.

When it comes to accommodation and health services, students are assured of unmatched services at Nkumba University.

All student residing within the university receive meals. The accommodation is very conducive and spacious. One such is the female hostel called Nnabagereka.

The university also offers health services to its students through the university clinic, which has qualified and committed doctors and nurses.

On quality assurance, Nkumba university strives to excel through monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, as well as external assessment of university programmes and facilities by the National Council for Higher Education (NCHHE) and the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA).

This helps to ensure that the university programmes are nationally and regionally accredited and internationally competitive.

Also, the university sports teams have an enviable culture of outstanding sports performances amongst its peers in Uganda and the East African region, with a number of trophies being scooped.

On Infrastructural development, concerted efforts have been made to improve and increase the infrastructure of the university.

The institution has erected a perimeter fence around the main campus to enhance security for students, staff and university property.

The effort has also involved, among other endeavours, completion of the main university library.

Spreads its wings

Muyinda recalls that the university started with only three schools – the school of business administration, school of commercial, industrial art and design and the school of education.

However, currently, the scope of the academic programmes offered by the university has widened over time.

"Today, we boast of over 120 accredited programmes in various disciplines in the six schools at PhD, masters, postgraduate diploma, degree, diploma and certificate levels," Raymond Fred Buyinza, the head of marketing, says.

The six schools include the schools of business administration, commercial, industrial art and design, education, law, social sciences and sciences.

The university also has distance learning outreach co-ordinating offices in Kyegegwa, Kasese, Nakasongola, Amuria and Gulu districts.

Muyinda is quick to add that the university acquired the Kampala campus in 2015 to bring its unique education experience close to the people living and working in and around Kampala.

Elsewhere, due to its commendable image and academic excellence, Nkumba attracts students from all corners of Uganda and beyond to the entire East African region, Ethiopia

and Nigeria.

Besides, the university also has exchange programmes with a number of contemporaries overseas, such as the Erasmus Plus Exchange programme with FH Joanneum University of Applied Sciences in Austria.

"We also respect collaborations and membership. We have full membership to the Vice-chancellors' Forum, Inter-University Council for East Africa, Association of African Universities and Association of Commonwealth Universities," Muyinda says.

Nkumba University has always participated in the different exhibitions organised by the NCHHE and Uganda -CBS/PEWOSA exhibitions.

Governance and management

Nkumba University has a foundation body which is entrusted with the responsibility of making strategic goals, mission, vision and philosophy of this institution. It also oversees the activities of the board of trustees.

The board of trustees is the second governing body responsible for the implementation of strategic goals, mission, vision and philosophy of the university.

It is also responsible for the appointment of some top university management officials.

The chancellor is the titular head of the university, who presides over ceremonial assemblies of and in the name of the institution. He confers degrees, awards diplomas, certificates and other academic titles and distinctions of the university.

Another governing body is the university council. This is responsible for the formulation of policies within which the university administration conducts the day-to-day activities.

The council is composed of various sub-committees, which manage the different functions of the university.

Aside from that, the university senate is the supreme academic body responsible for making the policy academic decisions of the university. The chairperson of the senate is the vice-chancellor.

Finally, the university management is responsible for the day-to-day running of the university. It ensures smooth operations and is headed by the vice-chancellor.

The contribution to development of human resources by the university is testament to the institution's commitment to provide an environment that enables the cultivation of competence, confidence, creativity and character in the academic, professional and social interactions.

That is how the institution has managed to produce informed graduates, who think critically, communicate effectively and act responsibly in an increasingly competitive national and global environment.



Nkumba University celebrating 25 years

Key Achievements

The University has been led by four distinguished citizens serving as Chancellors as shown below:

Historical Perspective

In Uganda, Nkumba University is the only community university that evolved from a Kindergarten in 1952 to a Primary School in 1956. It became a Secondary School in 1962 and a Secondary Modern School teaching Vocation Studies mainly accounting and Secretarial Studies in 1964. The University advanced on the educational pyramid through a College of Commerce and Advanced Studies and finally to the apex of a University on 18th June 1994 and was chartered by Government in 2006. This year 2019, the University marks 25 years of Academic and professional excellence in the field of higher education. Since the 9th of June 2019, the University commences a series of activities to mark 25 years of service. They were launched on June 18, 2019 by 2nd Deputy Katikiri and Minister of Finance, Robert Wagwa Nsibirwa. The climax of the silver Jubilee celebration is happening today 27th September 2019 at the Main Campus in Entebbe. **His Excellency the President Yoweri Museveni Kaguta will grace the occasion as the Chief Guest.** According to Prof. Wilson Mande Muyinda, vice chancellor, evidently, the University has academically grown over the last 25 years. It has contributed enormously in terms of human resource hence the theme of the Silver Jubilee celebrations: **'25 Years of Academic and Professional Service.'**

Assoc. Prof. Francis Kasekende, University Secretary says that Nkumba graduates are contributing to humanity in both the private and public sectors worldwide. The Institution has produced over 25,000 graduates over the last 25 years and this year in October, the university will be holding its 22nd Graduation ceremony. On the other hand, Nkumba is well known for having an upper hand in the teaching business; it is second to none. This is line with the university's vision of being the leading national, regional, and global hub for academic and professional excellence. Similarly, their mission of providing quality education that cultivates competence, confidence, creativity and high moral character in teaching and learning, research and community engagement has steered them to excellence. The Nkumba University's corporate philosophy is embodied in its motto **'I owe you'**, which expresses a mutual obligation between members of the university and the community.

Nkumba University has spread its wings

According to Prof. Mande the Vice Chancellor, the University started with only three schools including; school of business administration, school of commercial, Industrial art and design



State of the art Library under construction

and the school of education. However, currently, the scope of the academic programs offered by the University has widened and increased over time. Today, Nkumba University boasts of over 120 accredited programs in various disciplines in the six schools at PhD, masters, postgraduate diploma, degree, diploma and certificate.

The six schools include: **School of Business Administration, School of Commercial, Industrial Art and Design, School of Education, School of Law, School of Social Sciences and School of Sciences.** The University has also cast its nets farther to own distance learning outreach coordinating offices in Kyegegwa, Kasese, Nakasongola, Amuria and Gulu, Mbale, Kisoro, Tororo districts. The university acquired the Kampala campus premises in 2015 to bring its unique education experience close to the people staying and working in and around Kampala. Elsewhere, due to its commendable image and academic excellence, Nkumba attracts students from all corners of Uganda and beyond to entire East African region, Ethiopia and Nigeria. Besides, the university also has exchange programs with a number of contemporaries overseas like the Erasmus Plus Exchange programme with FH Joanneum University of Applied Sciences in Austria.

When it comes to accommodation and health services, students are assured of unmatched services

All students residing within the university receives meals. The accommodation is very conducive and spacious. One such is the state of the art female hostel called Nnabagereka. Additionally,

the University offers health services to its students through the University clinic which has qualified doctors and nurses who are also committed.

On quality assurance, Nkumba University strives to excel through quality assurance practices. The University through its Quality Assurance Directorate has established a strong internal quality assurance system. This is characterized by a number of institutional policies and guidelines that standardize the operations of the University to ensure quality teaching and learning, research and community engagements. The institution undertakes regular monitoring and evaluation of academic and non academic activities and undertakes internal and external assessments of university programs and facilities by National Council for Higher Education (NCHE) and the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA). This helps to ensure that the University programs are nationally and regionally accredited and competitive internationally.



Nkumba University administration block



Retired Bishop George Ssenabulya of Central Buganda while leading prayers as Hon. Robert Wagwa Nsibirwa, the 2nd Deputy Katikiri and Minister of Finance of Buganda Kingdom and others plan to cut the cake at the official launch of Silver Jubilee celebrations on 18th June 2019.



Kampala Campus acquired in 2015 located along Kabakanjagala Rd, Mengo in Lubaga division

HIV/AIDS Institutional Policy

Nkumba University was the first University in Uganda and indeed in the whole of Eastern Africa, Central Africa and Northern Africa to formulate an HIV/AIDS Institutional Policy. Special thanks are extended to the former Vice Chancellor Professor William Senteza Kajubi who secured for the University a UNESCO Grant to work on the Institutional Policy. Nkumba University led the way and other Universities followed suit.

Evening/Weekend Programmes

Nkumba University boasts being the first University in Uganda in 1998 to establish the programmes for students to study in the Evening and on the Weekend After seeing the success of the programmes, other Universities also started the programmes.

Commencement Lecture

Nkumba University in 1999 started the tradition of holding a Commencement Lecture every Wednesday prior to the Graduation

Ceremony to Usher the graduates into the World of work with skills required of them. Nkumba University had the privilege of flying Professor Ali Mazrui (RIP) all the way from the United States of America to come and deliver the first Commencement Lecture. It also provided an air ticket to Professor David Rubadin all the way from Botswana to deliver the 3rd Commencement Lecture. In 2006, the University also provided an air ticket to Prof. Stephen Mukasa to come and deliver the 6th Commencement Lecture. We also boast of being the first University in 2009 to host His Excellency Gen. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni as a Commencement Lecture Speaker.

Sports Department

The Sports Department ensures that every year the University competes in the Inter-University Games, the East Africa University Games, and also sends participants to all the Africa University Games and World University Games and has registered success.



Prof. Sir. Gordon Bahala Kasibante Wavamunno 2010 to date



Dr. Maggie Kigozi 2004 to 2010



Dr. Martin Aliker 2001 to 2003



The Late Dr. Sulaiman Kiggundu 1995 to 2000



Dr. Dalton Elijah Segawa Current Chairperson of the University Council



Prof. Wilson Muyinda Mande Current Vice Chancellor



Assoc. Prof. Francis Kasekende, PhD University Secretary



Graduands

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Long Live Nkumba

Nkumba stands tall in sports, academics

Prof. Wilson Muyinda Mand is the vice-chancellor of Nkumba University. He talked to Ritah Mukasa about some of the university's achievements.

Q Can you describe for us your journey as a university?

Nkumba university opened its doors in 1994, which makes it 25 years today. It was launched by the late Hon. James Wapakhabulo, the then chairperson of the Constituent Assembly.

The university was licensed by the education ministry. By that time, the National Council for Higher Education was not yet in place. In 2006, we received a charter, making us one of the few chartered universities in the country.

We started off with a few faculties. These included; arts, business and social sciences. We have now grown to six faculties.

We also have programmes such as law, criminal justice, journalism, environment, public health, nursing, among others.

In that way I am sure we have developed horizontally



Nkumba nursing students attend to Prince David Wasajja during a university function

and vertically. Vertically, I mean that whereas in 1994 we only awarded degrees and diplomas, we now have postgraduates, masters and PhDs.

How have you managed to take your services closer

to the people?

In terms of spreading out, we have taken huge strides. Apart from our main campus in Nkumba, the university acquired the Kampala Campus premises in 2015 along Kabakanjagala Road so as to bring its unique

education experience close to the people living and working in and around Kampala.

Besides, we are also providing business education to people from distant districts. These study by correspondence and only come together during exams in their particular districts.

NKUMBA UNIVERSITY OPENED ITS DOORS TO THE PUBLIC IN 1994 WITH LESS THAN 1,000 STUDENTS

this institution this long and later listen to the President's words of wisdom. Over 10,000 people are expected to attend.

Can you give us a sneak peek into the future?

We plan to intensify distance and online programmes to serve the people who desire to study but lack time to attend classes. These can study from wherever they are during their convenient time.

We also plan to come up with at least four niches, including nursing and midwifery, to address the problem of shortage of nurses, who are the frontline staff in all health facilities. Another niche is public health, in addition to business studies.

We want to strengthen research in order to produce new knowledge since it is known that a country without new knowledge can hardly develop. We also plan to cement our partnerships with other universities. So far, we are in partnership with seven universities and we hope to add more.

We are also working on an arrangement of equipping our students with practical skills in addition to the courses they are pursuing. Just like its mandatory here, regardless of the course a student is studying, they must acquire computer skills. In sports, we shall continue to invest in the department, but also specialise in particular games; not just every game.

What are some of the challenges you are facing?

Our challenges largely revolve around the issue of limited resources. Nkumba University is largely a community university striving to provide educational services to the entire world, and its resources mainly come from the fees, which are not promptly paid. The university continues to explore ways of overcoming this, and that, indeed, constitutes a significant aspect of the necessary reflection in the course of the Silver Jubilee celebrations.



Prof. Muyinda Mande

including stars such as Peace Proscovia. We have made a tremendous contribution in that field.

On the other hand, we have steered research projects at the university. For example, we spearheaded the Oluwoko research project that is intended to fight malaria. Also recently, some of our professors developed mosquito repellents and a tool for detecting mental health.

Take us through what we should expect today

I am happy to announce that the President Yoweri Museveni accepted to grace this memorable occasion. We chose to invite him not only because he is the President of the country, but also because he introduced and encouraged liberalisation policy, which is why Nkumba University came into existence.

We want him to see the fruits of his policy. The President is expected to unveil the monument to commemorate our 25-year journey.

We are also going to have an exhibition of various works from different faculties. After, we shall recognise the people who have served

What is your enrolment?

When we started off 25 years ago, we had less than 1,000 students. We have grown overtime and now look forward to a population of over 10,000. However, we still face stiff competition from mushrooming universities and tertiary institutions.

Competition aside, we have realised that today, many people opt for short courses that enable them to earn money quickly and shun longer courses. Notably, the number of students sitting for A'level seems to be reducing, hence a decline in applicants.

Are there any outstanding achievements you would like to share with us?

Despite the challenges, Nkumba University has continued to dominate in different fields of academics and in sports.

We are proud to say that 75% of the team that participated in the recently concluded Olympic games included our students and alumni. Also, our volleyball team has continued to carry Uganda's flag high during the different games in countries such as Rwanda, Egypt, Tunisia among others. They have performed better, hence representing our institution well and the country at large.

The national netball team, which recently played in Liverpool, UK had many of our students. Some were continuing students, while others were our graduates,

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Nkumba University

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