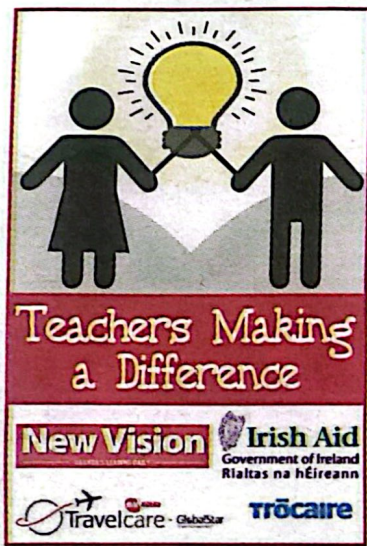


Jury selects Uganda's top teachers



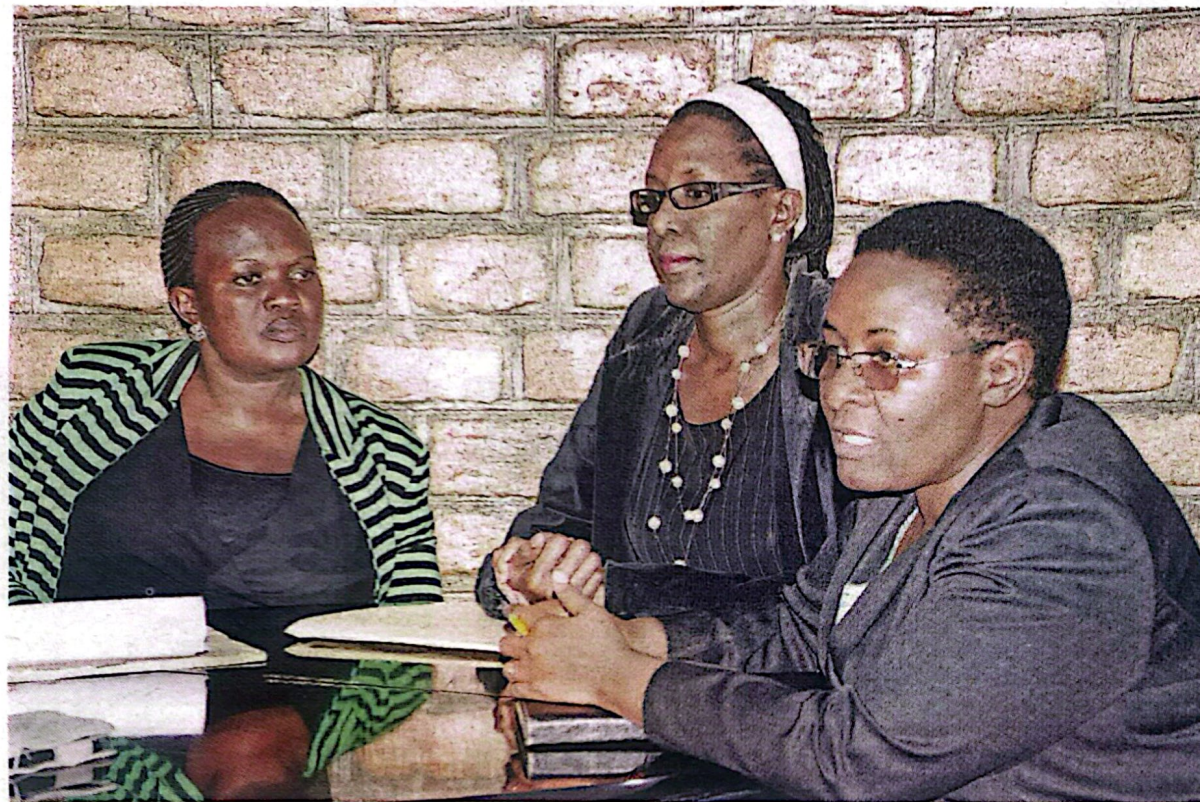
By Jacqueline Emodek

A jury of experienced and eminent education experts has selected the finalists of the 2017 Teachers Making a Difference.

The five members of the jury met at Vision Group head offices in Industrial Area, Kampala last week after two weeks of scouring through profiles of the 22 nominees which were published in the *New Vision* between March and August.

Over 600 nominations were received from the public for the awards and the top 12 will each receive sh1.5m in cash prizes, as well as certificates.

Addressing the jury before the final selection, Vision Group editor-in-chief Barbara Kaija said of the 12 teachers, the five most outstanding



Nakamate, Wendy and Kaija observing the adjudication process for the selection of the best teachers

ones will go for an all-expenses-paid study trip to Ireland courtesy of the Irish embassy, Simba Travelcare, one of the leading tour and travel companies in the country and Trocaire, an Irish charity.

Daphne Wendy, the head of communications at the Irish embassy and Naomi Nakamate, Trocaire's programme manager for governance and human rights, witnessed the

selection process.

The 12 winners will be announced on World Teachers Day (Thursday, October 5) during an awards gala at Vision Group head offices in Kampala. State minister for higher education Dr John Muyingo is expected to be the chief guest.

This year's judges included veteran educationist Fagil Mandy, education entrepreneur Barbara Ofwono of

Victorious Education Services and curriculum expert Gabriel Obbo-Katandi, formerly of the National Curriculum Development Centre.

Also on the panel were the commissioner for teacher education Dr Jane Egau and the headmistress of PMM Girls, Jinja, Immaculate Epenu.

The jury scored the teachers, on the basis of five benchmarks, including

uniqueness of the innovation in delivering the curriculum, community engagement, inculcating co-curricular activities, imparting life skills to learners and their ability to use limited resources to achieve extraordinary results.

The jury noted that the stories were all good and teachers competed favourably. However, part of the general outlook was that some teachers were strong in certain attributes and weak in others.

Mandy, who is well-known for his drive and call for co-curricular activities in schools, said: "A good teacher should be all-round in his or her teaching. A good number of teachers did well in this aspect and those who did not, had to get zero in this attribute."

He added that the public demands all-round learners and rewarding teachers who are good in this attribute 'Will help inspire more'.

Obbo-Katandi noted that: "The race was tight. There were many good teachers. However, we still had to get the best."

Ofwono said the initiative of the awards was great and that 'whoever will be announced should know that they were the best in this year's awards. We took time to ensure that we have the best teachers winning'.

New Vision features editor John Eremu, thanked the jury for being candid with the awards process.

"For the first time, we had members of the jury who have the courage to score zeros on some teachers' attributes. This shows that you are committed to ensuring the awards are up to the expected standards," he noted.