

OUTSTANDING TEACHERS TO BE AWARDED TODAY

By Nelson Kiva

Twelve winners of the 2025 Teachers Making a Difference (TMD) project will be announced and recognised today for their outstanding contribution to Uganda's education sector.

The awards ceremony will be hosted and presided over by the First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports, Mrs Janet Museveni, at State House, Entebbe.

"The First Lady has been magnanimous enough to host the awards ceremony. Those who stood out will walk away with plaques and prizes. They will also have an opportunity to travel to Ireland for exposure to other classroom environments, practices and innovations.

They will borrow a leaf to improve the quality of teaching in their own schools and communities," Sydney Miria, the manager of special projects at Vision Group, said.

INNOVATIVELY MAKING POSITIVE IMPACT

The project aims at recognising and rewarding those individuals, who are innovatively using limited resources to have a positive impact on their communities. Vision Group implements the project in partnership

with organisations that share similar objectives. From inception, over 1,000 teachers have been recognised by the initiative.

VISION PARTNERS

Vision Group's partners since 2017 include the Embassy of Ireland in Uganda, Trocaire, an Irish charity and Travelcare, one of Uganda's leading tour and travel management companies owned by an Irish investor.

According to the leadership of Vision Group, the coming on board of the three partners drastically raised the project profile both locally and internationally.

Since then, a total of 96 teachers have been recognised and up to 53 sponsored for Continuous Professional Development (CPD) programmes in Ireland as part of the prize. Twelve of the 53 winners were sponsored by the Office of the First Lady.

"We realised that while other people were being celebrated, the teachers remained unsung heroes. When *New Vision* came out with the idea of celebrating the teachers who were making a difference with the available resources they have, we got partners like the Irish Embassy, Trocaire and Travelcare and decided to celebrate Ugandan teachers," Miria said.



Manager special projects at Vision Group, Sydney Miria

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION INVOLVED

The participation of the education ministry in the last three trips (2022, 2024 and 2025) was unique because officials from the Ministry of Education and Sports participated.

This added great value to the project in that the ministry officials raised the level of intellectual engagement with the teams in Ireland. It also provided an opportunity for them to report firsthand their experiences to the ministry in Kampala.

SEVENTY TEACHERS PROFILED

Between June and September, Vision Group profiled 70 outstanding teachers across Uganda on its digital broadcast and print media platforms. For the second year running, this year's edition included a special category, the Most Progressive Teachers Making a Difference alumni.

In this category, Miria said the project honours three past winners who have continued to innovate, inspire learners and transform their communities long after their initial recognition.

Teachers Making a Difference is part of the Ugandans Making a Difference (UMD) project initiated by Vision Group in April 2008.

"Feedback from all the teams that travelled to Ireland is that the trip is very informative and beneficial to both their schools and their own professional development. They all recommend that the project should continue."

PAST WINNERS ENGAGED

To encourage continuous innovation, past winners of the Teachers Making A Difference were also assessed to find those, who have made the most progress in implementing the lessons learnt. The alumni were requested to make submissions on the implementation of the ideas they acquired from the CPD programmes in Ireland or on improvements they have

made since winning the awards.

A team of *New Vision* journalists went to the ground to verify the information and the most deserving alumni were profiled in *New Vision*.

An independent jury of eminent educationists evaluated the ideas and the three most impressive alumni were selected for recognition.

"It was discovered that Alumni have improved performance and we hope that this experience makes them better teachers and raises a better generation for Uganda," Miria said.

The function will be live on Bukedde TV and sister TV stations and also streamed live on the Vision Digital Experience.