



BUSITEMA UNIVERSITY Celebrates 10 Years of existence



THEME: Busitema at 10: taking stock of contribution social, economic transformation and sustainable development

As Busitema University celebrates 10 Years of existence, coincides with 8 graduation ceremony scheduled to take place tomorrow Tuesday 3rd, 2017, Fred Wambede & Joseph Omollo interviewed the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mary J.N.Okwakol on the achievements and future plans of institution.

QN: When was Busitema University established?

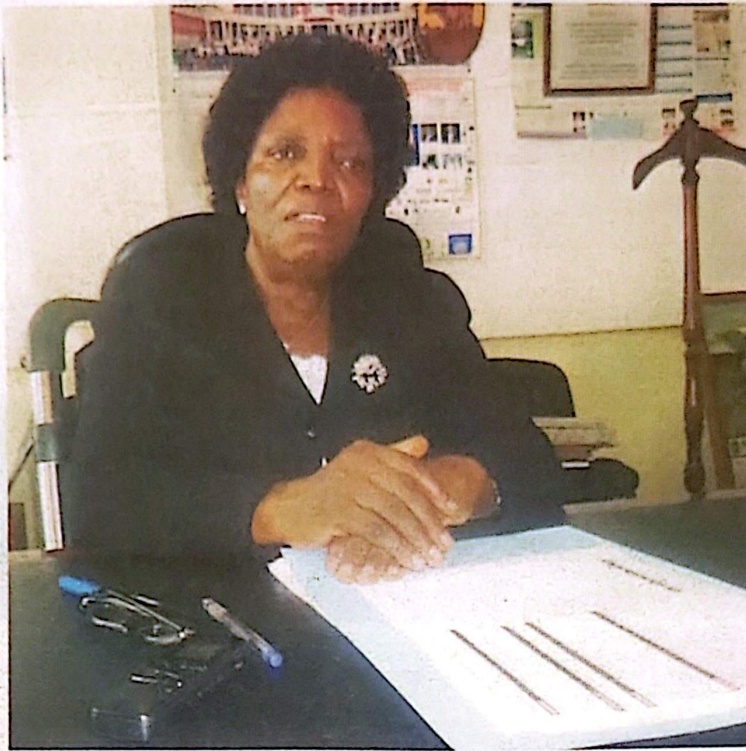
ANS: Busitema University was established in 2007 as a multi public University but the idea was hatched way back in 1989 by the Kajubi education review commission that recommended to government of Uganda that there was great need to establishing public Universities in every region of the country to ensure equitable access to higher education. In 2007, the National council for Higher Education (NCHE) approved the establishment of Busitema University as a public University.

QN: How many students did the University start with and campuses?

ANS: The University opened its gates on 3rd October, 2007, with a total of 153 pioneer students with two campuses. One of the campuses was Busitema, which houses the faculty of Engineering. And the other was Nagongera Campus, which runs the faculty of Science Education.

QN: How many campuses does the institution have since it was established

ANS: The University has six operational campuses running different and unique academic programs. For example Busitema campus runs faculty of Engineering, Nagongera campus runs faculty of Science and Education, Namasagali campus runs faculty of Natural Resources and Environmental sciences, Pallisa campus runs faculty of



Prof. Mary J.N.Okwakol the University Vice Chancelor during an interview with daily monitor publication in her Office. Photo by Joseph Omollo

Management sciences, Mbale campus runs faculty of Health sciences while Arapai campus runs faculty of Agriculture and Animal sciences.

QN: What is the vision of the University in the education sector?

ANS: The vision of the institution is to become a centre of academic and professional excellence in science, technology and innovation. The founders had in mind that the University will and shall provide high standard training to its students.

QN: What are the core priorities of the University?

ANS: The University focuses

teaching and learning, research, community engagement and technology transfer, physical infrastructure development mainly teaching facilities, integration of ICT across the activities of the University, Sports development, Staff development, maximizing organizational efficiency and increasing the visibility of the institution.

QN: How is the University unique from other higher institutions of learning?

ANS: Of course, this University has positioned itself as one of the institutions with potential to assertively contribute to socio economic transformation and address problems of national, regional and global among which are, excellent



The ongoing construction of laboratory and lecture blocks for faculty of Engineering by PRISMA UG.Ltd



BUSITEMA UNIVERSITY

Celebrates 10 Years of existence



The University Lib. constructed under ADB project by PRISMA UG.Ltd

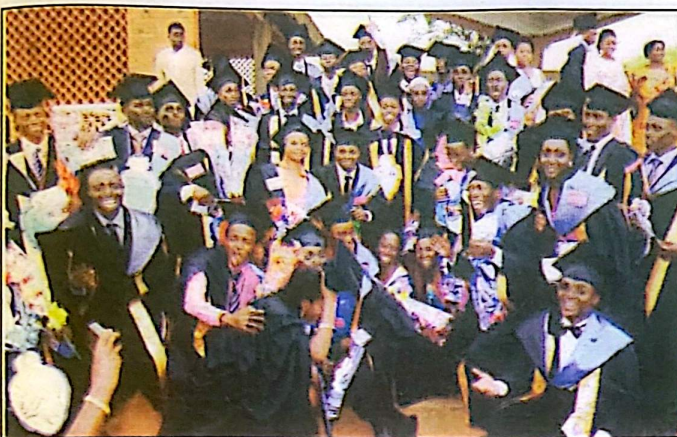
significance through embracing new, unique and relevant academic programs, equipping students with knowledge and appropriate skills, seeking partnership in order to have recognition nationally and internationally. And our focus is different from other public Universities because we focus on science and technology knowledge transfer through promoting practical sciences, relevant technology, productive education and innovation for sustainable development.

QN: When did the University hold its first graduation ceremony?

ANS: The University first held its first graduation ceremony in 2010, with forty three (43) graduates of Bachelor of Science Education and 2 awardees of Diplomas in Ginning Engineering. During the same ceremony, 259 Diploma and 242 certificate students of the former National College of Agriculture Mechanization received their awards.

QN: As the University celebrates 10 years of excellence, what are the some of achievements you have registered so far?

ANS: Busitema University has been ranked among the top



Reason to Celebrate: Graduands jubilating at the Graduation Ceremony at Busitema University

100 Universities in Africa at the position of 79 by the Web Metrics and ranked number two (after Makerere University) in Uganda. In 2013, the University was recognized and given an award by the Uganda Responsible Award as the second best Public University in Uganda. The University was recognized for promoting and upholding International best practices and for its contribution towards the attainment of the UN Millennium Development goals in Uganda by Uganda Responsible Investments [URI]. The University also hosted the launch of the African Development Bank HEST project presided by the Vice President Edward Kwanuka Ssekandi. The project's

Technology and business innovation and incubation centre (TBIIIC) which focuses on innovation and product development and promotes commercialization of knowledge. The University also has plans to operationalizing of Busitema University holding company; Establish an Industrial park with the support of Uganda Investment Authority, Commercializing of Arapai campus Farm and putting up a regional science Park and Technology Incubation Centre with support of the National Council for Science and Technology. We also want to establish a textile production training unit with support of Government of Uganda and a nutrition, maternal



Busitema campus administration block

main aim is to improve equitable access to science and technology training and research and improving science, technology and innovation (STI) programs in the six Public Universities. In October, 2015, the University also held its sixth graduation ceremony, with a total of 1,148 graduates, including the first graduates of Bachelor of Science in water resource engineering in the country.

QN: What are your future plans as far as the University is concerned?

ANS: The University is in its final stages of establishing a

and child health centre and above all construct a signature main building. We also have plans to implement the Marine programmes at Namsagali campus and the commercializing of ginnyery and construction of a textile mill to accelerate innovation through utilization of textile materials for sustainable products, Implementation of Phd programmes mainly in Agro-Technology, Irrigation, and Child and Maternal health, Climate Change and Disaster Management, among others.