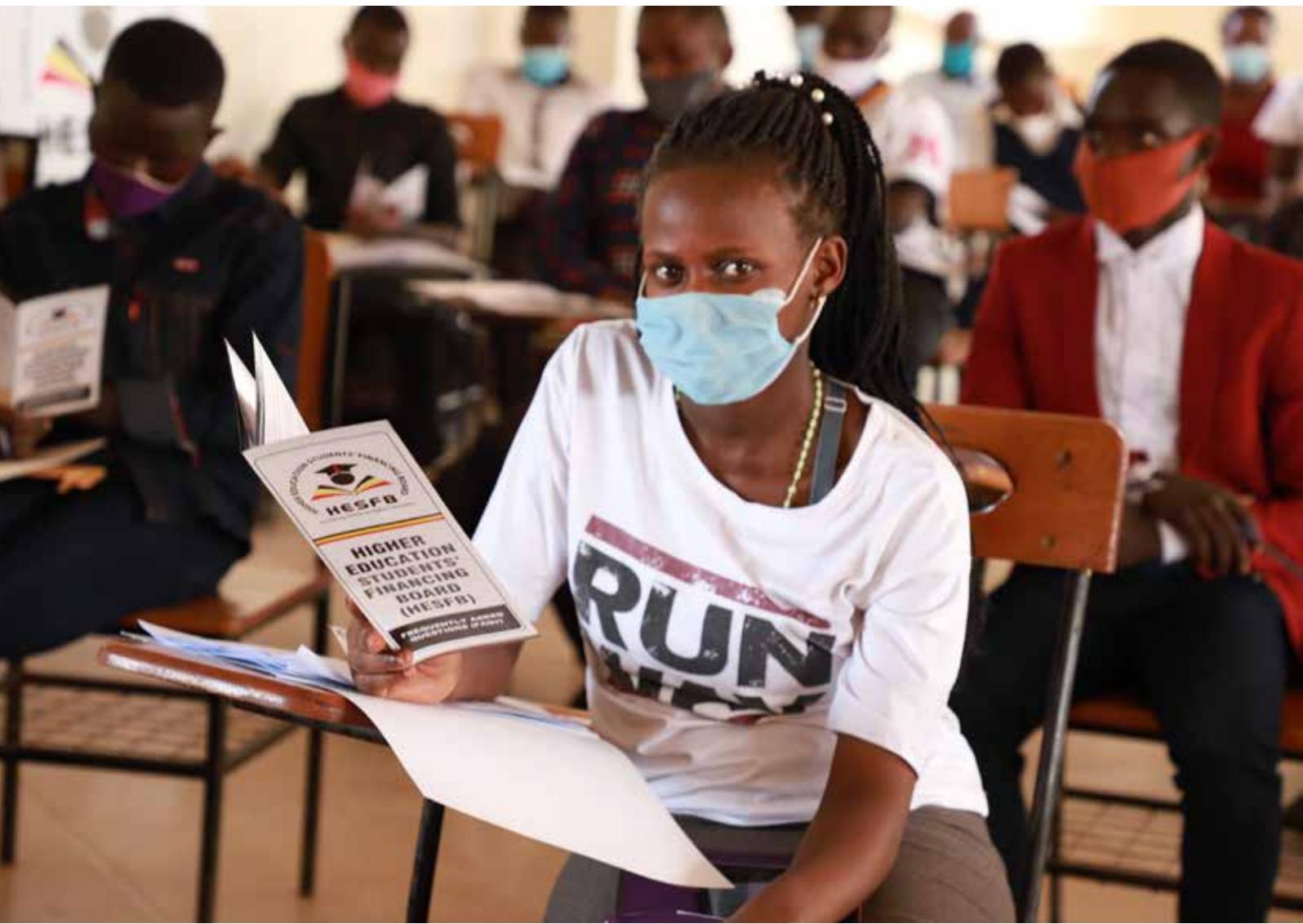


Students' Loan Scheme in 2020

■ Navigating the
Covid-19
Pandemic

■ ISBAT, ABU join
Loan Scheme

■ First Lady wants
rewards for
Repayments



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Ms. Chesang Ivy a fourth year student under the Students' Loan Scheme, offering a Bachelors of Medicine and Bachelors of Surgery at **Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Mbarara.**



What a Year!



Bob Nuwagira, Editor in Chief

2020 will go down as a year to remember. The Corona Virus pandemic took the whole world by surprise. Characterized by lockdowns to combat the spread, it became an act of individual responsibility to stay home and stay safe.

The public service shut down too, often with trimmed staff but also limited to only essential services. All the 15 Million Ugandans in schools and Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) were sent home. With no end in sight, we had to reconstitute a new normal.

Information Communications and Technology became the new platform with which we could circumvent movement restrictions and curfews. Education took the same course. Thankfully, with the Integrated Loan Management Information System (ILMIS) we had capacity to ensure business continuity in the loan application and process system. Loan Scheme Beneficiaries though disrupted in some processes could still access our services as education institution commenced long distance learning.

We are determined to offer continuity of our operations despite the pandemic disruptions. We are and still will work to ensure equitable access to Higher Education.

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2020, A Year Like No Other!



CPA Michael Wanyama
Executive Director

Welcome to the 3rd edition of the HESFB official Newsletter. The Board like other Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies has had unprecedented times that require unprecedented measures to stay afloat during the COVID-19 pandemic that impacted on all of us.

Following the Government directive to close public offices save for essential services, the Board closed the office as a measure to protect our employees, our customers and the vulnerable populations who rely on our services.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continued to ravage globally, we made priority, the physical and mental well-being of everyone we work. We ensured that a few critical staff were physically present to serve the customers while majority of staff were enabled to work from home.

We realized that in such an uncertain season, our clients needed absolute assurance that we shall continue funding their education even when Tertiary Institution have gone virtual.

We had to ensure that there was consistent communication with all parties – the Board members; employees, Students, Ministry Staff and Higher Education Institutions The new normal required us to adjust and tighten our belts. The Government standard operating procedures were observed to the letter. Employees were reminded to maintain adequate social distancing and wear masks throughout the day. The same requirements were given to all our clients.

We are utilizing virtual meeting technologies for most of our meetings and staggering the number of employees in the building and in common areas. Our list of protective measures grows daily, and we are constantly asking ourselves what else we can do to keep our Board members, employees, other Stakeholders and their families healthy and safe.

With the current health crisis changing norms, work-life balance is no longer a binary concept, but one that has evolved into a challenging confluence of needs between work, home, and family, all under one roof. As a Team leader in this new paradigm, it's important to provide employees with flexibility in how and when their work gets done, and trust and empower them to find the right life balance in these trying times.

I must say we have achieved great strides in ensuring safety of staff. Our catchword has been “take care of yourself so you can take care of others and we will get through this together.” I knew it was essential that we put the health and safety of our customers and employees at the forefront.

We can't control how these events will turn out, or when this will all come to an end soon, but we are confident that “this too shall pass.” Of course a few people are beginning to behave as if there is no more COVID, but we have remained resolute on observance of the standard operating guidelines.

I am very appreciative of the innovative work and dedicated commitment our Board members and employees' exhibit on a daily basis while serving our clients. During this period, employees have engaged our clients to reassure them of the continuity of their studies and many learners who were beginning to lose hope having stayed home for unpredictable period of time are breathing a sigh of relief. In a crisis, it's easy to panic and throw out your game plan. My advice has been to avoid that temptation and remain focused on achieving your dreams.

I wish to thank the Board for the tireless efforts in ensuring that our strategic direction is on course. I equally thank the Political leadership of the Ministry for the continued guidance and support offered to the Board. Many thanks to PS Ministry of Education and Sports and your able team. We couldn't have pulled through without your able leadership. To the staff, I say aluta continua.

I proudly congratulate the editorial team for yet another great milestone of this publication amidst the challenges highlighted above.

I say all this For God and My Country

HESFB in 2020 – A Wrap!

The Students' Loan Scheme in the Times of Corona Virus.

By **Bob Nuwagira**
Senior Communications Officer



A HESFB Staff attending to a Loan Scheme Beneficiary recently

Colombian Nobel prize winning author Gabriel García Márquez in 1985 published the highly acclaimed Novel, 'Love in the Time of Cholera', chronologising a blossoming love story between the main characters Florentino Ariza and Fermina Daza in the midst of calamity and strife due to a cholera outbreak and civil wars in a Colombian port city.

In the year 2020, the world was confronted with an unmatched and unprecedented challenge with the Corona (COVID - 19) Virus. The whole world locked down and the key pillars of the normal life and social interactions including education were greatly interrupted.

When the World health Organization (WHO) declared Covid-19 a global pandemic, airports were closed, schools and Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) shut, confining everyone to their homes.

Days turned to months before we could come to the reality that life had to happen in amidst the pandemic. Gabriel García Márquez's script was being re-written in the 21st century. Life in 2020 heavily defined by the COVID-19 pandemic and characterised by global social and economic disruption could easily be the rendition of the classic, Love in the Time of Cholera.

Education in the time of COVID-19.

The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic caused a major crisis in the education sector in Uganda, given that there are over 15 million learners enrolled in the education system and approximately 600,000 more children attend schools in the refugee settlements.

In a bid to reduce the risk of posed by the pandemic to Ugandan learners, in March 2020 the President of the Republic of Uganda

announced the closure of all schools and educational institutions resulting in the closure of more than 73,000 schools and institutions affecting more than 15,000,000 children and youth in primary and secondary schools, Universities and other tertiary institutions in Uganda and 548,000 teachers.

Loan Scheme Business Affected.

The operations of the Students' Loan Scheme were affected with several activities including regional sensitisation engagements targeting districts with lower enrolment levels, stakeholder engagement initiatives involving the Board and HEIs, employers, legislators and other partners. These affected the key business in lending and recovery.

Tuition Fees Paid.

While HESFB pays students' tuition every semester, the closure of universities and Other Tertiary Institutions (OTIs) proved a challenge for both parties. The established procedure where the students and HEIs invoice HESFB for tuition payments with students' progress reports was halted. Some institutions like Uganda Christian University (UCU) with a dynamic online system though continued with online studies.

Partial resumption of these activities came when Government opened up the teaching of the final year medical students in Universities and OTIs and later the resumption of studies for all the final year students.

Extension and Extensions of Student Loan Application.

The Students' Loan Application process is traditionally initiated after the release of the Uganda National Examinations Board (UNEB) and Uganda Business and Technical Examinations Board (UBTEB) results. This is because the Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education (UACE) issued by UNEB and



HESFB's Juma Katende undergoing temperature check at HESFB Offices. The Board across its operations adopted a set of SOPs to follow to prevent Covid-19 spread.

increase given that 238 successfully applied online in the Academic Year 2019/20.

Virtual Conferences.

HESFB fully embraced offering services to our clients in a virtual setting. All our customer service operations were conducted virtually. At the onset of the pandemic, clients were encouraged to use our phone contacts, email and our interactive social media platforms.

other baseline certificates issued by UBTEB and other awarding bodies like the Uganda Nurses and Midwives Examinations Board (UNMEB) and the Uganda Allied Health examinations Board (UAHEB) form the elementary application to join HEIs. This also follows the opening of the applications season by HEIs.

In the year 2020, with normal life interrupted by the lockdown, most HEIs staggered in advertising for applications with most offering numerous extensions. This affected our initial Loan Application window from May to July 31st, 2020 and the Board subsequently offered two more extensions up to August 31st and later September 30th, 2020 for Un-

dergraduate Degree applicants and October 15th, 2020 for Undergraduate Diploma applicants.

With these disruptions, the release of the Beneficiaries list was pushed to December 15th, 2020.

Promoting Online Applications.

The need for social distancing enhanced our drive for the entire application process to be virtual. The Board has been in a transitional journey to establish an all online application process. The challenges of transport and the partial lockdown in most regions in the country, especially the boarder districts enhanced this plan.

Out Of the 5,537 who applied to the Loan Scheme, 4,063 made an attempt to apply online. This makes it to 73%. Of the 4,063 who attempted online applications, 415 successfully applied. This shows a significant

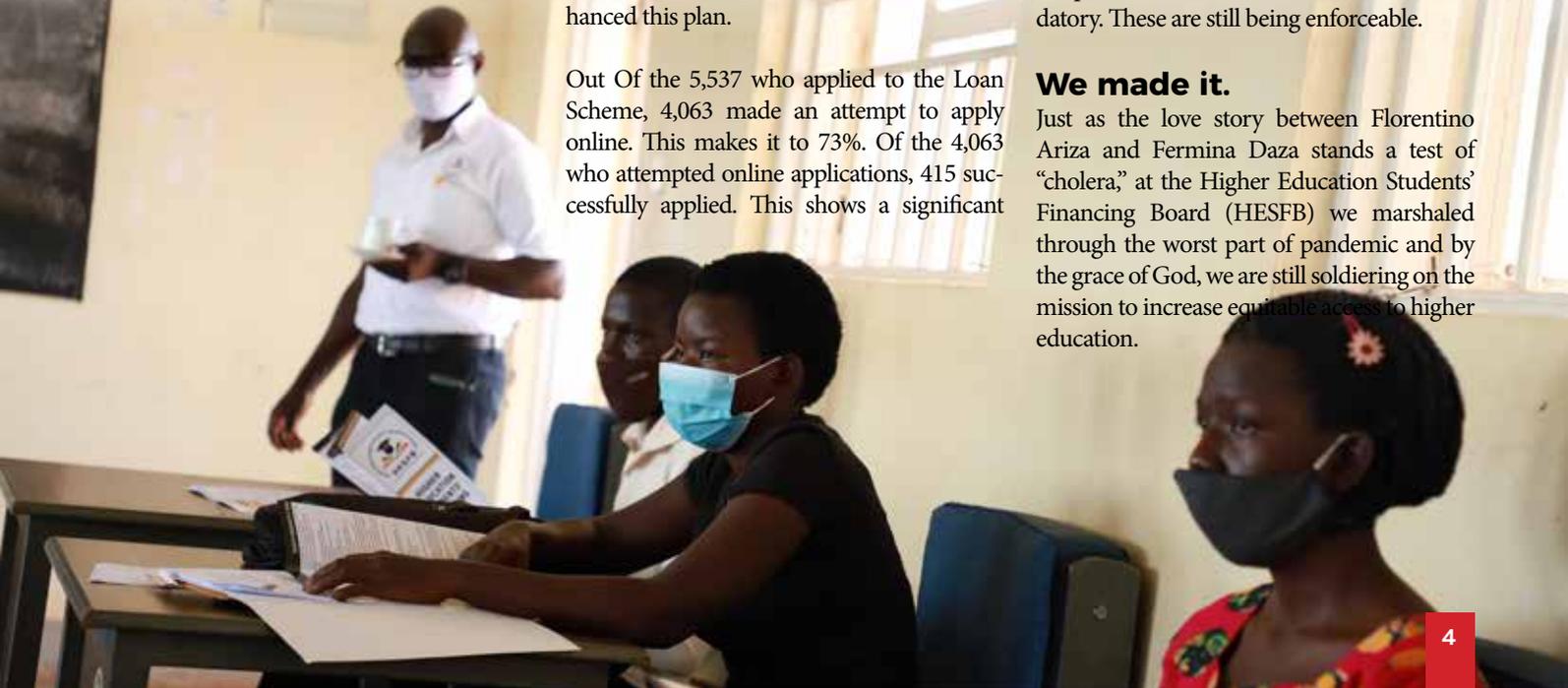
During and after the application season, HESFB staff engaged followers on the application process and ran awareness campaigns on Facebook and Twitter with impressions often exceeding 200,000.

HESFB Covid-19 Preventative Measures.

With the spread intensifying, The Board passed a raft of measures to protect the staff and other essential clients from the pandemic, enforcing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) within HESFB offices and throughout the other activities. Social distancing, wearing of masks, sanitizing and measuring temperature of staff and clients became mandatory. These are still being enforceable.

We made it.

Just as the love story between Florentino Ariza and Fermina Daza stands a test of "cholera," at the Higher Education Students' Financing Board (HESFB) we marshaled through the worst part of pandemic and by the grace of God, we are still soldiering on the mission to increase equitable access to higher education.



Reward those Repaying Diligently Hon. Janet Museveni.



The Minister of Education and Sports, Hon. Janet Kataaha Museveni (center) with other members of the Political and Technical leaders from the Ministry of Education and Sports after a meeting with Members and Staff of HESFB at State House Entebbe. In the front row (Left to Right) is the HESFB ED, Mr. Michael Wanyama, Chairperson Board of Directors, HESFB, Rev. Fr. Prof Callisto Loceng AJ (PhD), Hon. Dr. John Chrysestom Musingo, the State Minister for Higher Education. Right; Hon Denis Hamson Obua the State Minister for Sports and Dr. Alex Kakooza, the Permanent Secretary.

By Bob Nuwagira
Senior Communications Officer

The First Lady/Minister of Education and Sports, Hon. Janet Kataaha Museveni has called for rewards and recognitions to be made to students who endeavor to clear their students' loan before the end of their grace period.

The First Lady made these remarks while interacting with Ministry of Education and Sports officials, Members of the Board of Directors (BoD) and senior management staff from the Higher Education Students' Financing Board (HESFB) at State House Nakasero on August 13th, 2020.

"I am happy to learn that 12 students have completed paying their student loans way before their stipulated repayment period and many others are on course with their payments," said Hon. Janet Museveni.

"Recognizing and rewarding their efforts will encourage many others to start and remain diligent with their repayments which is what we need for the revolving fund to fully operate."

The meeting which was organized as an update by the Board to the political leadership of the Ministry of Education and Sports was also attended by officials from the Ministry led by Mr. Alex Kakooza the Permanent Secretary and Dr. Jane Egau, the Director, Higher Technical and Vocational Education and Training (HTVET) among others.

In the meeting, Rev. Fr. Prof Callisto Loceng AJ (PhD), the Chairperson Board of Directors, HESFB updated the political and technical leadership about the key achievements of the FY2019/20 including the Board's affirmative action initiative, loan recovery efforts and targets for the FY2020/21, among others.

The State Minister for Higher Education, Hon. Dr. John Chrysestom Musingo also applauded the Board for having reached the 10,000 students loan beneficiaries milestone and chal-

lenged the Board to strategize and expand the support the Scheme offers to include the welfare aspects for students from high poverty backgrounds. The meeting was also attended by the State Minister for Sports, Hon. Denis Hamson Obua.



Hon. Janet Museveni interacting with the Chairperson Board of Directors, HESFB, Rev. Fr. Prof Callisto Loceng AJ (PhD) and HESFB ED, Mr. Michael Wanyama at State House.

ISBAT, Africa Bible University Chartered.

By HESFB News Reporter

The International Business, Science And Technology University (ISBAT University) and the African Bible University (ABU) joined the list of elite private universities in Uganda after they had been granted their Charter certificates by the National Council for Higher Education (NCHE) in November 2020.

According to Prof. Mary Okwakol, the NCHE Executive Director, only the two universities out of the expected 33 were able to successfully submit all requirements for the application of the Charter. According to the NCHE, a Charter is granted to Universities who possess a Provisional License for a minimum of three years (3) and would have satisfied all the conditions set during their time of licensing.

In January, NCHE said that over 30 Universities were operating on provisional licences but 26 of these were operating with expired licences. The latter were threatened with closure if they didn't improve standards.

ISBAT Promoting Information Technology.

According to their website, ISBAT was founded in 2005 and was issued a provisional license by NCHE in 2013 as a "Private Other Degree Awarding Institution" and was accredited in 2016 as the International Business, Science and Technology University (ISBAT University). It offers programmes in business, information technology and multi-media.

The University Chancellor, Hon. Fred Omach applauded President Yoweri Museveni for granting a charter status to ISBAT University and pledged to maintain and pursue excellent standards so as to ensure quality education to the graduates.

ABU fronts Biblical Studies

African Bible University (ABU) is a private Christian university founded and owned by African Bible Colleges with the objective of "offering quality, university-level education with a Christian emphasis to the people of East Africa."

Located on Lubowa Hill, on the Kampala – Entebbe Road, ABU offers a four-year program that includes both Theological Courses as well as Core Curriculum Courses.

Charter a sign of Quality Education

Prof. Mary Okwakol in her address, emphasized that a charter is one of the accolades an institution should attain for provision of quality and competitive education services compared to what other institutions avail to students. "The charter license will be renewed every five years. I implore you to distinguish yourself from other teaching institutions, and offer distinguished education services," she said.

Universities With Charters

1. Makerere university.
2. Kyambogo university.
3. Kabale University.
4. Gulu University.
5. Muni University.
6. ISBAT

7. KIU
8. Kampala University (KU)
9. Bishop Stuart University
10. Nkozi University
11. Uganda Christian University
12. Ndejje University.
13. Bugema University.
14. Mountains of the Moon University.
15. African Bible University
16. MUST
17. Lira University
18. Soroti University
19. Islamic University in Uganda.

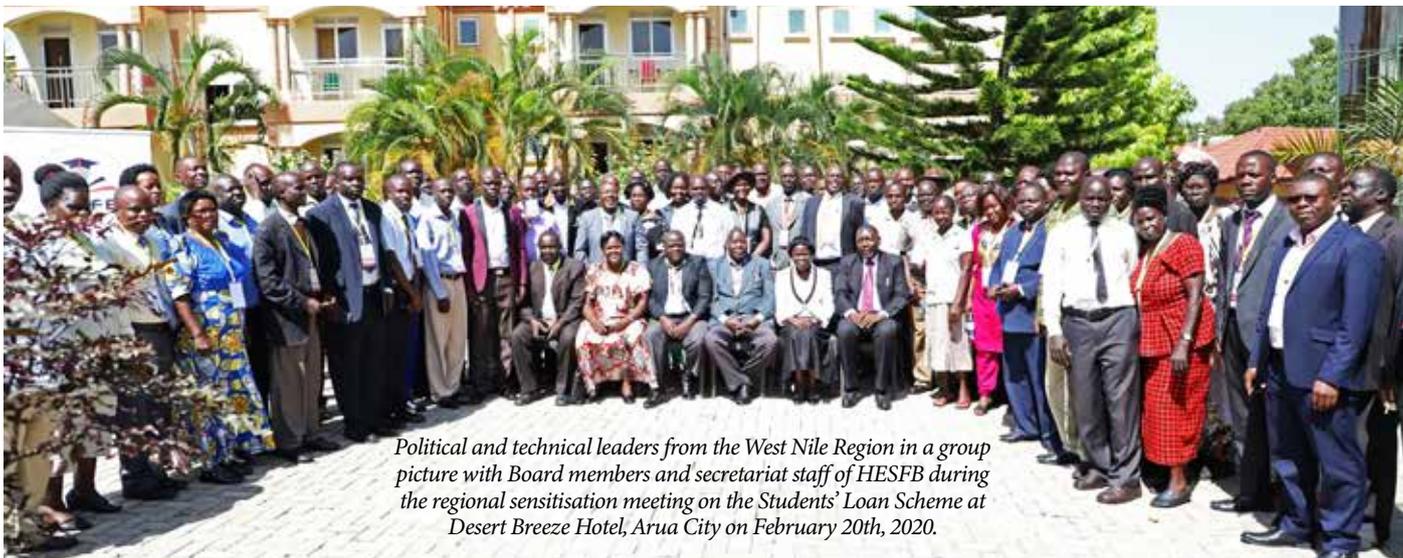
With provisional licences

1. Africa Renewal University 2013
2. African Rural University 2011
3. Ankole Western University 2008
4. Avance International University 2016
5. Cavendish University 2018
6. Clarke International University 2008
7. Ibanda University 2014
8. International University of EA 2010
9. Islamic Call University College 2011
10. Kayiwa International University 2015
11. Kumi University 2004
12. Livingstone International University
13. Metropolitan International University 2011
14. Muteesa I Royal University 2007
15. Nile University 2018
16. Nsaka University 2013
17. St. Lawrence University 2007
18. Uganda Pentecostal University 2005
19. University of Kisubi 2009



West Nile Leaders make commitments to Increase Enrollment

By David Walekhwa
Senior Recoveries Officer, HESFB



Political and technical leaders from the West Nile Region in a group picture with Board members and secretariat staff of HESFB during the regional sensitisation meeting on the Students' Loan Scheme at Desert Breeze Hotel, Arua City on February 20th, 2020.

Leaders from the West Nile region have committed to intensify the sensitisation of the communities about the Students' Loan Scheme using gatherings like churches, political rallies, burials, and other social functions as some of the strategies to increase the numbers enrolling to the Students' Financing Scheme from the region.

Resident District Commissioners (RDCs) also pledged ample airtime on Local radio stations to carryout sensitizations about the opportunities under the Students' Financing Scheme.

These deliberations were reached at a sensitization workshop on Higher Education Students Financing scheme to West Nile leaders from the districts of Pakwach, Nebbi, Zombo, Arua, Maracha, Madi-Okolo, Yumbe, Koboko, Adjumani and Moyo. The meeting was attended by among others RDCs, Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs),

District Chairpersons, District Education Officers, inspector of schools and heads of participating tertiary institutions and secondary schools.

Prof. Christine Dranzoa, the Vice Chancellor, Muni University in Arua appealed to the local Government leaders to vastly publicize the student loan scheme to both parents and students to apply for the government funding imploring that this was an opportunity for the development of the area.

"There is a great need for collective efforts to see that many Ugandans access higher education without which only blocks economic and social development."

Prof. Dranzoa who also doubles as the Chairperson of the Loans and Scholarships Committee at HESFB, expressed dissatisfaction that enrollment from the region had been consistently low and yet

local government leaders have platforms for social engagements could use them to mobilise more to benefit from the Scheme.

Mr. Nahori Oya, the Arua District RDC asked the Board to open up regional centres where information could easily be dispensed and requested for a special status for the West Nile region.

The Executive Director, HESFB, Mr. Michael Wanyama said that apart from the Board establishing an affirmative action where applicants who hail from the greater northern region are offered extra points at consideration, the 21st sitting of the HESFB Board of Directors set aside 100 extra slots for Northern Uganda Districts that includes the West Nile region.

Among the challenges presented, education officers decried the lack of equipped laboratories to enhance the study of sciences in schools and shortage of science teachers which had led to many students shying away from science subjects.

The Maracha District RDC, Ms. Cherop Esther urged the leaders to support Government programs like the Loan Scheme in order to transform their communities and leave a legacy in their communities.

The West Nile meeting was the third in a series aimed at increasing student enrolment to the Loan scheme from the Greater Northern region following the meeting in Moroto for the Karamoja region and Gulu for the Acholi and Langi region in 2019.



News Briefs

1,451 to Start Loan Repayment.



Mr. Timothy Makokha, the Recoveries Manager at HESFB interacting with Loanees while signing their Loan repayment commencement letters in Lira City.

At the end of June 2020, 1,451 former beneficiaries under the Students' Loan Scheme completed their grace period and will start a process of remitting back the fund. According to Mr. David Walekhwa, the HESFB Senior Recoveries Officer, these include those who were undertaking five year courses and joined in 2014, four-year programmes and joined in 2015 and Three-year courses and joined in 2016. They also include those who undertook two-year Diploma programmes that joined in 2017.

"This is the second batch to enter the repayment phase following the 1,647 whose repayment process kicked off in July 2019 taking the number of those repaying to 3,098 with their entire portfolio at UgShs 32Billion," Walekhwa noted.

According to Section (3) of the Higher Education Students' Financing Act, 2014, a person who has received a student loan shall start repaying the loan with the specified interest at least one year after completing the higher education for which the loan was given. This provision further states that repayment will happen whether the person is employed or not.

Mr. Walekhwa also establishes that the HESFB Credit Manual 2015 provides Loanees up to twice their study periods to pay back this loan and will have between 10 to 12 years to clear the credit.

The Higher Education Students' Financing Board (HESFB) on November 23rd, 2020 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ISBAT University with the latter joining as the 21st University onto the Students' Loan Scheme.

During the launch ceremony, the Executive Director, HESFB, Mr. Wanyama Michael said that the signing of the MoU was a start of a long relationship with ISBAT where the Board would be financing needy students who cannot afford to finance themselves.

Mr. Bbosa Kizito, the Loans and Scholarships Manager at HESFB clarified that the MoU states the obligation of the parties with the University agreeing to host and offer services to students under the Scheme including affirming their loan amounts, invoicing for their payments and furnishing the Board with students' progress reports among others.

The Board under the MoU is to furnish the University with a list of successful loan and scholarship beneficiaries together with the amounts awarded and disburse the loan or scholarship award directly to the university through a payment mode agreed upon by the parties, among others.

The ISBAT University Vice chancellor, Prof Mathew K. Mathai welcomed Government's support for needy students stating that the burden had been increased with the Corona Virus pandemic ravaging the economy.

The Government in 2014 set up a fund to finance students by way of study loans joining Higher Education Institutions in a bid to increase equitable access to higher education. According to Section (20) of the Higher Education Students' Financing Act, 2014, the scheme is only for Ugandan students seeking financial assistance to pursue an accredited course of study or programme of higher education in an accredited institution of higher learning recognized by the National Council for Higher Education.

ISBAT Joins the Students' Loan Scheme.



CPA Michael Wanyama (Left), Mr. Varghese Mundayattam (Center) - Chairperson ISBAT University and Prof. K.M. Matthew (Right) - Vice Chancellor ISBAT University after the signing of the MoU.

HESFB Develops a 3-Year Communications Strategy.

In May 2019, HESFB opened up the communications and public relations office to coordinate the public awareness activities of the Board and the Students' Loan Scheme, among other duties. With the guidance from the HESFB Strategic Plan 2017/2018 – 2019/2020, the Board hired the services of Vachi Communications Consultants to develop a 3-Year Communications and Awareness Strategy, identifying the key objectives as need to foster strategic relationships between HESFB and its stakeholders, increase stakeholders awareness of the HESFB products and services, and ensure customer satisfaction.

The Strategy which was completed and approved by the Board in March 2020 was deployed by the Board in July 2020 and will be evaluated twice in a three year period. The Communications and Public Awareness Strategy is expected, among others, to mobilise more partnership and resources for the Board while strengthening the impact of the HESFB in increasing access to higher education.



Members of the HESFB Board of Directors, Secretariat staff and ABS Consulting team in a group picture during a training in Corporate Governance at Imperial Botanical Beach Hotel Entebbe.



Loan Scheme Beneficiaries who pursue studies at Kampala International University - Western Campus at the Beneficiaries' headcount in February 2020.



Some of the Loan Scheme Beneficiaries who graduated at Ndejje University's 21st Graduation ceremony cut a cake with their families. HESFB ED, **Mr. Michael Wanyama** stands at the back. 101 Student Loan Scheme beneficiaries graduated in different disciplines.



A Loan Scheme Beneficiary taking a 'selfie' picture with HESFB's **Allison Nankunda** and Bishop Stuart University's **Irene Ayebazibwe** at BSU's 16th Graduation Ceremony.





Loan Scheme Beneficiaries who pursue studies at Kabale University attend one of the sensitization meetings with HESFB Staff. In the picture, the Senior Recoveries Officer, **Mr. Michael Kalibbala** (standing), facilitates a session.



Loan Scheme Beneficiaries pursuing a Bachelors of Medicine and Surgery at Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST). In the Pictures (Left to Right), **Busobozi John** (4th Year), **Ivy Chesang** (4th Year), **Adson Tumuhimbiise** (3rd Year) and **Elias Ampangana** (3rd Year).



A group picture of the members of the Association of African Higher Education Financing Agencies (AAHEFA) in Lusaka Zambia recently. That include the Loans, grants and scholarship Boards of Malawi, Ghana, Lesotho, Kenya, Zambia, Uganda, Tanzania and Rwanda. Uganda's **Michael Wanyama** is the Secretary General of AAHEFA.

HESFB Board of Directors inducted in Corporate Governance.

By Christopher Birungi
Finance and Administrative Manager, HESFB

The need to prevent corporate scandals and the desire to enhance the image of HESFB as a progressive corporate institution was among the reason the Higher Education Students Financing Board (HESFB) engaged the services of renowned consultancy firm, ABS Consulting Group to provide corporate governance training to the Board of Directors.

The two day training session conducted from 23rd to 24th January, 2020 at Imperial Botanical Beach Hotel in Entebbe also aimed at providing the knowledge and skills needed by the Board of Directors to improve the efficiency of HESFB and enhance their role of oversight and governance.

The Permanent Secretary (PS), Ministry of Education and Sports who officiated the opening of the training said that HESFB's business of awarding and recovering loans is a unique and requires one to ex-

ercise high levels of honesty and truthfulness. He implored all education sector satellite institutions to induct their Board members in corporate governance. The PS was represented by Mr. Muzamiru Mukwatampola, the Assistant Commissioner for Higher Education in the Ministry of Education and Sports.

Refresher training in good corporate governance, role of the Board in strategic planning, enhancing Board processes, risk management and Board evaluation and accountability among other themes were discussed in the two days exercise attended by all Board Members.

In his comments, the Chairperson HESFB Board of Directors, Rev. Fr. Prof. Callisto Loceng AJ (PhD) said that corporate governance ensures that organisations are run ethically and guide the operations of the Board.

“Institutions that implement good corpo-

rate governance practices drastically minimize risks of corruption and mismanagement because of their transparency and accountability,” Rev. Fr. Loceng noted.

The members of the HESFB also include Rev, Canon Dr. Alex Mugisha Kagume who represents the National Council for Higher Education (NCHE), Prof. Christine Dranzoa representing the Vice Chancellor's Forum and Mr. William Ndoleriire representing the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. Others are Mrs. Solome Luwagga who represents the Federation of Uganda Employers, Mr. Legesi Stephen Mwanika from the National Organisation of Trade Unions and Ms. Esther Kyozira who represents the National Union of Disabled Persons of Uganda (NUDIPU).

The training was also attended the HESFB Secretariat's Senior Management Team led by the Executive Director, CPA Michael Wanyama who also doubles as the Board Secretary.

HESFB THE BOARD MEMBERS



Rev. Fr. Prof. Callisto Locheng, A.J. (Ph.D)

BOARD CHAIRPERSON

Rev. Fr. Prof. Callisto Locheng, A.J., is the pioneer Board Chairperson and holds, HRC in Nairobi University, B.Ph., in Philosophy, P.Urbiana University, B.A. in Theology, M.A., in International Law and Relations from the University of the State of New York – USA and M.A., Ph.D from the Pontifical Gregorian University, ILC from the University of Perugia. He is an Educationalist and a Priest with National and International exposure. He is also an Associate Professor of Research.

Fr. Prof. Callisto Locheng A.J., taught at the Catholic University of East Africa from 2001-2010. He was also as member of the University Council for Seven years, member of the University Senate, Chairman University Doctoral Committee, Member of University admission Board, Dean of the Faculty and Head of Department, Member of the University Planning and Development Committee, Member of Academic programme design and revision, Member of Affiliations committee and member of the University Board. He also lectured in other nearby universities/ university Colleges and middle level colleges.

In 2011 Fr. Prof. Callisto Locheng A.J was requested and tasked by the Archbishop of Gulu to help in establishing the University of the Sacred Heart in Gulu where he now lectures. He also lectures Philosophy at Alokolum National Major Seminary.

Fr. Prof. Callisto Locheng A.J is a member of the Board of Consultors Gulu Archdiocese; External examiner at the A.J., University School of Philosophy; A.J University School of Theology; Catholic University of East Africa and Chairman Board of Governance of Lacor Minor Seminary in Gulu.



Mr. Legesi Stephen Mwanika
BOARD MEMBER

Mr. Mwanika is the Treasurer General, National Organization of Trade Unions and is the representative of the workers nominated on the Board of Directors. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Education from Ndejje University and a Diploma in Education (KYU).

Mr. Mwanika has specialization in Education Administration and Planning, Labour and Industrial Relations, Performance Management, monitoring and evaluation, Policy Planning, Professional governance, analysis and advocacy, strategic planning, including Financial Management of Union funds. He was a Secondary School Teacher at Kyambogo College School teaching Math and Physics.



Prof. Christine Dranzoa
BOARD MEMBER

Prof. Dranzoa is the Vice Chancellor of Muni University and the representative on the Board of Institutions of Higher Education nominated by the Vice Chancellors Forum. She is the Chairperson of the Loans and scholarship committee of the Board.

Prof. Dranzoa holds a B.Sc. in Zoology (MUK), a Master's of Science in Zoology, a Diploma in Modern Management and Administration from Cambridge Tutorial College and a PhD in Zoology (MUK).

She also holds various Certificates in; Conservation Genetics (MUK), Conservation Biology (University of Illinois, USA), Financial Management and Accounting for non-accountants, Project Planning and Management (UMI), Social Skills (Rockefeller Foundation-MUK), International Women's Leadership, New York and a Certificate in PhD Supervision.



Rev. Alex Dr. Mugisha Kagume
BOARD MEMBER

Rev. Alex Mugisha Kagume is the representative of the National Council for Higher Education on the Board. He is a member of the Finance and Administration Committee as well as Loans and Scholarship Committee.

Rev. Alex Mugisha Kagume is the Deputy Executive Director of National Council for Higher Education. He holds a Bachelor of Divinity (ATIEA - Kenya) and a Diploma in Theology (MUK), Post Graduate Diploma in Education (MUK) a Ph.D in Philosophy (University of Bristol, UK).

He holds a wealth of experience in the teaching and management of higher education. He is the founding Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs of Uganda Christian University and was a member of the first Council of National Council for Higher Education representing Senates of Private Universities.

He was a member of the Quality Assurance Committee of the Inter University Council of East Africa

He is a teacher by profession having taught in various Primary, Secondary and Tertiary institutions as well as lecturing in various Universities.



Ms. Esther Kyoziira
BOARD MEMBER

Ms. Kyoziira is the programme manager of National Union of Disabled Persons of Uganda (NUDIPU). She is the representative of Persons with Disabilities on the Board of Directors.

Ms. Kyoziira holds a Diploma in Law (LDC), Master of Arts in Human Rights, (MUK) and a Bachelor of Arts with Education (MUK). She was once a Project Coordinator - Uganda National Association of the Blind and a language teacher - Jinja Senior Secondary School.



Dr. Jane Egau Okou (PhD)
BOARD MEMBER

Dr. Jane Egau Okou is the acting Director of Higher, Technical, Vocational Education and Training (HTVET) at the Ministry of Education and Sports. She has a PhD in workforce Education and Development from Pennsylvania State University, a Master of Education (Economics of Education) and a Bachelors of Education (Business Education) from Makerere University.

She has served as a member of different Governing Councils including; Uganda Wildlife Research Training Institute (UWTI), Mulago School of Nursing and Midwifery, Mulago Paramedical School, Health Tutors College- Mulago and Jinja School of Nursing and Midwifery among others.

She is a Member of the UNESCO International Task Force on Teachers and a Member of the Education Sector Policy and Management Committee at the Ministry of Education and Sports among other responsibilities.



Mr. William Ndoleriire
BOARD MEMBER

Mr. Ndoleriire is the Assistant Commissioner/ Social Services Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. He represents the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development on the Board. He is the Chairperson of the Finance and administration committee of the Board.

Mr. Ndoleriire holds a Master's degree in Economic Policy Management (MUK), Post Graduate Diploma in Education (MUK) and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics (MUK).

Mr. Ndoleriire is the head of the Social Services unit of the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. He is a Policy Analyst and Oversees the preparation of the Sector Budget Framework papers, budget estimates and analysis of budget performance, appraises monitoring and evaluation of projects, coordinating the design and execution of the country programmes and prepares the development budget release.



Mrs. Solome Mayinja Luwaga
BOARD MEMBER

Mrs. Mayinja Luwaga is the representative on the Board of Directors of employers nominated by a recognized employers' umbrella association. She sits on the Loans and Scholarship committee. She is the Corporation Secretary, Statewide Insurance Company and Executive Council Member, Federation of Uganda Employers.

She is the Secretary, Executive Committee Uganda Insurers Association, a Partner at M/s. Luwaga & Nkalubo Advocates, and a founder Member of Justice and Advocacy for Women and Children in Uganda. She holds a Master of Arts in Human Rights (UMU-Nkozi), a Bachelors of Laws (MUK), and a Post Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice (LDC). She is also a Chartered Secretary ICSA (UK) and an Associate of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (UK).

She is a member of Uganda Law Society, Member East African Law Society, Member FIDA, Member of ISCA Uganda and Associate of the Insurance Institute of Uganda.



Students' Opinions on HESFB Governance Board very Important – Alfred Ongwen

Section (4) of the HESF Act, 2014 stipulates that the Board shall consist among other constituents, a representative of students nominated by a recognized umbrella students association. Alfred Ongwen's tenure on the Board as a students' representative ended in September 2019. Bob Nuwagira talked to him about his representation and below are excerpts from the inter-

2. When did you join the HESFB Board?

I joined HESFB on 6th September, 2018 and served for a year, up to the 6th of September, 2019.

3. What was your experience serving on the HESFB Board?

It was such an experience. Being the youngest Board member in the History of HESFB and having to work with distinguished senior citizens and persons of great responsibility was a very big learning experience. I learnt a lot to do with corporate governance, the relationship between the Board and the Secretariat, let alone the public.

We awarded loans to the beneficiaries of that academic year, a bench mark was made on loan recoveries which the Board discussed and recommendations were made for action, I think the loan recovery component of HESFB is now fully functional, we did numerous advocacy for increment in the fund and mobilization for grants and resources to activate the scholarship component too.

Being a Board member at HESFB is a voluntary service and yet very demanding. It was a pleasure serving my Country at that level even when I feel it was short-lived.

4. What is your general opinion on HESFB?

HESFB is one of the greatest initiatives that ever happened to our education sector as a Country. To-date, we have very many teachers, phar-

macists, engineers, doctors among very many other science professionals serving our Country who would never had got the opportunity had it not been for the Students' Loan Scheme Initiative. Equally the Country would have missed out on their service. Many more are still at school and very optimistic about the future. HESFB has touched many very lives positively and the country will benefit long term.

However, HESFB is still underfunded. By the time I left, the applications were increasingly overwhelming yet funding is fluctuating every year. Due to the increased publicity, the number of applicants has grown exponentially. HESFB can hardly award loans to even half of its applicants due to resource constrains, this in turn causes a public outcry due to the very many applicants that unfortunately miss out with many a times, the public (those who miss out) may think the selection process is subjective yet it's indeed a merit based automated process.

Access to higher education shouldn't be a privilege, thanks to government of Uganda for that initiative and especially that it considers courses that are fundamental to the Country's critical development plans.

5. What was your work as a students' representative?

I basically represented the student's perspective on the Board, made sure the students' voice was always put into consideration during all Board deliberations in consultation with UNSA.

Most of the work was collective effort as a Board with guidance from the necessary laws, we would guide the secretariat on their day-to-day activities in the implementation of the mandate of HESFB as per the Act.

1. Who is Alfred Ongwen?

Alfred Ongwen is 28 year old, young man with great passion for transforming societies. I hold a Bachelor's degree in Information Technology and a postgraduate Diploma in Criminology both of Mbarara University of Science and Technology. I have been a Student leader right from Primary school as Head Prefect through secondary and high school to the University as a Students leader in the Students Guild body and at National level at Ugandan National Students Association(UNSA), first as Secretary for National Affairs (2017), later as the National Speaker (2018) and then as Chairperson (2019). In 2018, I was nominated to represent students at HESFB as a member of the Board of Directors.

I am a passionate advocate of the Education for all principle. I believe that everyone deserves a chance to acquire an education because if somebody is denied education, they have been denied enlightenment and therefore denied almost all opportunities in life.



The Chairperson, HESFB Board of Directors, **Rev. Fr. Prof. Callisto Locheng A. J (PhD)** (4th right) with other members of the Board, handing over an award for excellent service to **Mr. Alfred Ongwen**, (4th Left) at the end of his service with the HESFB Board of Directors.

6. *In your own opinion, how important is the students' representative to the HESFB Board?*

The students hold the biggest stake in HESFB being that they're the 'raw material' and ultimately the 'final product' of HESFB. The students' opinion and experience is always very important to the Board at that policy level but also the principle of inclusion justifies the same.

7. *What is your experience interacting with Beneficiaries of the Students' Loan Scheme?*

It was a humbling experience. During my time at the Board I was a Student at Mbarara University of Science and Technology and there is this particular time I was at Campus and one student leaders who knew I sit on the Board approached me and said "... I just want to appreciate HESFB, I can testify that you're doing a great job, there are 3 students that applied for the loan scheme and indeed they needed it. I wanted to use them as a test whether your selection is always genuine and indeed when they were all awarded the loan I believed, thank you very much, those students are now at school...",

I felt a tear in my eyes because I too was a victim of tuition after my senior six and I know the joy that comes with finally finding a way to get an education amidst a lot of hopelessness. More importantly too is that such feedback was so touching. Generally, beneficiaries are always appreciative.

8. *What were some of your proposals and achievements while you served on the Board?*

We always achieved as team; Board members and the secretariat. In the time I served on the Board, we successfully awarded loans to the beneficiaries in time. In the previous years, students would have to report to their respective institutions without knowing the decision of the Board but this was usually as a result of the unstructured admissions calendar across higher education institutions.

The Board also launched and put to use an online loan application and processing system, the establishment of the communications office to boost the sensitization of the communities about HESFB and the activation of the loans recovery section are some of the achievements of the Board in 2019.

There has however always been a discrepancy between HESFB and UNSA on the tenure of the student representative to HESFB. Student leadership is changed after a year yet Board membership is for 4 years and the HESFB Act says one would cease being Board members if they cease to represent or if they're no longer members of the constituency they represented on the Board.

This would mean that for as long as the representative of students to the board is a student leader then this representative would have to change every year since their tenure at UNSA is only for one year and indeed that's why my span at the Board was one year. I therefore proposed an amendment in the law to either allow

the student representative to always go for the 4 year tenure on the Board regardless or give the Minister of Education and Sports powers to always appointment a new student representative to the Board as and when UNSA changes leadership.

This explains why up to now there is a lacuna on the Board, with no student representative yet. I hope one day my proposal sees light.

9. *Are there any policies that were not implemented in your time period that you regret?*

Yes, HESF Act needs to be implemented in its entirety. The law mandates HESFB to award both loans and scholarships but the scholarship component hasn't been fully implemented. Loans for postgraduate studies haven't yet been considered due to financial gaps and for the same reason loan beneficiaries do not get other things like final year research fee.

I hope moving forward funds will be available and all these are implemented. By the time I left there was a discussion on loans to continuing students. There is hope.

10. *What areas should the next students' representative focus?*

In addition to all other Board businesses, the next Students should focus of actualizing a better way of regular change of students' representatives to the Board to address that discrepancy between UNSA and HESFB as regards the tenure of office so as to address situations like the apparent gap on the Board.

HESFB to Sign MoU with International Scholarships Programme.

By HESFB News Reporter

The Higher Education Students' Financing Board (HESFB) and the Ashinaga Africa Initiative (AAI) are to sign a memorandum of Understanding which will include among others, modalities for sharing information, expert knowledge and implementation of outreach programmes to reach vulnerable students who wish to access higher education.

Ashinaga supports orphans who want to pursue higher education worldwide, through both practical and financial means. Ashinaga Africa Initiative, which is a scholarship and leadership programme supports talented students from across Sub-Saharan Africa who have lost one or both parents by providing fully funded university scholarships for undergraduate study in Japan, the U.K., Europe and the U.S.A. The AAI Scholarship beneficiaries are also admitted to on other programmes to secure top-quality in-

ternships and job opportunities across Sub Saharan Africa.

The agreements were reached during a meeting between Mr. Asuka Heltmann, the Program Coordinator, Ashinaga Uganda and the HESFB ED, CPA Michael Wanyama at the HESFB offices in Kampala. Mr. Asuka said that the vision for the AAI scholars is for them to become strong, progressive leaders and to contribute significant positive change on their return back to Uganda.

The meeting that was also attended by AAI's Uganda Programme Manager, Tae Kamikura and HESFB Senior Management team also resolved that HESFB and AAI share information and support each other in the execution of their related mandate since they all focusing on increasing access to higher education. After the agreement, HESFB will be sharing informa-

tion about the AAI scholarship programme across all platforms in order to present the opportunities to needy Ugandan students.

According to Ms. Kamikura, AAI offices are located in Yesu Amala, Nansana, a Wakiso Suburb where cohorts from across Africa are oriented and enrolled on a leadership programme before they are dispatched to their academic institutions.

Eligibility to the AAI programme includes applicants who have lost one or both parents completed secondary school and passed national secondary school examination within within two years of the application, were among the best performing students and are committed to return home or to Sub-Saharan Africa, and contribute to society after graduating from university.



HESFB ED, **CPA Michael Wanyama** (center) interacting with Ashinaga Uganda's **Tae Kamikura** and **Mr. Asuka Heltmann** at HESFB Offices.

Increase Funding to the Loan Scheme – Prof. Kamatenesi.



HESFB collaborates with higher education institutions (HEIs) to support beneficiaries of the Students' Loan Scheme to attain their higher education dreams especially with accredited STEM programmes. Bishop Stuart University (BSU) in Mbarara, has hosted over 400 Student Loan Scheme Beneficiaries since 2014 and in the AY2019/20 BSU took up more students on the scheme than any other Private University in Uganda.

In this edition, Bob Nuwagira interviewed Prof. Mauda Kamatenesi, the Vice Chancellor BSU on the University's relationship with HESFB.

1. **What is the relationship between Bishop Stuart University and HESFB?**

The relationship between Bishop Stuart University and HESFB is cordial. HESFB officials are always accorded a warm welcome at BSU. BSU cherishes and promotes this relationship for the benefit of our current and future students

2. **When did you start working together with "The Board"?**

BSU started working with HESFB in 2015 when we received the first students on the Students' Loan Scheme

3. **Is there any process of collaboration between Bishop Stuart University, HESFB and beneficiary student? How is this?**

BSU signed an MOU with HESFB on 16th April 2015 which is the basis for the collaboration. The students sign a Higher Education Students' Financing Agreement with HESFB and every semester they sign Subsequent Loan Application Forms (LAF) to which we attach their statements of results and an invoice for their tuition and other academic fees.

According to our MoU, Loan Scheme beneficiaries access all our services and to this we

invoice the Board which disburses the funds directly to the University accounts. This helps the students to access education uninterrupted.

4. **What is your student intake under the student's loan scheme every academic year?**

Our Student intake has been growing as more students every year choose the quality education we offer at BSU. The Pioneering cohort of the Academic Year 2015/16 was 50 Students and in the ensuing years, the numbers were lower.

When we increased the number of accredited science programmes in health sciences, Information Technology and Agriculture, the numbers increased tremendously and in the AY2018/19 we had 118 students and the AY2019/20, we had 184 students choosing BSU. In total, we have hosted over 500 Loan Scheme Beneficiaries.

5. **In the AY2019/20 BSU had the highest number of students under the Loan Scheme in private universities. Why do you think a big number of prospective Loan Beneficiaries are choosing Bishop Stuart University?**

Apart from Loan Scheme Beneficiaries, there is an increasing interest by applicants to study their higher education from BSU and this we attribute this to a number of factors which the University administration has been fostering.

BSU has appropriate infrastructure in place that facilitates teaching and learning such as lecture halls, equipped computer labs, well stocked library with a host of online resources and an agricultural demonstration farm and Agriculture incubation hubs which is helping us churn out quality graduates.

We have also ensured that we teach only National Council for Higher Education (NCHC) accredited academic programmes which are on demand in the job market including the health sciences and agriculture. We also currently have MoUs where our students offering programmes in agriculture have opportunities to go Israel and some European Union countries for internship.

BSU also carries out effective mobilization and sensitization of both parents and students in regard to the Students' Loan Scheme. We have offered to supplement the work of the Board in our community outreach programmes in local governments, churches, media and during career guidance sessions in schools, among others.

Finally, many parents choose BSU because of our Christian foundation as the institution founded by the Ankole Diocese. Christian values are emphasized and practiced and a recent tracer study established that our graduates are disciplined and hard working.

5. What has been your contribution in helping HESFB fulfill its mandate, but also to the beneficiaries?

Effective mobilization and sensitization of both parents and students as regards the loan scheme in communities, secondary schools and the media. We also offer accredited science academic programmes and having policies that respect the rights of students with disabilities. BSU organizes and facilitates meetings of loan beneficiaries with HESFB officials as and when need arises

6. What are some of the challenges encountered as an institution with operationalizing the student's loan scheme?

Our challenges have been most realized with our students in relation to our administrative

obligation as a host institution. Some of our students submit their requests for tuition late while others do not put in the hard work needed to perform and fail. Students usually struggle since the Loan Scheme does not pay for re-takes and repeats. We also have a big number of students who apply expecting to be supported under the Scheme but are not considered.

7. Many applicants decry the delay in releasing admission lists by HEIs which largely affects their success with the student's loan scheme application. As a Vice-Chancellor of Bishop Stuart University, what is your take and way forward to this?

Bishop Stuart University has always released admission lists in time which provides our prospective students sufficient time to apply for the loan scheme. This also partly explains why most loan applicants prefer BSU.

My appeal to other Higher Education Institutions is that we should not delay the release of admissions since it disadvantages students who wish to apply to funding opportunities.

8. What advice would you give to beneficiaries studying at Bishop Stuart University?

Students should adhere to HESFB's rules and regulations and put in much effort to perform to the expectation of the Board such that they are able to repay this loan and support another generation of Loan Scheme Beneficiaries.

9. Finally, what message would you extend to "The Board"?

Owing to the cost of university education in Uganda, BSU is so appreciative to HESFB for paying tuition for needy students who could not have accessed university education. As a host institution, we appeal to Government to increase funding to the Students Loan Scheme such that more needy students who drop out along the way after failing to pay for tuition can be helped.

We pledge to continue and promote our great working relationship with the Board while offering quality education for the students. Our God Reigns.



Loan Scheme Beneficiaries who graduated at Bishop Stuart University's 15th Graduation Ceremony cut cake with BSU's VC, **Prof. Mauda Kamatenesi**, Chancellor, the Rt. Rev. **Dr. Sheldon Mwesigwa** and HESFB Executive Director, CPA **Michael Wanyama**.



CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

preventive measures at HESFB



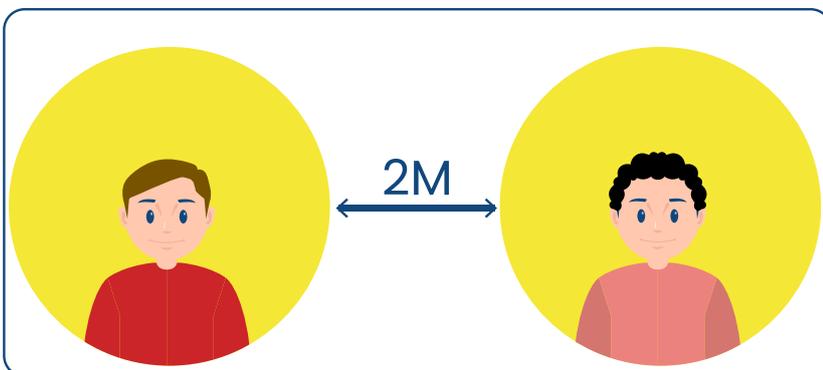
BODY TEMPERATURE
MUST BE BELOW 37.5°C



SANITIZE/ WASH HANDS
FREQUENTLY



WEAR YOUR MASK CORRECTLY



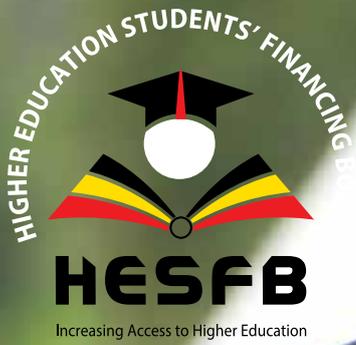
KEEP A SOCIAL DISTANCE



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