

# Kyambogo University gets first PhD graduates

By Betty Amamukirori

Micheal Bamuwanye and Samuel Gafuma are set to become the graduates with PhDs from Kyambogo University.

The duo will be graduating with PhDs in food technology tomorrow, during the university's 16th graduation ceremony.

Bamuwanye's thesis for the award of the PhD is on the health risks associated with metal exposure in roasted meat, drinking water and black tea.

He studied how the consumption of contaminated food and water contributes towards the cancer disease burden.

The study showed increased risk of cancer among regular consumers of food and water contaminated with heavy metals.

Gafuma's study, on the other hand, was on the influence of key chemical components on the hardness of indigenous bananas used for cooking and juicing.

His study found that starch caused the hardness in bananas both the cooked and juiced.

"This explains why when after cooking food, it hardens as it cools," he said. The study also found that bananas have a chemical component, pectin, that softens them when being cooked and acts as gum in raw bananas.

Pectin, he said, if added to the cooked bananas can keep it from hardening upon cooling.

"The more pectin you add to bananas the softer they become and when you remove it, the bananas become hard," he noted.

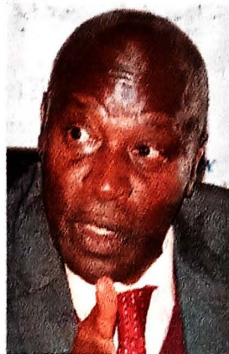
He said this study if taken into consideration will help banana processing industries to start canning or packaging freshly cooked bananas for sale and using the pectin to keep them soft and fresh.

"Processors are currently using bananas to make juice, wine and flour, but we can actually package freshly prepared bananas. All we have to do is control the texture by adding pectin," he said.

Speaking about the university's first PhDs, Prof. Elly Katunguka, the vice-chancellor, noted that this is a sign of maturity of an institution that started awarding degrees 15 years ago.

"It is not that we have not been having PhD graduates, but they have been graduating from other universities. These two are the first students to graduate from Kyambogo University following our introduction of PhD programmes four to five years ago," Prof. Katunguka said.

The faculty of science was the first to start offering PhD



Prof. Elly Katunguka

## BETWEEN THE LINES

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programmes in food science.

This was extended to physics, chemistry, religious studies and, according to Katunguka, the number of students enrolling for PhDs is continuously increasing.

He said their aim is to cultivate their own cadres of professors who can later contribute to knowledge development at the university.

He said the university currently has only four full professors and 18 associate professors, who are not enough to supervise the PhD students.

He said the lack of professors forced him to go to Cuba, but he was disappointed to find masters holders being referred to as professors.

This year, the university is graduating 8,892 students with doctorates, master's, bachelors, diplomas and certificates. Of these, 4,015 are female. A total of 187 students will graduate with a first class degree.

The overall best performing student was George William Kasaazi (Bachelor of Information Technology and Computing) who got a CGPA of 4.88 out of 5.0 while the best female students were Benardette Nakintu Nantume (Bachelor of Information Systems) and Joan Kizza (Bachelor of Information Technology and Computing) with a CGPA of 4.83.

Katunguka said they currently have 33,000 continuing students on campus and 45,000 in affiliated colleges.

President Yoweri Museveni is expected to be the guest of honour at the graduation.

Katunguka said those to graduate should be aware of rains and prepare for it in case the three days turn out to be rainy.