



We are excited to share with you our latest newsletter.

**In partnership with YALI RLC Alumni chapter of Uganda,
Kisoboka Launches the Youth Agribusiness Enhancement
Program in Lwengo**



***A photo moment of the Invited Guests and the Youth during the Launch of the
enhancing agribusiness youth program at Kisoboka Africa offices.***

Kisoboka Africa officially launches the Youth Agribusiness enhancement Program in Lwengo district supported by the YALI Visibility Fund. The program will support 18

youths to learn more about agribusiness value addition to improve their livelihoods.



With support from the [YALI RLC Alumni Ug](#) through YALI Visibility Fund by the [US Mission Uganda](#), the youth will go through an agribusiness training & incubation for the next four months at the Kisoboka Africa Innovation Hub. Towards the end of the project, some of them will receive booster grants to scale their agribusiness projects

Kisoboka Africa features in one Uganda's leading newspaper

We featured in one of Uganda's Leading Newspaper, New Vision, Page 28.

"In Lwengo District, Greater Masaka region, a number of .. parents used to helplessly watch their children miss school untill Stephen Katende, came to their rescue... " writes Francis

KATENDE EMPOWERS PARENTS TO SAVE

With hard economic times, where some parents were being forced to choose between feeding their families and educating children, it was difficult for one to see their child through school. In Lwengo district, Greater Masaka region, a number of such parents used to helplessly watch their children miss school until Stephen Katende, a social entrepreneur, came to their rescue, writes **Francis Emukule**

Between 2015 and 2016, Stephen Katende was attending a fellowship in Lwengo district, where he worked with a number of government-funded schools. One common observation was the low enrolment numbers.

He did research at Lwentale Primary School, where he was working, to find out what kept children out of school. He established that one of the hindrances was parents' and guardians' inability to meet their children's school needs.

Katende said children were being sent back home because they did not have scholastic materials such as exercise books and pencils. Due to the fact that Katende and his colleagues came from the city, parents would always ask them for money to meet their children's education needs.

To resolve this, Katende and colleagues, in 2016, carried out a campaign dubbed 'Out of School' to encourage parents to take their children back to school. They traversed communities in Lwengo, persuading parents to take their children back to school.

The approach worked as more than 300 children returned to school that year in eight institutions. For his effort, in 2016, Katende received a development award from the World Bank for his initiative in pushing parents to take children to school.

However, the success was short-lived; the very children that had returned started dropping out of school after just one term in 2016. Their parents failed to sustain them.

Katende had to devise another strategy. The team resolved to set up a savings scheme.

"In June 2017, we convened a meeting with parents and sold the idea of them starting a savings scheme that would enable them to raise money to cater for their children's school needs," Katende said.

Out of the several parents that showed up for the meeting, only 30 joined the saving scheme and saved sh3m after one year.

"We started with each member saving sh2,000 per week. We would meet every Thursday to save money at school, which also enabled the parents to interact with teachers regarding their children's academics."

The initiative helped parents get involved in their children's education. It also made it easier to solve issues that needed the attention of both the parents and the teachers.

To enable them successfully run the savings group, Katende and the team got training on village saving and loans association model. The model is run in groups of 30 to 40 people, whereby they save and get loans.

"We got an experienced financial consultant who trained us and the leaders in the saving groups on how we could successfully run the business," Katende said.

As the savings group gained momentum, Katende felt the need to scale the initiative to other communities, but they had to first become a legally registered entity.

At the end of 2017, Katende registered Kisobaka Africa with the Uganda Registration Services Bureau as a company limited by guarantee, and later upgraded to a non-governmental organisation. He added that they have a district permit to operate as a community-based organisation.

Katende says the project has enabled parents to pay their children's school fees

Stephen Katende

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Lwengyenyi SCOPA Group members being trained in setting up cottage industries

In a bid to equip SCOPA members with skills to set-up cottage industries in their community. In November, Lwengyenyi SCOPA Group members were trained in making liquid soap among other skills. This will empower them to start making soap that they can sell and earn income. We are happy to see the [#ecosystem](#) we have created [#empower](#) so many people to make more [#possible](#). All these are seeds of economic empowerment & financial inclusion being planted in underserved communities through our School Community Banks (SCOPA) program.



We call on person from any part of the world with a passion for empowering youth & women to join us and help in fundraising in a remote volunteer role. To know more about our work, visit <http://kisobokaafrica.org> or Email us at: katende@kisobokaafrica.org or bruce@kisobokaafrica.org to apply.



VOLUNTEER WITH US

Are you excited about fundraising for social good? We need you! Send us an email to be part of this adventure!

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Vision

*Ensure Financial Inclusion
& Youth Empowerment in
Rural & undeserved Communities
of Africa*

Mission

*Ending extreme poverty
to ensure sustainable livelihoods
in Uganda*

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