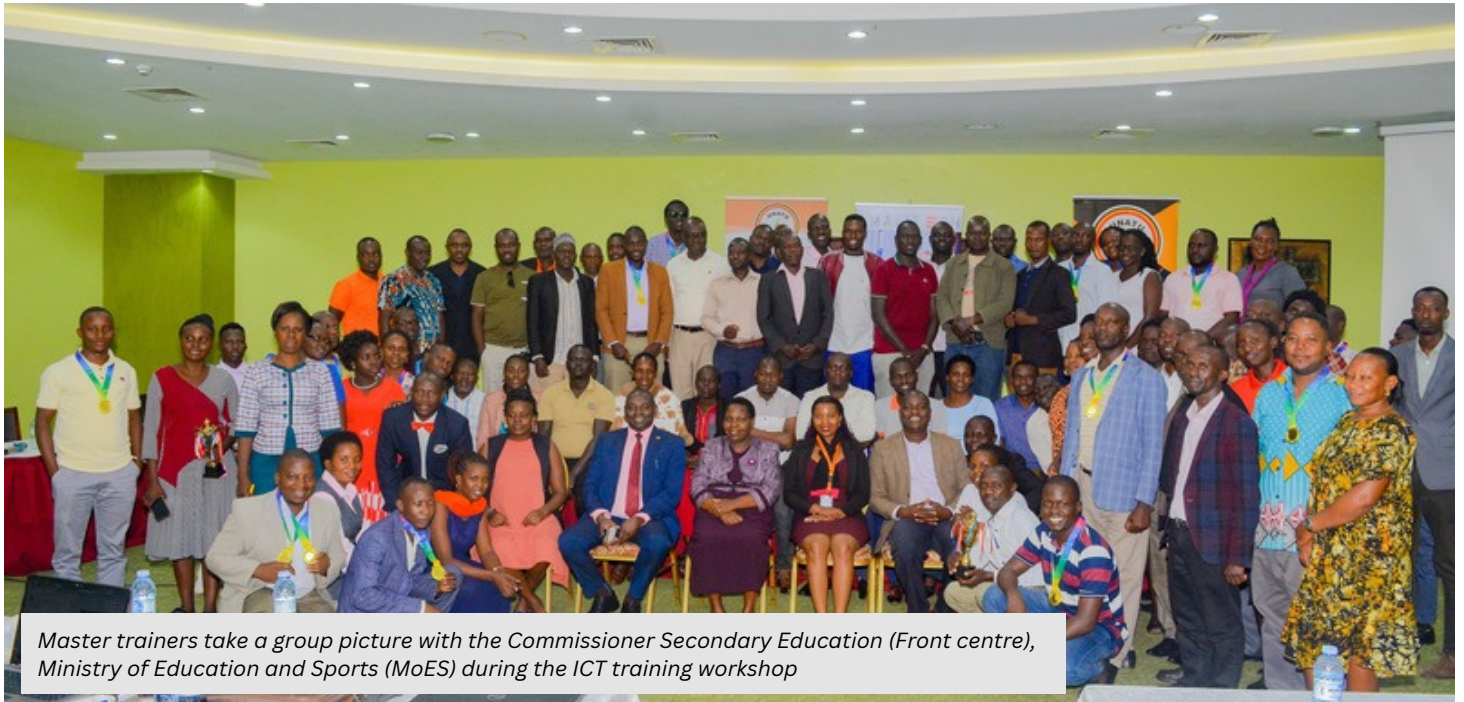




THE UNATU CONNECT

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF UGANDA NATIONAL TEACHERS' UNION (UNATU)



Master trainers take a group picture with the Commissioner Secondary Education (Front centre), Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES) during the ICT training workshop

UNATU-GIZ MASTER TRAINERS SKILLING WORKSHOP A SUCCESS!

From 20th to 24th May 2024, UNATU and GIZ working with the Ministry of Education and Sports organized a Digital Skills training for 80 Master Trainers from the Secondary School sub sector which is expected to scale up to benefit even more teachers. The 80 Master Trainers who were trained are expected to train at least 50 other teachers each. Those are an additional 4000 empowered teachers.

The topics covered in the course included; Basic Computing, Key Board, Desktop Environment, The internet, Social media, Word Processing, Presentations, Spreadsheets, Databases, Basic IT and Data Security. The training was conducted by AmaliTech, an ICT Consultancy Firm based in Kigali, Rwanda that was selected by GIZ who are the funders of the Digital Skilling Programme.

All the Master Trainers successfully completed the full course and passed the final assessment. As she closed the workshop, Mrs. Muzoora Juliet Atuheire, the Commissioner Secondary Education said, ***"Master Trainers, you are our change agents. Do your best and make us proud! As a Ministry we are counting on you to make this project a success! When you succeed, we all succeed!"***

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MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY



BAGUMA FILBERT BATES
GENERAL SECRETARY

I welcome you to this edition of the UNATU Connect. As you will read in this issue, UNATU has worked with a number of Strategic Partners to empower our members with the requisite ICT skills for any 21st Century Educator.

Under the Work No Childs Business Project in Karamoja, UNATU organized a training workshop in Basic Computer Applications for members in Moroto and Nakapiripirit from 12th to 14th May 2024. The course content included; Introduction to Computer, Word Processing, working on the internet and how to use a smartphone as a mobile computer.

Additionally, UNATU working together with Ministry of Education and Sports and supported by GIZ organised a Digital Skilling Workshop for members in the secondary education subsector who were trained as Master Trainers who in turn will train other teachers.

The importance of ICTs in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) cannot be ignored. In particular reference to SDG 4 on education, ICT can be leveraged to improve education outcomes and skills. With the integration of ICT in the classroom, teachers can also use technology to provide personalized instruction, give students access to online resources, and facilitate collaboration. Teachers can use computers, tablets, and other digital devices to access educational materials, create interactive lessons, and engage students in collaborative learning activities.

It is also important to remember that Government including our Mother Ministry-the Ministry of Education and Sports is going through a digital transformation. Soon, all services will be on-line as part of e-governance. Therefore, as teachers, we need to empower ourselves and our colleagues to be able to comfortably adapt to the changes. UNATU will continue to seek other partnerships to scale up the ICT skilling project to other members because the digital gap is still wide.

UNATU CONDUCTS BASELINE SURVEY FOR STOP CHILD LABOUR PROJECT IN BUYENDE

Following the launch of the Kagulu Child Labour Social Dialogue Project on 5th April 2024, UNATU conducted a survey to collect baseline data for the project in Buyende District from 20th- 22nd May 2024.

The exercise was aimed at generating baseline data which will in future be used for assessment of progress and results brought about by the various project interventions.

Specifically, the objectives of the baseline data collection exercise were:

- To identify the root causes and drivers of Child Labour in Kagulu- Sub County.
- To find out the practices, or interventions by state, and non-governmental actors with reference to Uganda's National Action Plan on elimination of Child Labor.
- To assess UNATU visibility in the area

The target group for this baseline Data collection exercise were the village leaders and a few cases of children affected by child labour in 11 school communities within Kagulu – Sub County. For schools, data was collected from some of those where some teachers were present since it was still holiday time.

The exercise involved UNATU staff, Branch Chairperson for Buyende and the Sub Branch Committee chair for Kagulu.

In total, data was collected from eleven schools and 24 villages.

A WORD FROM THE NATIONAL CHAIRPERSON

Colleagues, I thank you for all that you are doing for our learners and the Union. As schools re-open for Term II, I know that majority of the teachers are demotivated as a result of the unfair salary enhancements. As UNATU we have continued to make it clear to Government that teacher motivation has remained low and if nothing is done, our education will continue to sink further into crisis.

As UNATU, we are aware that a number of detractors are confusing our members with claims that our Union is quiet and not doing anything about the plight of teachers who missed out on salary enhancement in FY 2022/2023. This is not true.

UNATU has continued to be at the forefront in the fight for fair salary enhancement for all categories of teachers. Negotiations with Government through the Public Service Negotiating and Consultative Council alongside other Public Service Unions have been held and a number of recommendations for salary enhancements made. In such case, control over the outcomes of such negotiations lies with Government who at the moment seem adamant to implement the decisions of the Negotiating Council.

Never the less, UNATU has continued to formally question the actions of Ministry of Public Service and called them out to respect the work of the Council and work together in harmony with the Labour Unions representing the interests of the Workers. More action is planned.

In short, colleagues-UNATU is NOT silent. We are committed to the cause and will do anything within our means, mandate and power to ensure that all categories of teachers receive fair salary enhancements. This is our commitment to UNATU members.

TUMUHIMBISE ZADOCK
NATIONAL CHAIRPERSON



NOTICE: BRANCH CHAIRPERSONS' MEETING-14TH JUNE 2024



**All NEC members,
All Branch Chairpersons,
All Branch, Regional and Secretariat staff,**



BRANCH CHAIRPERSONS' MEETING- FRIDAY, 14TH JUNE 2024

This serves to inform you that there will be a Branch Chairpersons' meeting on Friday, 14th June 2024.

Venue: **New Club Obligato, Kampala**

Time: **9:00am**

Kindly endeavour to attend.

Proudly UNATU: Committed, Connected and Accountable to the members' cause.

BECAUSE WE ARE, THE NATION IS.

**BAGUMA FILBERT BATES
GENERAL SECRETARY**

SNAPSHOTS FROM THE UNATU-GIZ MASTER TRAINERS DIGITAL SKILLING WORKSHOP



Mr. Kikomeko Joseph the Commissioner Teacher Education Development and Training, making the opening remarks



The General Secretary of UNATU delivering his remarks during the Master Trainers Digital skilling Workshop



Mrs. Muzoora Juliet Atuheire, the Commissioner Public Secondary Education, MoES giving her closing remarks



Facilitators from AmaliTech introduced by the General Secretary (center)



A group work session during the Masters Trainers Digital skilling Workshop



The best performing female and male in the assessment receive trophies



A special award given to a visually impaired Master Trainer for emerging as 3rd overall best



One of the groups that also received an award



A cross section of the Master Trainers who attended and completed the four-day Digital skilling Workshop





UNATU collects baseline data from households in Kagulu Sub County for the Stop Child Labour Project



WORK NO CHILDS BUSINESS

PROJECT:UNATU EQUIPS TEACHERS IN KARAMOJA REGION WITH ICT SKILLS

UNATU under the **Work: No Childs Business (WNCB)** programme conducted an ICT training for members in Moroto and Nakapiripirit.

The training which took place from 12th to 15th May 2024 empowered 42 teachers (30 Males and 12 Females) of Moroto district and 34 teachers (24 Males and 10 Females) of Nakapiripirit district with the basic computer skills which will enable them to access the wealth of information made available on the internet, manage their email accounts, type their own documents using computers or their mobile phones.

ICT empowerment is one of the biggest needs of UNATU members since in cases when such ICT skills are needed, some of the members have to pay intermediaries to support them which puts them at a great risk of being cheated and loss of important academic documents in the process because they can not do it on their own.

Specifically, the training was aimed at:

- Increasing proficiency in using basic software applications
- Improving communication skills, particularly in email writing and online messaging.
- Enhancing online collaboration and teamwork skills, particularly in virtual meeting environments.
- The facilitators applied different methodologies which made the sessions participatory and lively

UNATU leaders including the General Secretary, Regional Chairperson and area Branch Chairpersons attended the trainings getting an opportunity to interact with members and sharing information/updates in the union.

The district leaders i.e Resident District Commissioners and District Education Officers expressed gratitude to UNATU for the many capacity development initiatives undertaken among the teachers which have led to increased enrollment and retention rates in the targeted schools. They appealed to teachers to focus on delivering quality education which necessitates every teacher to embrace ICT and professionalism.

At the end of the training, participants were awarded certificates of participation. The award ceremonies were officiated by the District Education Officers for Moroto and Nakapiripirit districts.



A practical session on basics of Microsoft Word



The UNATU IT Officer delivering a session on introduction to computer



Participants of the training take a group photo with their certificates in the presence of their respective DEOs (top - Moroto, bottom - Nakapiripirit)



Meet the Member

Ms. Irene Janet

About Me

My name is Nandudu Irene Janet I have been teaching for 14 years. I teach English, PE, Art & Craft in Moruita Primary School, Nakapiripirit district

Favourites

Food: Matooke, Posho & Rice

Drink: Novida.

Fruits: Passion fruits, Pineapple

Colour: Yellow

Subject: English

Book: English Grammar books

Song: When the Lord is on my side

Hobby: Reading the Bible

Words of wisdom

- Teachers should be exemplary so that learners admire them eg. dressing well and avoiding bad habits.
- Preparation for class adequately and in time.
- *Senior women should help girls in Menstrual Health Management and teach them how to behave in school and within the community. They should also help them cope up with hard situations but also feel free to express the problems affecting them.*

Meet the Member

Mr. Namakoola



About Me

My name is Namakoola George Mike. I have been teaching for 20 years. I teach Art & Design in Nakapiripirit Secondary School, Nakapiripirit District

Favourites

Food: Matooke

Drink: Coke

Fruit: Pineapple

Colour: Blue

Subject: Art & Design

Book: Dead Souls by Nikolai Gogol

Song: Amazing Grace by John Newton

Hobby: Playing Volley Ball

Words of wisdom

Being a teacher is a noble Job, it's wonderful to be a teacher because you are the pillar of all professions, you are the source of knowledge thus a teacher must uphold the following values; integrity, honesty, self-discipline, penitence, listening, tolerant, modesty, God fearing, humility, simple and approachable.

All in all, a teacher is a wonder.