

University alumni share success stories

By George Bitu

George Mukasa Konde and Eng. Mary Zilla Arach are just two out of the 6,450 successful graduates who have passed through the gates of Busitema University.

Konde attributes his success to the good mentorship he got from his lecturers at Busitema University between 2010 and 2013.

"I joined the university as a novice but left as a graduate ready to face the challenges of the job market. When I look back at those days, I feel I have come a long way," Konde says.

He is currently a physics and mathematics teacher at Tororo Girls Secondary School in Tororo district.

"There is a lot to remember about the university such as part-time teaching in schools. We exhibited funny behaviour whenever feeding allowances delayed and during campaigns,



Esther Karwera and Mary Arach founded Akorion Company

cultural galas and others," he says.

He recounts that by then, the university was just fighting its

feet with two halls of residence namely, Obbo Makola (for male students) and Mary Kynes (for female students).



Akorion team exhibiting their startup technology in South Africa recently

"These were no storeyed buildings. They were ordinary houses partitioned into rooms," Konde narrates.

He adds that there was a library block which had the administration offices, a computer lab (composed of two small rooms), a chemistry/biology laboratory, physics lab, and two lecture rooms and a Catholic church.

"An old building was the dining hall, but we would eat from outside or in the halls. I remember the most common menu was posho and beans," Konde reveals.

He is just one out of the 17 teachers of Tororo Girls School staff who are alumni of Busitema University.

Arach says the campus whose biggest chunk of land was occupied by trees has metamorphosed into a great university in eastern Uganda.

"I was the first female guild president of Busitema university for the 2013/ 2014 period. The university molded me into an engineer and the leader I am today," she says.

"Today, we run a tech startup company called Akorion Limited. It has a

product — EzyAgric — an agric-tech app employing more than 20 people and providing services to over 80,000 farmers nationwide," Arach says.

She adds that the startup with over 600 village agents has since won both local and international awards.

"We provide internships to students from Busitema, Uganda Christian University, Makerere, Nkumba, Makerere University Business School and Kyambogo University. All this is thanks to my education from Busitema University,"

Arach says.