

# Prof. Luboga new Education Service Commission boss

By Taddeo Bwambale

Former Makerere University professor Rev. Samuel Luboga has been appointed the new chairperson of the Education Service Commission.

Luboga takes over office from Haji Badru Lubega Wagwa, who has been head of the commission for the last 21 years.

The commission's secretary, Dr Asuman Lukwago, confirmed Luboga's appointment to the position in a press notice yesterday.

"His Excellency, the President has appointed a new

chairperson of the Education Service Commission. The new chairperson is Rev Prof Samuel Abimerech Luboga, replacing Hajji Badru Lubega Wagwa," Lukwago stated.

Luboga was formerly an associate professor of anatomy at the Makerere University College of Health Sciences, a position he held for over 38 years until his retirement in June 2013. He later worked as the university's director for quality assurance.

He will be sworn in tomorrow at a ceremony that will be presided over by the Chief

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■ The education service commission was set up by the 1995 constitution with a mandate to advise the president in performing his/her functions in relation to Article 172 of the Constitution.

Justice, Bart Katureebe.

While at Makerere, Luboga was credited with introducing several innovations such as student anatomy projects for

undergraduate and special dissections for graduate students.

He also spearheaded the introduction of innovative changes in the education of health professionals by transforming the undergraduate curricula.

Luboga also led the team that spearheaded the collaboration between Yale Medical School and the Faculty of Medicine Makerere University.

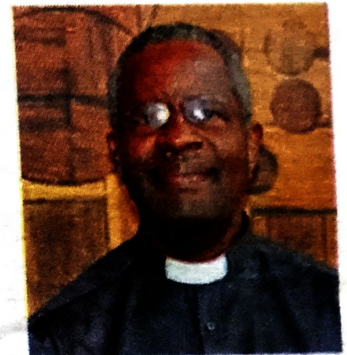
According to his profile of service, Luboga led a review of the curricula for all postgraduate programmes in

the faculty to ensure that they meet market demands.

He has also served as board chairperson of the Infectious Diseases Institute and as executive director of the Sustainable Leadership Institute.

Prof. Celestine Obua, the vice-chancellor of Mbarara University of Science and Technology, said he expects Luboga to perform well as a team player.

"I hope he will handle the office effectively. I worked with him way back in the 1960s and I am sure he will work as part



Prof. Rev. Samuel Luboga

of a team to discharge his duties successfully," he stated.

Luboga's predecessor, Lubega Wagwa, who has been at the helm of the commission since 1998, is a long-serving educationist.



# Revenue authority graduates 317 clearing agents

By Edward Kayiwa

The Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) has graduated 317 customs and freight forwarders, as it endeavours to professionalise the sector, ease the cost of doing business and improve service delivery across the region.

According to the commissioner for customs, Dickson Kateshumbwa, the graduation brings to 1,688 certified operatives, clearing approximately 76% of all incoming cargo, over the last one year.

He said these will play a critical role in facilitating international trade, especially as the Africa Free Continental Trade Area (AfCTA) comes into force next year.

"We shall have all trade doors open when AfCTA fully kicks off and we, therefore, need a professional team to advise traders on international trade

issues. Therefore, we want them to first understand the dynamics of the business before advising anyone," he said.

Freight forwarders are entities that organise shipment of goods for individuals or corporations from the manufacturer to a market, customer or final point of distribution.

Kateshumbwa said the current reforms requiring certification of all players in the clearing and forwarding industry are meant to ensure that it remains in the hands of professionals. He added that it is currently growing at about 10% per annum.

"We cannot continue to operate in an environment that is not regulated and, therefore, it is now mandatory for all practitioners to be certified. Secondly, the old system was manual, but we are now digitalising and now, clearing agents must continuously seek new

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■ The six months course is offered to individuals already practising or intending to practice in the freight forwarding industry throughout the East Africa region.

knowledge through training because the business is evolving every day," he said.

According to the EAC customs organisation, the East Africa customs and freight Forwarding training is mandatory for all customs agents and is jointly implemented by the region's revenue authorities and their national freight forwarding associations.

"This is why we have also made it mandatory for all clearing firms to

subject their employees to continuous professional development trainings, to keep their professional standards globally competitive," he said.

He advised the clearing firms to adhere to set performance guidelines, both locally and across the region to remain competitive.

The East Africa Customs and Freight Forwarding Practising Certificate is a joint training programme of the East Africa revenue authorities and the national freight forwarding associations affiliated to the Federation of East Africa freight Forwarders Association.

The six-month course is offered to individuals already practising or intending to practice in the freight forwarding industry throughout the East Africa region.

The programme started in 2007 with support from the USAID with

assistance from trademark East Africa, to equip practitioners with skills, ethics and integrity required for the job last year, the taxman gave new guidelines to clearing and forwarding firms mandating them to have all their employees in uniforms or marked overalls, with displayed identification whenever conducting official duties.

The guidelines also prohibit the clearing firms from exceeding an average monthly clearing time of two days, to eliminate any chances for fake agents to manipulate innocent clients and rob them of colossal sums of money.

All bonded warehouses were also ordered to install computerised stock management systems that are accessible by their customers, and submit their monthly stock taking reports by 5th of the following month.