

**MANAGEMENT TRAINING AND ADVISORY CENTRE
(MTAC)**

**REMARKS BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - MTAC
AT THE OFFICIAL COMMISSIONING CEREMONY OF MTAC –
NTUNGAMO CAMPUS**

HELD ON 8TH NOVEMBER, 2024

AT MTAC NTUGAMO – KAHUNGA CAMPUS

The Chief Guest,
Political, Religious and Cultural Leaders present,
Officials from Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies
present,
Distinguished Guests and Partners present,
Esteemed Parents and Graduands,
Members of the Media Fraternity,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

1:0 Introduction

It is a great honor to stand before you today, as we celebrate a milestone that marks a new chapter in MTAC's journey and in the development of this beautiful region. Today, we officially commission MTAC Ntungamo, a campus that symbolizes the power of collaboration, commitment, and vision.

1:1 Key milestones in the development of MTAC Ntungamo

Start date: January 15, 2014.

Location: We started our operations in the premises of Singa Foundation for Development. We shortly after relocated to New Junction House where MTAC is currently operating from. At the time we located to that area, the area was dull, neglected with no business activity. It is gratifying to note the area is now a bee hive of business activities, a sign of growth. ,

MTAC Ntungamo is the first MTAC Outreach Centre to own a permanent home. This is the MTAC Ntungamo Kahunga Campus that we are commissioning today. Congratulations to all the stakeholders through whose efforts this facility has become a reality.

Enrolment: Opened with one student by names of Ainebyoona Onesmas who pursued a Diploma in Public Administration and Management. Three weeks later, Onesmas was joined by two students that is Tukashaba Primrose and Ashaba Aggrey. Currently, the enrollment at MTAC Ntungamo stands at 198 students. We expect this number to more than double with the improvement in facilities that you are witnessing at Kahunga.

Staffing: MTAC Ntungamo started operations with four (4) staff who were more of volunteers. These were: 1. Mr. Tusiime Dennis (who worked as a Centre Co-ordinator); 2. Mr. Nayebare Naboth; 3. Mr. Turinawe Ibrahim and; 4. Ms. Nasaasira Immaculate. The number of staff employed by MTAC Ntungamo on full and part time arrangement has since grown to 23 members.

2:0 Appreciation

As we commission these facilities today, allow me, on behalf of MTAC, to express our gratitude to:

- a) H. E. Gen Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda for creating an enabling environment that promotes training and skills development and most importantly for funding this project up to its completion;
- a) Hon. Mwebesa Francis, Minister of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives and his colleagues, Hon. Bahati David Minister of State for Industry, Hon. Gen Mbadi Wilson, Minister of State for Trade and Hon. Ngobi Frederick Gume, Minister of State for Cooperatives for effectively playing the oversight role in superintending over MTAC to implement its mandate;
- b) The Local Government leadership of Ntungamo district. The land on which these facilities are erected was donated to MTAC by the district leadership in partnership with the Ntungamo Sub County leadership. The leadership effortlessly supported the contractor during the construction up to its completion. We applaud the visionary leadership exhibited by the people of Ntungamo and may you be rewarded abundantly.
- c) The technical team at the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives led by the Permanent Secretary for the

tremendous support and wise counsel extended to MTAC, especially during the period of constructing these facilities;

- d) The technical team at the Ministry of Works and Transport. The team developed the Architecture designs for these magnificent structures and tirelessly supervised the Contractor up to its completion. As Management, we cannot take their availability for MTAC's work for granted and we shall be eternally grateful;
- e) MTAC Committee for successfully organizing this function;
- d) The contractor, KWED Construction for completing the project as scheduled. At no time did they abandon the site from the time we handed over the site to you;

Special mentions

Our dear Chief Guest, without attempting to downplay the role of all stakeholders towards this project, MTAC wishes to make a special of the following individuals in appreciation of their visionary leadership towards MTAC Ntungamo. These have been recognized with some of the blocks named after them. These are:

1. Prof George Tumwesigye: He was the Executive Director when the Centre opened its branch in Ntungamo and other places like Mbale, Iganga, Pader among others. His visionary leadership enabled the project to become a reality.

2. **Hon Singahache Denis:** He was the Chairman LC V Ntungamo district. He mobilized both the sub county and district leadership to donate the land to MTAC for institutional development. He hosted MTAC in his private structures for six months for free as the Institution mobilized participants for its programmes. He tirelessly promoted the MTAC gospel whenever and wherever he got an opportunity.

3:0 MTAC Strides FY 2023/24

OUR DEAR CHIEF GUEST,

As we commission these facilities, our theme is "***Skilling for Sustainable Enterprise Development***".

Further to the theme, allow me highlight some of the major achievements that were registered by MTAC since start of this financial year:

a) **Job Creation Training:** This programme is being offered at no cost to organised youths and women in all regions of this country. To date, **4000** youths and women have benefited from this program. The overall purpose for this programme is to enhance the entrepreneurial ability of the beneficiaries. The beneficiaries are sensitized about job creation and equipped with skills in making different products including but not limited to: pavers, candles, sanitary pads, exercise books, soap (bar soap and liquid soap), bakery products, saloon products (jelly, shampoo

etc), charcoal briquettes among others. This programme also supports organised groups in value addition for instance making wine among others. This programme has been widely appreciated by the recipients and the requests from the population for this programme are overwhelming. This programme would play a significant role in the realization of planned development through the Parish Development model. We have appealed to Parliament to allocate at least **UGX 25Bns** to enable us train at least **100** participants per constituency in Uganda. This would translate into **23,800** entrepreneurs. This money would enable us to equip each of the trained participants with a startup tool kit and ultimately increase productivity.

- b) Outreach Development:** MTAC has continued to operate 5 outreach centres across the country. These include: Mbarara, Ntungamo, Luweero, Iganga and Mbale. These Centres have been systematically operationalized in close collaboration with Local Government officials and the business community.
- c) Infrastructural development:** We commenced on the construction of a permanent home for MTAC Mbale on the institutional land. The MTAC Ntungamo, Kahunga Campus is being commissioned today.
- d) Improvements in the Vocational Training Infrastructure:** With acquisition of vocational equipment, MTAC has extended

vocational training to centres in Mbale, Iganga and Ntungamo. MTAC has also extended vocational training to Bukwo and Kitgum districts.

The enrollment for vocational courses has more than doubled. This is attributed to the decentralization of these courses at MTAC Centres, attraction of partners especially Program for Accessible Health Communication and Education (PACE), Sisters of Hope International (SOHI), Centre for Community Development Initiative (CCDI), Johanet Vocational Institute (JVI), Love A Friend Initiative, Federation of Kampala Hawkers and Vendors Association, Jesuit Refugee Service, Compassion Uganda, Kairos International, Meeting Point, Chesire Uganda Ltd, Kampala Area Federation of Communities, WasteAid, Uganda Tailors Association among others. The increased enrollment for vocational courses points to a positive change in attitude towards vocational training that the country is currently experiencing.

4:0 Appeal

OUR DEAR CHIEF GUEST,

Management appreciates your availability to preside over this function. Through you sir, convey our appreciation to your predecessors for the role-played in agitating for support to MTAC. Their efforts towards enhancing the allocation of funds to MTAC to

address the dire needs of the Centre yielded some positive results. The MTAC subvention was enhanced from the traditional **UGX 100m** per year to **UGX 880m** per year. Nevertheless, this subvention is still too low to support the Centre. Therefore, we appeal to you for continued support for the following unfunded priorities:

1. Increase wage subvention from the current **UGX 880m** per year to at least **UGX 1.5bns** per year. This would enable the Centre to even pay the outstanding arrears, particularly the Part time Staff.
2. Funding for construction of a permanent home for MTAC Mbale. This requires **UGX 12.9bns**.
3. Funding for the proposed *Job Creation Awareness Training and Development* and; *Skills Development through Training and Establishment of Common User Facilities (Incubation Centres) In MTAC Regional Centres project*. The total project cost is **UGX 25.8bns** over a span of 5 years.

5:0 Conclusion

As I conclude, I would like to make a heartfelt appeal to the people of Ntungamo. This campus is yours, built with your needs and aspirations in mind. It is a space for learning, for growth, and for transformation. I encourage each of you, especially our youths and women, to seize this opportunity. Enroll in our programs, gain new

skills, and put them to work within your communities. Take full advantage of this facility to improve your lives and those of your families. The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step, and today, you have the chance to take that step toward a brighter future.

Together, we can build a prosperous Ntungamo, a thriving Uganda, and a better tomorrow for all. Let us commit to making MTAC Ntungamo not just a campus but a pillar of opportunity, growth, and resilience.

Thank you, Hon Minister, for gracing us with your presence. Thank you, honored guests, partners, and friends, for celebrating this significant achievement with us. To the people of Ntungamo, this is your moment, embrace it, and together, let us create a legacy of empowerment and progress.

Thank you, and may God bless MTAC, Ntungamo, and Uganda.

For God and My Country!!!

Soteri Karanzi Nabeeta
Executive Director