

The living legacy: Kyambogo University participates in designing of Uganda's new family of currency notes



Kyambogo University indeed strives “to be a centre of academic and professional excellence, to advance and promote knowledge and skills in science and technology and education, and in such other fields having regard to quality, equity, progress and transformation”. There is always a testimony for things we do- bad or good. The recently unveiled banknotes proves that Kyambogo University stands and will always stand for what it confesses.

We know that Ssendendo Ivan (RIP) as a student erected the “Education Monument” in 1968 under the supervision of Norbert Kaggwa- now retired. Forty years later, that art work has appeared on the national currency- a reason we impart knowledge and skills that benefit learners and community and lasts a lifetime. The use of this monument tells it all.

Indeed the Education monument carries a message that challenges all of us to put our energies to better use. The two figures majestically attest to this. The mother represents the biological parents of a child who gives the informal training right from birth, the mother represents the teachers, the lecturers, the mentors all who impart knowledge to the learner, the mother represents the administrators who plan and direct the learning, the mother represents the community that facilitates the child's well being. On the other hand, the child is not inactive, it consults, it researches, it listens, requests support, above all it seeks protection from the mother – parents, lecturers, mentors, administrators and the entire community.



Mutungi Emmanuel, Lecturer in Faculty of Vocational Studies, Department of Art and Design is a member of the Design group identified by Bank of Uganda to undertake the process which involved research, analysis and design. Other team members are Ass. Prof. George Kyeyune, Mr. Sematimba Joseph, Mr Sserunjogi Patrick, Mr Nsereko Raymond – all lecturers at Makerere University School of Industrial and Fine Art, and Hon. Gen. Elly Tumwine - Patron Uganda Artist Association and a seasoned artist.

The approach this time was more academic than mere visual appearance. Using the contemporary research methods, the team traversed all regions of Uganda and collected material culture, monuments, artifacts, sceneries, flora and fauna. The end result was a harmonized family of the banknotes that connect on both obverse and reverse with a theme “Gifted by nature through the times”.

The Education monument at Kyambogo was found relevant among the many futures looked at, and the participation of one of the University’s lecturer affirm the adage that *“Kyambogo University is a centre of academic and professional excellence that promotes knowledge and skills in science and technology and education, with regard to quality, equity, progress and transformation of communities”*.

It is indeed KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS FOR SERVICE at Kyambogo University.