

**Report of the Official Launch of the Tororo Girls' School Alumni Association held on  
Friday 23 September 2022 at Golf Course Hotel, Kampala.**

### Background

Tororo Girls' School (TGS) was founded by the United States Government in 1965 as a contribution to the Government of Uganda to promote education of the girl child. The school that was established to develop skilled women leaders in Uganda and the region in the post-independence era is currently ranked one of the top 10 girls' schools in the country.<sup>1</sup> To foster development of the school and members of the Alumni, an Association was legally registered in 2021 under the name "Tororo Girls' School Alumni Association" (TGSAA). The Association embraces a diverse network of former students and operates as a social enterprise combining economic and social goals.

Our vision is "a dedicated and vibrant Association that empowers and mentors girls and women of Uganda." The Association's Mission is the "promotion of collaboration within the TGS Alumni and mentoring of learners".

### Launch of the Tororo Girls' School Alumni Association



**Picture 1: Hon Minister for Karamoja receives the Guest of Honor Rt. Hon. First DPM at the Launch.**

The Association was officially inaugurated at a ceremony officiated by the Rt. Honourable 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy Prime Minister (DPM), Minister of East African Community Affairs (MEACA) and Woman Member of Parliament for Kamuli District, Hon. Rebecca Alitwala Kadaga. Former Headteachers and the incumbent Headteacher of TGS graced the occasion. Notably members of the Association, the Honourable Minister for Karamoja Affairs, Hon. Dr Mary Goretti Kitutu, judicial officers<sup>2</sup>, representatives of government Ministries, Departments and Agencies were in attendance. OGS

<sup>1</sup> <https://schoolnetuganda.com/>

<sup>2</sup> Hon. Lady Justice Margaret Mutonyi, (1982-1984) High Court Judge Criminal Division, Hon. Lady Justice Susan Okalany, (1986-1987) High Court Judge International Crimes Division, and Her Worship Nasambu Esther Rebecca Adonyo (1990-1992), Chief Magistrate Mengo Court.

from various sectors including; medical, education, development assistance, legal, agricultural, civil society, media, the religious and private sector also attended the launch both physically and virtually on YouTube and Facebook. See a copy of the Program attached (annex 1).

The main objective of the launch was to officially initiate the operations of TGS Alumni that in the past operated informally alongside the school administration on several education and development projects.

A total of 207 people [193 females and 14 males] attended the event comprising of the Guest of Honour, four headteachers [the incumbent and three former headteachers], 183 OGs, 10 Associates from St. Peters College Tororo Old Boys' Association (SPECTOBA) and one from Bukedi College Kachonga Old Boys' Association. Eight of the total number in attendance were well-wishers. Biographies illustrating the distinguished and dedicated service of the Guest of Honour and five school administrators were delivered during the event.



**Picture 2: Hon Minister for Karamoja and Woman Member of Parliament for Manafwa District, Hon. Dr. Mary Goretti Kitutu [TGS OG 1977-1983] presents her remarks at the Launch.**

### Outcome of the Launch

The launch was an excellent networking opportunity that comprised of OGs from the mid-1960s to 2000s cohorts. It marked the beginning of this relationship that is hoped will drive development among its members through knowledge sharing, mentoring and market avenues for the goods and services that the members have to offer. In that regard, as part of the plan, an auction was carried out to raise funds that would go towards a project in the school and the Alumni were able to raise Uganda Shillings one million nine hundred seven thousand (UGX 1,907,000) a clear indicator that the Association is a great vehicle for fundraising and development of its members and the school at large.

The inauguration of the Association was received with overwhelming interest, participation and support of the OGs including those in the diaspora. Notably, the publicity drive that was initiated in the leadup to the launch [Television (TV) talk show and fliers] created extensive

visibility of the Association on the various media platforms like; Facebook, Twitter, YouTube. Relatedly, the Alumni website [www.tgsalumni.org](http://www.tgsalumni.org) that was launched by the Honourable Guest of Honour on the same day enhanced the Association's communication and visibility through extensive coverage on print, broadcast/social media.

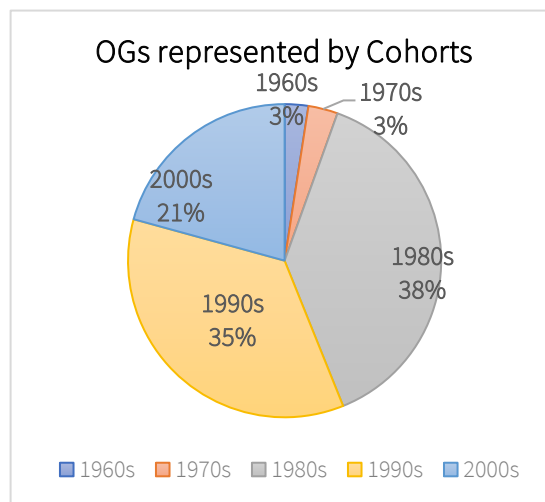
### Participation of OGs by Cohort

**Table 1: OGs who attended the launch represented by cohorts**

1960s	1970s	1980s	1990s	2000s	Total
4	5	63	58	34	164

Source: Attendance Register for the Launch

All cohorts since the school's establishment were represented during the launch as shown in Table 1 and Figure 1. The highest numbers were from the 80s representing 38% and 90s cohorts- 35% of the OGs who attended the launch. Efforts will be made to reach to a wider network of the OGs to enhance participation in future initiatives.



**Figure 1: TGS OGs who attended the launch represented as a % across cohorts**

### Sponsors of the Launch

The Association received overwhelming support from a few organisations and individuals that contributed to the success of this launch through monetary assistance, contributions in kind and by volunteering their time as outlined in Table 2 below.

**Table 2: Sponsors of the event**

N°	Name	Company	Contribution (Cash & In-Kind) UGX	Item
1.	Nation Media Group	NTV Uganda	5,000,000	Morning on NTV show and Coverage of the Launch
2.	TGS OG	Anonymous	240,000	Cake
3.		Anonymous	52,000	Transport for Cake
4.	Ms. Catherine W. Nabwire	Inspirations World of Beauty	250,000	Live Streaming of the event
5.	Mr. Onapito Ekolomoit	Nile Breweries	499,750	10 Crates of Beer
6.	Mr. Tom Prinsloo		204,000	
7.	Ms. Lucy Ladira		152,000	
8.	Ms. Nancy Amuge		100,000	Cake
9.	Ms. Daisy K. Nagudi		110,000	Dinner
10.	Mrs. Christine Kyayonka			Décor/Table Numbers
11.	The Independent			Blog(s), Online articles
12.	TGS OG	Anonymous	308,000	Plaques
13.	Ms. Josephine Etima		350,000	Dinner
14.	Ms. Julian Nyachwo			Dinner
15.	Ms. Sydey Etima Ojara			Dinner, Flyers & E-Invites
16.	Ms. Susan Kataike			Media coverage

### Award Ceremony

The following awards in recognition of dedicated service to the school were presented to the former headteachers by the Rt. Hon 1<sup>st</sup> DPM and Minister of EACA.

1. Canon Mrs Joyce Soigi Nima, Headteacher 1977-1991 (longest serving headteacher [14 years] of TGS),
2. Mrs. Ida K. Tarinyeba, Headteacher 2003-2012 (also TGS OG in the pioneer class of 1965),



A proud part of the  
ABInBev family





3. Mrs. Sarah Pande, Headteacher 1992-2002, and
4. Mrs. Helen K. Wataba, Deputy Headteacher 2003-2010 and Headteacher 2013-2022.



Picture 3: From Headteachers from Left Canon Mrs. Nima, Mrs. Tarinyeba and Mrs. Wataba

Hon. Kitutu presented the Rt Hon Rebecca Alitwala Kadaga with an award in recognition of her dedication in promoting women emancipation and empowering the girl child on behalf of the Association. **The Association was officially launched by the Guest of Honor.**



Picture 4: Hon. Kitutu presents the Guest of Honor with an award

## Next Steps

After consultation with the members of TGSAA and the School administration/Headteacher, several projects have been identified to be accomplished in the short, medium and long terms as outlined in the submission of the Vice Chairperson of the Association in Annex 2.

It was agreed that the Executive Committee and representative of the OGs to the School Board of Governors continue to closely engage with the members of the Association and the school administration as the proposed projects are implemented. Other developments will be identified depending on established needs at the time.

Moving forward, the school has also appointed a teacher who will be a permanent member of the Association to facilitate effective coordination between TGSAA and the school.

## Conclusion/Key Take-Aways

Overall, the activity was successful, the participation of OGs across cohorts was an excellent networking prospect for many who had not interacted physically in a while. The fraction of the OGs reached through the event presents an impending task to influence the wider coverage of the TGS community/Alumni fraternity. The Guest of Honors' participation facilitated enhanced visibility of the Association. The launch therefore ensured that the Association formally leverages from social cohesion thus creating greater impact.

## **Annex 1: PROGRAM**

### **Official Launch of the Tororo Girls' School Alumni Association**

**Golf Course Hotel, 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2022.**

**Theme:** "Developing and Fostering Collaboration Between the Alumni and Our School"

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Responsible Person(s)</b>
12:00 p.m.	Set-up Complete	
1:00 p.m.	Arrival of Committee Members	
2:30-3:00 p.m.	Arrival of Alumni	Tororo Girls' School Old Girls
3:10-3:20 p.m.	Arrival of Tororo Girls' School Administrators	Incumbent and Past School Administrators
3:20-3:22 p.m.	Opening Prayer	Mrs. Christine Obonyo Kyayonka
3:30-3:40 p.m.	Introduction of the Association	Chairperson Tororo Girls' School Alumni Association – Ms. Violet Nandudu
3:45-4:00 p.m.	School's History, Headteachers' biography and Introduction of Head Prefect	Mrs. Christine Obonyo Kyayonka Ms. Babra Adoso Vanhelleputte Ms. Susan Kataike
4:00-4:15 p.m.	Guest of Honor arrives	Hon. 1 <sup>st</sup> Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for East African Community Affairs, Hon. Rebecca Alitwala Kadaga
4:20-4:30 p.m.	Association Overview	Vice Chair Tororo Girls' School Alumni Association Ms. Josephine Etima
4:30 p.m.	Performance/Interlude	
4:40-5:00 p.m.	"Empowering the Girl Child"	Canon Mrs. Joyce Nima Former Headteacher Tororo Girl's School (1977-1991)
5:00 p.m.	Performance/Interlude	
5:23-5:45 p.m.	Headteachers' Remarks and Awards Ceremony	Former School Administrators Guest of Honour
5:45 p.m.	Auction	Ms. Norah Nandudu and Event Hostesses
6:00-6:20 p.m.	Keynote address and official Launch of the Alumni Association	Hon. 1 <sup>st</sup> Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for East African Community Affairs, Hon. Rebecca Alitwala Kadaga
6:20-6:30 p.m.	Performance/Interlude	Artist/Music
6:30 p.m.	Cake Cutting	
6:40 p.m.	Group Photo	All
7:00 p.m.	Dinner	
8:00 p.m.	Departure at Leisure	

## Annex 2: Keynote speeches

### Executive Committee, Tororo Girls' School Alumni Association

#### The Vice-Chairpersons of the Alumni Association, Ms. Josephine Etima, 1986-1988

The Vice Chairperson of the Alumni Association thanked the Hon. Guest of Honor for sparing time off her busy schedule to officiate the launch. She provided an overview of the Association and enumerated the **Association's benefits** to include; diverse networking, nomination and election into office, representation in high profile social events, possible investment opportunities, recommendation to institutions of higher learning and sponsorship, social support and access to Association's facilities. She appealed to the **Old Girls to sign-up to the Association's membership** and noted that a Patron, Associate and Honorary Members would also be identified and/or encouraged to join.



Picture 5: Vice-Chairperson TGSAA delivers remarks on behalf of the Association.

She highlighted the Association's guiding framework; Constitution, Memorandum and Articles of Association, a Communication Plan and dedicated website [www.tgsalumni.org](http://www.tgsalumni.org) to facilitate real-time interactions and enhanced communication and visibility. She provided an overview of development and social programmes supported both at the school and amongst the alumni members such as; annual career guidance for learners and enhanced access to clean and safe water. The Vice-Chair presented the Association's short, medium and long

term plans and called for support in actualizing the same.

#### Short term Plans within the following one year

- Election of substantive office bearers by end of January 2023,
- Supporting agricultural projects such as poultry or dairy farming to supplement students' diet as well as enhance their agricultural skills,
- Establishment of a school bakery also to improve students' diet and culinary skills

Each costed at an estimated 50million Ug. Shs.



### Medium Term Plans – three to five years

- Improve school transport facilities
- Improving the teaching staff accommodation facilities

### Long Term Plans more than five - year projects

- Supporting the mega dorm project currently estimated to cost 5bn Ug Shs.

The Vice Chair introduced the team of hardworking, dedicated ladies who under the able leadership of Ms Violet Nandudu worked tirelessly to establish the Association and ensure the success of the event.

### Keynote address by Canon Mrs. Joyce Bernice Soigi Nima, Headteacher 1977-1991



Picture 6: Canon Mrs. Joyce Nima former Headteacher TGS displays her award of recognition

Canon Mrs. Nima fondly addressed her former students as **“stars destined to rise and shine”**. **To shine as women leaders of the country and role models by design**. She presentation focused on mentorship of girls and boys. She acknowledged the existence of elaborate structures in traditional communities for mentoring girls and boys in their gender roles and life skills for managing their families. The first mentors for girls were mothers, aunties, “sengas” and grandmothers and for boys they had their fathers, uncles and grandfathers. Western education created additional mentors, teachers, peers and now the internet. Mentorship is embedded in counselling and guidance at Tororo Girls’ School with a fully pledged/comprehensive career guidance office/system. She noted that the boy child needs to be equally prepared to interact with the girls.

She acknowledged the ladies for the continued support they have provided her and for also reaching out to some of the former teachers. She encouraged the ladies to mentor one another recognizing leaders at all levels.

**“When we support empowerment and growth of young girls through mentorship, we improve the lives of everyone around us.”**

Canon Mrs. Nima

Canon Mrs. Nima challenged the OGs noting that majority of the ladies come from regions with a very high drop-out rate at primary level thus;

- Imploring the OGs to consider initiatives to mentor girls who have been disadvantaged.
- Requesting the Association to consider a compassionate programme for girls who for some reason have dropped-out of school, and
- Calling on targeted support for the northern and eastern regions with high rates of early marriage and teenage pregnancies.

While congratulating the ladies for having supported the school projects and sustaining mentoring of the students **she appealed to the ladies to support the “Stars” who may not have made it the way many others have.** She highlighted the need to mentor and recognize them for the leadership roles they have taken on at community and family level.

She concluded her address by re-echoing the statement, **“the way to be happy is to make someone happy and to have a little heaven down here.”** A chorus in the Schools’ Anthem.

#### Head Teacher Tororo Girls’ School, Mrs. Beatrice Akware Lumonya



Picture 7: Mrs. Beatrice Akware Lumonya  
Headteacher TGS

Mrs Lumonya thanked God for the day and acknowledged the organizers of the event being the first of its kind. She thanked the former school administrators for the mentorship having served in TGS as a Teacher of English and Literature. She later moved to Namityango College where she excelled in her own words, “I shone like a star” and in 2014 she was nationally recognized the best English Teacher. TGS stands on the umbrella of; academic excellence, co-curricular activities, mentorship and nurturing all round students.

- She noted that the school infrastructure requires refurbishment and was happy that the Alumni Association highlighted this concern in the Vice-Chairperson’s remarks.

- Though she recently assumed office (four months ago) she promised to work hard like never before to make Tororo Girls shine. **“The sky is no longer the limit”, she said.**

#### **Remarks by Hon. Minister for Karamoja and Woman Member of Parliament for Manafa District - Dr. Kitutu Mary Goretti**

The Hon. Minister appreciated the organizing committee for bringing together the girls from the great school – TGS. She recognized the presence of the former students of St. Peters’ Tororo College. She was equally happy to see her fellow classmates from the late 1970s who started off under a male Headteacher, the Late Mr. Bwire. Her class was the pioneer of sitting Senior Six in March. She appreciated her former Headteacher Mrs. Nima for the motherly love and mentoring. The school taught the students to be God fearing. She underscored the need for more representation in Parliament. Hon. Dr. Kitutu reflected on when she once visited the School and observed that the Advanced level class had reduced in number as many students preferred to change school. She noted with pride that she has represented the girls in sciences. While she was a Minister of Energy and Minerals Development she used her designation to encourage many girls to join the School and was happy to note the increase in enrolment. **She thanked Mrs. Nima for her remarks and underscored the need for women to join the money economy.**

#### **Guest of Honor Remarks and Inauguration of the Tororo Girls’ School Alumni Association**

The Guest of Honor was particularly delighted to officiate the launch of an Association for a School she had a passion to join. Celebrating more than a golden jubilee the school population has grown from 120 in the 1960s and early 1970s to 1,900 learners today. The Rt. Hon. 1<sup>st</sup> DPM and Minister of EACA was delighted to be in the presence of an “army of educated women” reminiscing a vibrant women’s movement in the 1980s. With different professionals visiting schools to motivate learners and to provide career guidance. She acknowledged the headteacher and former headteachers and pledged her support to the School in ensuring **“The Tororo Girls School stars shine again.”** She guaranteed her commitment in supporting the establishment of a University in Tororo.

She highlighted the need to;

- Ensure more opportunities within the East African Community and through the Inter University Council of East Africa.
- Enhance income generation and securing livelihoods for women.
- Increase media coverage of women among others as a means of securing space for articulating women’s issues.

### Remarks by Chairperson SPECTOBA – Mr. Felix Okuya

The Chair noted that they were delighted to participate in the launch. He congratulated the Association on the Launch and highlighted that both Associations are now complete. He introduced the team of Old Boys who participated in the launch and pledged to support the TGSAA. A pledge of UGX 2,000,000 was made and the TCs called for joint projects in giving back to the schools and community.



Picture 8: OBs of St. Peters College Tororo

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