

Training local mariners

**Ssekiziyivu Martin, Ephraim Kisakye
Kiggundu and Theresah Namutebi
qualified as mariners; working as ferry
crew on KIS's scheduled ferry service.**

Kalangala Infrastructure Services (KIS) financed professional Engineering Rating training for its crew on the MV Victoria in Mwanza and in Dar-es-Salaam. The two-year course covered survival techniques, first aid, firefighting and social responsibility and included operating machines and fuel maintenance.

Kiggundu says, "Growing up on [Bugala] Island, I studied physics and mechanics – engineering is my vocation! I enjoyed my training and feel confident knowing that I can ensure passengers' safety and solve any problems that may arise on the ferry."

Ssekiziyivu was studying at university when he learned that KIS was being established on the island. Having a long-held ambition to become a mechanical engineer and to work onboard a ship, the opportunity to train with KIS was appealing; as was the chance for him to return home to earn an income and raise his young child.

Theresah was born on the island: "Before the new KIS ferries arrived, the ferry was old and the service very unreliable. Often people could not get their produce to market on the mainland and things like fish would spoil in the sun."

She trained for a further year and now works alongside the ferry captain. Her job includes steering, mooring and observation duties and supporting passengers to board and alight at the docks in Bukakata and Bugoma. Theresah is one of Uganda's first female certified mariners: "I am proud to be a role model for other women entering the marine transport industry."

Kiggundu aspires to join the Ugandan army as a marine engineer in the future. The skills he has acquired with KIS will be invaluable in achieving his ambitions.

