

Creating Connections

Lawrence Ligunda captains the MV Ssese, one of KIS' two scheduled passenger ferries linking Bugala Island to mainland Uganda

Lawrence has worked on the water for thirty years, first as a fisherman and then in cargo and fuel oil shipping. He joined Kalangala Infrastructure Services (KIS) in 2013 as captain of the MV Ssese. Over 75% of the crew are local people for whom KIS has financed training to operate the vessel, and he admires their skills and professionalism.

"Customers say we are the first in Uganda for time-keeping!" KIS operates two roll-on, roll-off ferries, with sailings taking place regularly throughout the day. **"It is important to us to stick to our schedule. People can travel about 70 miles to Masaka to do business and are sure that they can return home in the evening."**

"What is so good about this passenger service is that it is free for people to use, the government pays," says Lawrence. **"The common man has the same access to travel as the richer one. This makes**

sense for the government, because they gain additional taxes when businesses grow and develop, and tourists come to the island."

Lawrence believes that combining government and private sector expertise has been crucial for KIS's success. **"The government has long arms and the private sector has short arms; together their arms extend! The government is involved in regulations and licensing and the training required for the ferry crew, while the private sector has knowledge of the shipping business needed to make it a success."**

He discusses changes he has seen during his time with KIS: **"Before the ferry, road and power infrastructure came, the island was dormant economically. Infrastructure is always key – now people can invent new business ventures, which will be very advantageous for society."**

