

Powering career aspirations

Ssawuka Martin is a farmer and welder on Bugala Island. With KIS power, he can provide enough work for four apprentices in his welding business.

Ssawuka was born on Bugala Island. Seeking a skilled job, he moved to Masaka to undertake a welding apprenticeship. When he heard that Kalangala Infrastructure Services (KIS) was delivering reliable power, Ssawuka decided to return home to the island he loves.

He used money he had earned in Masaka to establish a welding business on his land: **“Having reliable power means that I can work all day. I make about 20 doors and 15 windows a month and repair items that my customers bring to me for welding.”**

“My reputation is growing now, and customer numbers have increased. I am having to employ more people in the business.” Ssawuka now employs four apprentices, offering them an opportunity to learn the trade as he did.

Islander Henry Kayongo Mutumba says: **“I was working in a crowded workshop in Masaka.**

I came home when I heard that welding businesses here on the island were connecting to KIS power.”

His colleagues Kimbwa Wasswa, Kyazze Ronald Kalumba and Matovu Joseph moved to the island from Masaka. Kimbwa says: **“I came because I heard that there were jobs and opportunities here.”**

Ssawuka is proud of his expanding business and talks of the potential to establish a welding co-operative on the island which could import raw materials directly from Kampala. In the short term, he is saving to buy equipment which will enable him to expand the range of designs on offer, improving choice for customers and increasing the profitability of his business.

Henry chips in: **“In the future, I would like to open my own welding shop anywhere that there are opportunities – maybe even Europe!”**