

# Over 600 Buvuma business owners receive digital skills training

By Charles Etukuri

Over 600 micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in Buvuma district have been trained to harness information and communication technology to improve profitability.

The trainees were mainly shopkeepers, metal fabricators and fish vendors, as well as salon, carpentry workshop and restaurants owners, among others.

The training was carried out by the Federation of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises-Uganda (FSMEU) in collaboration with the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) under its Uganda communications universal service and access fund arm in Buvuma recently. The project targets businesses countrywide.

Under the digital literacy and skilling campaign for

MSMEs, UCC seeks to address the pervasive digital illiteracy among MSMEs in Uganda.

During the training, the MSMEs' owners and employees were sensitised about the opportunities in the ICT sector and how to take advantage of them.

Buvuma district commercial officer John Lunabala expressed gratitude to the FSME-Uganda team and UCC for extending the programme to the district.

FSME-Uganda president John Walugembe emphasised the urgency of building



Some of the participants who attended the micro, small and medium enterprises training in Buvuma recently

digital competencies among entrepreneurs.

"For Uganda to remain competitive in the regional and global marketplace, our MSMEs must embrace digital transformation.

Many small businesses have the potential to scale, but they are held back by limited ICT knowledge. Through this programme, we are ensuring that no entrepreneur is left behind – whether they are on the mainland or in island

communities like Buvuma," he said.

Walugembe added that FSME would continue advocating for more investment in digital skilling, access to affordable devices and improving the digital business environment.

UCC executive director Nyombi Thembo said the commission is committed to bridging the digital divide in Uganda.

"Our mandate is not only to regulate the communications sector, but also to ensure that all Ugandans, regardless of location, benefit from the opportunities created by ICT. MSMEs are the backbone of Uganda's economy and equipping them with digital skills is central to driving innovation, improving service delivery and enhancing national productivity," he said.

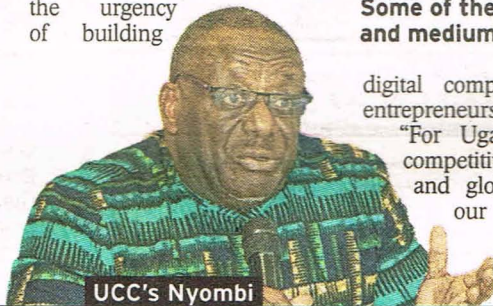
Thembo said UCC, through Uganda communications

universal service and access fund, would continue implementing initiatives that expand broadband access, digital literacy and ICT awareness across underserved communities.

MSMEs in Uganda employ over 4.5 million people, account for more than 90% of the private sector and contribute more than 70% of our national gross domestic product. UCC, in a statement, noted that in this way, they play a catalytic role in creating jobs, alleviating poverty and fostering economic growth.

However, MSMEs are faced with numerous challenges, which result in between 70% and 80% of them failing within two years of establishment.

Some of the obstacles include inability to harness ICT sufficiently to improve their operational performance and profitability.



UCC's Nyombi