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[The Observer](#) (Kampala)

Uganda: Versatile Musinguzi Is Living His Dream

BY POLLY KAMUKAMA, 24 MAY 2012

Because Davis Musinguzi was clearly the audience's favourite, Ugandans thought he would obviously win the Inspire Africa competition.

So when he lost, many disapproved. Yet Musinguzi seems to be a natural winner. At 25, what he has achieved is many a youngster's dream. He says he was the "best winner" of Inspire Africa despite not taking home the \$50,000 (about Shs 125 million) grand prize.

"It is cliché to say that I was in the challenge for the money but I do not regret," Musinguzi says. "I was able to sell my vision and ideas to the whole world and I am glad it has created such an impact."

His vision is to 'fix' the medical field, his profession, which he says is now fraught with inefficiencies. His pitch in Inspire Africa was to create a mobile clinic called Medical Concierge, which would offer door-to-door services to needy patients at competitive prices.

"I want to be able to play my part in pushing for affordable, accessible and quality health services that are otherwise clearly missing in Uganda's current healthcare system.

"Inspire Africa was the right forum," says Musinguzi.

Commonly called 'The Doc' by his peers, Musinguzi was born and raised in Ntinda, Kampala, to banker Polycarp Musinguzi and businesswoman Lydia. He credits this background for his sharp brain.

"My dad is book-smart while Mummy is street-smart," says their son. "People say I inherited their qualities in equal measure, which I think is true. I love business as well as academics."

Besides a good head on his neck, Musinguzi attended good schools - Lohana Academy for primary, St Mary's College Kisubi for O-level and King's College Budo for A-level. After landing a government scholarship, he graduated from Makerere University last year in Medicine and Surgery.

Rather than his academic excellence, however, he would rather discuss life ahead.

"Warid Telecom gave me \$50,000 [about Shs125 million] to develop my business pitch into reality," Musinguzi beams. "I am, therefore, working so hard to make sure that Medical Concierge is in operation by August."

Currently, Musinguzi is a UNICEF health systems consultant, a fact he is quick to clarify came before Inspire Africa, contrary to popular opinion that the exposure from the popular TV challenge landed him the lucrative job.

"This is a credible organization that does not offer you a job simply because you appeared on TV. I worked my way up here because my bosses appreciated my innovativeness," he explains.

An avid technology fan, Musinguzi is also making a cut into the IT world. He is the manager of Team Cipher256, a team of three computer scientists from Makerere. Just last month, the team won Microsoft's East and Southern Africa Imaging Cup for their WinSenga - a mobile application they developed to detect ectopic pregnancy or abnormal foetal heart beats. They are now eyeing the global finals, due in July in Sydney, Australia.

Musinguzi is also known for his oratory skills, which he has honed since childhood. While at university, he won the 2009 Makerere University Public Speaking challenge, casting himself into the campus' limelight. He also owns Speakers Without Borders, which organizes the annual

inter-university speaking competition.

"Communication is very key; you could be brilliant but if you cannot effectively communicate your innovations to people who matter, you are doomed. I learnt this as a child and it has worked," he says.

Musinguzi enjoys reading and as a teenager, he was inspired to study medicine after reading renowned neurosurgeon Ben Carson's books Think Big and Gifted Hands. Friends then christened him 'Surgeon'. His other favourite authors are Robert Kiyosaki and Steven Covey.

As a young accomplished doctor, Musinguzi has caught the girls' eye. During his days in Inspire Africa, some female fans showed their affection by printing his name across their bras. Others held placards reading: "Dave, marry me please!" Yet Musinguzi remains single and contented.

Mara Foundation, an African non-profit social enterprise NGO, has even tried to ride on his sexual appeal by auctioning a date with him on June 8. Hundreds of girls, The Observer has been told, have since bought the tickets and the proceeds will go to rehabilitating a slum school.

But level-headed Musinguzi won't let the hype get to his head. He still hangs out at Bubbles and Café Javas, where he catches rugby games with friends while sipping coffee. He also reserves weekends for his family and personal errands.

For a last word, Musinguzi says: "My appeal to all the youth is that you should do what you are most passionate about. This way, it does not feel like work because you get paid for having fun. I am a living example."

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