

# “We need a policy on steel”

**Dr. Christopher Senfuka**

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**Title of Doctorate research:** ‘Reliability of steel made from recycled scrap in Uganda’

Dr. Christopher Senfuka is a Lecturer of Mechanical and Production Engineering at Kyambogo University. In his Doctorate studies, Dr. Senfuka takes a critical look at the usage of scrap in the manufacturing of steel in Uganda. He is part of the formidable team that saw an order passed by the President of Uganda to stop the exportation of scrap.

“About 50-70% of Uganda’s better quality scrap was being exported to Kenya, which paid better, leaving behind poor quality scrap for local consumption. In return, Uganda kept importing scrap from neighbouring countries like Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. As of now, the President has stopped exportation of scrap and efforts are ongoing to come up with a National Iron and Steel Policy,” he explains.



Dr. Christopher Senfuka is concerned that the steel industries neither have staff development nor research and development schemes. This has kept the level of even their highest placed workers well below the technically innovative segment and made it hard to assimilate results from the ongoing research in the country, into the field. "This is in addition to the consistent failure of the country's tertiary institutions to develop syllabi that encompass technical training of workers tailored for the steel industry, such as metallurgists. We would need a policy on steel, that makes openings for the locals to be trained in creative originality production rather than routine supervision," he emphasizes.

"The quality of steel has been affected by the growing shortage of scrap. The more scrap is recycled, the poorer the quality of steel that comes from it," he says. Dr. Senfuka recommends that the sorting of scrap is improved and preferably done by agents who have the ability and time to categorise scrap and price it accordingly. He also advocates for the exploitation of the abundant iron ore resources to produce sponge iron.

