

A collage of images representing various aspects of Nigeria, including a high-speed train, a rocket launch, a worker in a hard hat, a family using a laptop, a person in a lab, a soccer field, a power plant, a soccer player, and a person climbing a tree.

Dr. Joseph Muvawala

Doctorate Studies: Makerere University, 2006 -2010

Title of Doctorate research: 'Technical Efficiency of the Primary Education System in Uganda'

Dr. Joseph Muvawala is in fresh in office as Executive Director of the National Planning Authority, NPA. He is zealous about turning the 12 year old NPA into the premier planning institution, during his four year tenure. "I want NPA to be the best. I will make it shine through a number of strategies like benchmarking with reputable international planning agencies. We should be the first advisor on any policy to both Government and the Presidency," he emphasizes.

For his **self sponsored** PhD studies in Economics at Makerere University, Dr. Muvawala looked at efficiency of Uganda's Primary Education System. "We were trying to check the cost and

rates of achieving primary education in Uganda for both government and private schools. We found that all schools were technically inefficient. Private schools invest a lot and seem to be achieving a lot but research revealed that they are below their frontiers. Government schools on the other hand need to invest more in inspection if they are to enhance learning outcomes,” he asserts.

Using the analytical experience gained while pursuing his PhD, Dr. Muvawala now wants NPA to take its rightful place as a national planner. He is convinced that more interaction between Government institutions and Academia is of priority. “I am proposing a new performance appraisal system that links the employee output to results of the Institution. I also want my staff members to publish articles in their respective policy areas and occasionally volunteer to lecture in institutions of higher learning. They have a lot of valuable practical knowledge which can feed into academia. But most importantly, the academia will help us understand what the problem is- a key aspect to finding the right solution. We need to zero down on what is holding Uganda back,” he says.

Under his guidance, NPA is looking at prioritisation of infrastructure, value addition to agricultural products, tourism, human capital development and service delivery efficiency for the next five years – as Uganda moves towards realisation of Vision 2040. “In order for Uganda to transform into a middle income country as projected in Vision 2040, we need to set achievable targets in blocks of smaller years. As an agricultural country, I have no doubt that value addition on our products will give us the much-needed boom,” he explains.

Membership to Professional Organisations

- Honorary Member, Economics Association
- Honorary Member, Statistics Association

