

ACCOUNTANCY SERVICE AWARDS (ASA) 2023**FULL LIST OF AWARDEES****ABOUT THE ASA AWARDS**

The Accountancy Service Awards (ASA) are premium annual awards of excellence aimed at recognizing persons or entities that have made outstanding contributions to advance the accountancy profession and build sustainable communities in Uganda and beyond. The 2023 ceremony was held on 22 September 2023 at the Imperial Resort Beach Hotel.

The Awards are categorized into:

1. ICPAU Gold Service Award
2. CPA of the Year Award
3. Young Accountant of the Year Award
4. Finance Team of the Year Award
5. Accounting Firm of the Year Award

This year 2023, three (3) Special Award Categories were recognised and awarded as below:

6. Unique Humanitarian Service Award
7. Institutional Partner Award
8. Members Regional Network of the Year Award

1. ICPAU Gold Service Award

CPA Japheth Katto

It recognizes and honors CPA Japheth Katto, an individual who has made outstanding contribution to the accountancy profession in Uganda and beyond.

CPA Japheth Katto is an accountant who has been instrumental in the development of the profession.

- Has been an ICPAU member in good standing for over 23 years.
- Served on several Committees of the Council of ICPAU.
- Served for over 9 years on the Board and Committees of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), and encouraged/ mentored other members to extend their service to IFAC.
- Has steered the boards of some of the Region's most respected Companies and has continued to nurture good corporate governance practices through training and active participation on various corporate boards.
- Was founding CEO of the statutory body responsible for regulating and promoting the development of capital markets in Uganda and served for 16 years, during which period was

instrumental in starting the Financial Reporting (FiRe) Awards with the organization as a partner.

- Was recently appointed to the Board of the Central Bank.



CPA Japheth Katto (R) with Mr Don Wanyama the CEO and Managing Director of Vision Group.

2. CPA of The Year Award

CPA Sarah Chelangat

This Award recognises and honors CPA Sarah Chelangat, a Certified Public accountant (CPA) who has made outstanding contribution to the accountancy profession in Uganda and beyond.

CPA Sarah Chelangat:

- Represents a role model of what ICPAU espouses in terms of professional conduct and technical proficiency.
- Has served on the Taxation and Economic Policy Panel of the Professional Standards Committee of the Council of ICPAU.
- Actively attends and participates in the Institute's events as a member.
- Is rated as a good taxation resource person, who openly shares knowledge, and has delivered various CPD presentations at ICPAU events and continues to share content through publications.
- Championed the protection of professionalism through advocating for the recruitment of qualified persons for Accounting/ Finance roles especially members of ICPAU at the various workplaces.

- Spearheaded an increase in revenue mobilization at her workplace through more outreaches, campaigns, and contact offices.
- Is a true reflection of what a professional accountant can deliver when granted the opportunity.



CPA Sarah Chelangat of URA accompanied by her daughter receives an award from CPA Josephine Okui Ossiya, President, ICPAU. Extreme Right is CPA Ronald Mutumba, the chairperson of ICPAU's Members Services Committee

3. Young Accountant of The Year Award

CPA Charles Busingye

The Award recognises CPA Charles Busingye, a young accountant who has embraced and promoted the tenets of the profession in a way that reflects a truly professional accountant.

CPA Charles Busingye is an accountant below the age of 35 years who has contributed to the growth of the organisations in which he serves. Through his service as a professional accountant, he has attained noteworthy accomplishments that exhibit ICPAU-promoted professional conduct and technical proficiency.

- He emerged as a prize winner for 3 papers in the CPA Course: Advanced Taxation, Business Policy & Strategy, and Integration of Knowledge.
- From the perspective of peers, he is a team player.
- He was part of the finance team that has overseen a total transformation of their organization (seeing revenues grow during the period 2022 from a formerly loss-making position).
- CPA Busingye is code-named TAXPERT and PAYMASTER, is also known for speed, precision, dedication to work, and extensive technical knowledge and proficiency in taxation matters.
- He has pioneered the implementation of a new business model code-named 'the Delegation of Authority' in the industry, which has seen the employer improve processes by; cutting out bureaucracy to improve operational efficiency,

making decision-making faster, succession planning easier, and nurturing young talent.



ICPAU President CPA Josephine Okui Ossiya handing the Award to CPA Charles Busingye of Uganda Electricity Generation Company Limited.

4. Finance Team of The Year Award

Finance team of Joint Clinical Research Centre (JCRC)

The Award honours the Finance Team of Joint Clinical Research Centre for their contribution to the overall success of their organisations. The award recognises the fact that a CFO alone cannot drive the organisation, thus the need to recognise their efforts as a team.

The Finance Team of Joint Clinical Research Centre:

- Provides accurate and timely financial information to Management to support decision-making that drives the organization's overall strategy.

- Established strong internal controls, ensured compliance with rules and regulations, and has managed to not only retain most of its funding sources but also attract several new funders hence ensuring long-term business growth and continuity.
 - Embraced technology for both its internal processes and service delivery.
 - Has upheld and ring-fenced the finance roles in the organization for professional accountants, deliberately promoting the uptake of the CPA qualification for a number of aspiring accountants within the Finance Department.
 - Supports staff development and training, and pays membership fees for staff who are members of the Institute.
 - Demonstrates a strong commitment to upholding ethical standards and has created fraud awareness through the deliberate distribution of fraud wallet cards amongst all finance staff.
- With the organisation aiming at creating a vibrant self-sustaining centre of excellence in medical research, this finance team plays a pivotal role in ensuring that the integrity of financial information is preserved.



A team from JCRC. Third Left is CPA Allan Ssenkungu, Compliance Manager at JCRC.

5. Accounting Firm of The Year Award

ARDENFIELD

The Award recognises Ardenfield, an upcoming accounting firm with no international network or association. A firm that has enjoyed an exceptional year and demonstrated outstanding achievements, including career opportunities for accountancy professionals.

Ardenfield:

- Made great improvements in the firm's quality management systems, and demonstrated a strong commitment and willingness to continuous improvement by implementing the recommendations from the ICPAU Quality Assurance Review team.
- Embraced automation and technology in its management and documentation of its key processes.
- Embraced quality and to them, provision of quality service and sustainable growth form part of the broad growth agenda in their medium and long-term plans.
- Grew its services offerings from only accounting and audit services to include financial due diligence and regulatory compliance checks, among others.
- Offers accounting clinics and has developed an accounting system (ACCSOL) that aids non-accounting personnel in maintaining elementary records, and the system is offered for free to some SMEs.
- Has designated relations staff to clients for proper management and monitoring of firm-client relationships and interactions generally.
- Has supported the professional development of staff through periodical training, put in place a library accessible by all staff, embraced a reimbursement model of exam fees for CPA students upon passing exams, and developed a succinct career development plan for each staff.



A team from Ardenfield. Extreme Left is ICPAU Council member CPA Dr Albert Richards Otete.

6. Unique Humanitarian Service Award

Past District Governor Rtn. Steven Mwanje

The award recognises Past District Governor, Rtn Steven Mwanje an individual who has impacted their communities through humanitarian or other socio-developmental causes. The ICPAU Humanitarian Award for the year 2023 was presented to Past District Governor, Rtn Steven Mwanje, an individual whose humanitarian and leadership skills provided a lasting impact on the lives of those in need. Rtn. Mwanje;

- Started the Uganda Forex Bureaus Association and chaired it for 11 years.
- Is one of the volunteer founder members of the Institute of Corporate of Uganda, and continues to support the Institute as a corporate governance trainer.
- Started the **Rotary Family Health Days Programme** in 2011, which has had the following impact;
 - Over 8 million people all over Uganda have received treatment over the years.
 - Facilitated medical equipment and skills training to health centres and hospitals around the country, with support from grants from The Rotary Foundation.
 - Construction of health centres and wards in different parts of the country.
- In 2017, the Programme was recognized as the most impactful project in Africa and among the top 10 most impactful Rotary projects globally and has far been replicated in 12 African countries, India and Phillipines.
- Through the efforts of the Award winner, the Uganda Rotary Cancer Programme was birthed in 2011.
- Together with other Rotarians the individual initiated the Rotary Cancer Run.
- The Rotary Cancer Run has led to:

- a) Attracting corporate and individual sponsorship for cancer ward and equipment. Over Shs. 1.5 billion collected in 2023 but targeting Shs. 4 billion annually from 2024 to 2027.
- b) Construction of a Cancer Ward at St. Francis Hospital Nsambya in 3 years. Target is to have a fully equipped State of the Art Cancer Ward by close of 2027.
- c) Staff training and equipping the Nsambya Hospital Cancer ward with grants from The Rotary Foundation.
- d) Increased awareness about cancer, cancer healthcare, and Rotary in the country.
- e) Increased funding for the treatment of cancer.
- f) Free cancer screening services countrywide.
- g) Contributed funds to The Mengo Rotary Blood Bank.
- h) The Rotary Cancer Run has been replicated in a number of continents.

Rtn. Mwanje is

- **The Managing Director, Bridge Credit Finance (a microfinance company);**
- **The Board Chairman, Asland Motors Africa Ltd (a dealer in Ashok Leyland and Volkswagen vehicles); and**
- **Founder and Chairman, Tondeka Metro Company Ltd (a mode of public transport in the city)**



Past District Governor, Rtn. Steven Mwanje (R) with ICPAU's Director Education & Past District Governor, Lion John Bosco Ntangaare.

7. Institutional Partner Award Uganda Revenue Authority

The Award recognizes Uganda Revenue Authority, a partner institution that has made outstanding contributions to the accountancy profession in Uganda.

Uganda Revenue Authority has supported and continues to support CPA Uganda in various ways. The institution:

- Believes in the potential of ICPAU and regularly consults the Institute on matters of mutual interest.
- Advises and encourages the growth of ICPAU.
- Complies with the Accountant's Act, 2013 by ensuring that heads of finance and audit are members of the Institute.
- Supports and encourages staff to participate in ICPAU activities and events, such as serving on the Committees of Council of the Institute.
- Has provided sponsorships for ICPAU events.
- Supports staff who are members to pay subscription fees and to attend ICPAU events.

With this Institution, ICPAU foresees synergies resulting from continued collaborations regarding the role accountants play in developing businesses and Uganda's economy.



Some staff of URA with their Award. Left is ICPAU Council member CPA David Timothy Ediomu.

8. Members Regional Network of The Year Award

CPA Uganda Mid-Eastern Regional Network

This award recognizes the CPA Uganda Mid-Eastern Regional Network, an ICPAU Member Regional Networks that have promoted the CPA brand in their respective regions and also held activities that encourage the unity of the members in the region.

For the year 2023, only one Regional Network was successfully nominated in line with the awards criteria. This Region has continuously exhibited a deliberate effort for member togetherness as a way of supporting one another's professional growth and that of the accounting profession. In particular, this network:

- Has promoted continuous interaction among members through:
 - a. WhatsApp platforms,
 - b. Physical and online meetings and
 - c. Sometimes ad-hoc meetings.
- Has held learning events for members.
- Has held a social event for the cohesion of members.
- Participated in the ICPAU @30 Regional Celebrations
- Prioritizes associate members' participation in the Institute's activities.

The efforts of this Regional Network are a clear demonstration of ICPAU's growing presence and performance beyond Kampala.



CPA Kenan Kamolu, Chairperson, (3rd left) and members of the network receive an award from CPA John Muhaise-Bikalemesa (extreme left).