

Uzinza Adventist Secondary School

FADHILI SAMUEL LUBUA

Fadhili Samuel Lubua

Uzinza Adventist Secondary School is one of the emerging Seventh-day Adventist educational institutions in the Geita Region of [Tanzania](#).

Developments that Led to the Establishment of the School

The history of Uzinza Adventist Secondary School is closely connected with the growth of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Nkome area of Geita Region, Tanzania. Adventist missionary activities in the region began around July 3, 1954, when the Adventist message spread from Mharamba to Bugando and later throughout the surrounding areas. The establishment of churches in Nkome created a spiritual foundation that later inspired the desire for Adventist education within the community.¹

The idea of establishing an Adventist school in the Geita area emerged from the increasing need for Christian education grounded in Adventist philosophy and values. During a district committee meeting held on August 16, 1978, under the leadership of Pastor P. Karuma, Church leaders discussed the possibility of establishing a school within either the Sengerema or Geita zones. Although the project did not immediately materialize, the vision remained alive among Church members and leaders. The agenda was revived during another district committee meeting on January 7, 2004, chaired by Pastor Samuel Mange. These meetings became significant milestones in the long process that eventually resulted in the founding of the school.

Several individuals played an important role in keeping the dream alive. Among them were Pastor P. Karuma, Pastor Muyengi, Pastor Samuel Mange, Mwalimu Ashbel Amos, Elder Ibrahim Mashauri, and Mwalimu Gideon Mapesa. Their persistent efforts, together with the support of local church members, sustained the vision for many years until the project became a reality.²

Founding of the School

The founding of Uzinza Adventist Secondary School was the result of collective efforts by church leaders, local congregations, conference administrators, and community members. The South Nyanza Conference, later reorganized into the Nyanza Gold Belt Field, provided administrative leadership and oversight for the project. Local Church members from the Pineapple, Kasota, and Lakeside zones also contributed significantly through

labor, financial support, and advocacy.³

The original vision was to establish an Adventist educational institution somewhere within the Geita or Sengerema zones. A major breakthrough occurred on July 11, 2005, when the Nkome Village government officially allocated eight acres of land to the Seventh-day Adventist Church for the purpose of building a school. The land was granted as part of the village's public development initiatives, and the Church accepted the responsibility of developing the property.

For several years, however, the land remained undeveloped, and there was a danger that it might be reassigned to another religious organization. In response, the South Nyanza Conference intervened, and on July 19, 2013, the village committee reaffirmed the ownership of the land by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Following this decision, church members from Nkome District mobilized resources and began constructing classroom buildings through initiatives coordinated by Adventist Youth Ministries.

Construction activities began soon after the land allocation in 2005. Financial support came largely from local Church members, who contributed money, building materials, labor, and technical skills. The support of the South Nyanza Conference and later the Nyanza Gold Belt Field also became instrumental in advancing the project.

The institution was officially launched on September 1, 2022, by Pastor Enoch M. Sando, then president of the Nyanza Gold Belt Field. The school initially operated with modest facilities consisting of four classrooms, a staff office, a staffroom, and sanitation facilities. The event was attended by conference leaders, district pastors, and many Church members. In January 2023, the institution began registering vocational students under the VETA registration number IAE/ASEP/0856 as Uzinza ASEP Learning Centre.⁴

On March 18, 2026, the institution achieved another historic milestone when it received official registration as a regular secondary school under registration number S.8629 and was also accredited as an examination center under registration number S7988. This accomplishment reflected the dedication of the school leadership, including Headmaster Pastor Ezekiel Simeo Makunja, Second Master Faraja Y. Masiya, Accountant Moses Odhiambo Araka, Elder Gideon Mapesa, and the leadership of the Nyanza Gold Belt Field. The school grew from seven students in 2023 to forty-two students by May 2026.

Development

Since its official opening in 2022, Uzinza Adventist Secondary School has experienced gradual growth and institutional development. Student enrollment increased steadily from eight students in 2023 to 20 students in 2024, 30 students in 2025, and 42 students by 2026. This growth demonstrated increasing confidence among parents and the surrounding community in the school's mission and academic direction.

The institution initially attempted to operate as a vocational training center. However, low student enrollment in vocational programs created financial and operational challenges. Elder James Olumba, who served as head of school during the early years, persuaded conference leaders to transform the institution into a secondary school. This transition marked an important turning point in the school's history⁵

The curriculum evolved alongside national educational reforms. Students initially studied under the previous Tanzanian curriculum, but the school adopted the revised curriculum introduced in 2025. The institution currently offers arts, science, and business subjects, while plans are underway to introduce vocational programs that can better respond to labor market demands and practical skills development.⁶

The year 2026 became particularly significant in the institutional history of the school. During this period, the school achieved full registration and accreditation as an examination center. Student enrollment and staff numbers also increased substantially. The Nyanza Gold Belt Field administration supported the renovation of buildings and the construction of additional facilities, including a laboratory building, dining hall, kitchen, storage rooms, and a small library.

Despite these achievements, the school also experienced several challenges. For many years, the absence of an examination center forced the administration to seek external centers for student examinations, increasing operational costs. The institution also lacked dormitories, staff residences, laboratories, adequate library facilities, and a perimeter fence. Teachers and students were often required to walk long distances daily because there was no staff housing within the campus. Limited teaching and learning materials also affected instructional effectiveness.

Throughout its history, several individuals contributed significantly to the development of the school. Among them were Pastor Samuel Mange, Pastor Muyengi, Pastor Karuma, Mwalimu Ashbel Amos, Mwalimu Gideon Mapesa, Elder Joshua Sungura, Elder Alphonse Majeshi, Brastus Kabango, Nelson Kubije, Joseph Mlondera, and Elder Ibrahim Mashauri. Their dedication, together with the support of Church members and conference leadership, played a major role in sustaining the institution during its formative years.

Historical Role

Uzinza Adventist Secondary School plays an important role within the Seventh-day Adventist educational system in Tanzania. The institution operates under the National Examinations Council of Tanzania while simultaneously integrating Adventist educational philosophy into its curriculum and spiritual activities. Within the local community, the school has become an important center of influence. Located in Nyamalele Village near Nkome in Geita Region, the institution provides educational opportunities for students from surrounding villages who might otherwise lack access to quality Christian education.⁷

Spiritually, the school has become a center for evangelism and discipleship. Many students have accepted the Adventist faith through school worship programs, Bible studies, and evangelistic activities. By 2026, 34 out of 42 students had been baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church, demonstrating the institution's effectiveness in spiritual formation. Economically and socially, the school contributes to the local community by creating employment opportunities for teachers, cooks, guards, and support staff. It also supports vulnerable families through educational opportunities and occasional scholarships.

Principals

Kamuhanda Radislaus (September to December 2022); James Olumba (January 2023 to March 2024); Steven Mnadi (March 2024 to December 2024); Emmanuel Nyombela (January to June 2025); Ezekiel Simeo Makunja (July 2025–)

SOURCES

"Historical Records and Educational Reports of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Tanzania." Northern Tanzania Union Conference Archives, Arusha, Tanzania, various years.

Nyanza Gold Belt Field records and committee minutes, Kahama, Shinyanga, Tanzania.

Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia. 2nd rev. ed. Hagerstown, MD: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1996.

Uzinza Adventist Secondary School administrative records, 2022–2026.

NOTES

1. Interviews with Pastor Muyengi, Pastor Samuel Mange, Pastor Nuhu Suleiman, Madam Bahati Kaitila, Pastor Paul Kwilasa, Elder Ashbel Amos, Gideon Mapesa, and Pastor Ezekiel Simeo Makunja, 2025/2026.
2. Nyanza Gold Belt Field records and committee minutes, 1978-2004, Kahama, Shinyanga, Tanzania.
3. Uzinza Adventist Secondary School administrative records, 2022–2026.
4. Interviews with Pastor Muyengi, Pastor Samuel Mange, Pastor Nuhu Suleiman, Madam Bahati Kaitila, Pastor Paul Kwilasa, Elder Ashbel Amos, Gideon Mapesa, and Pastor Ezekiel Simeo Makunja, 2025/2026.
5. Ibid.

6. "Historical Records and Educational Reports of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Tanzania," 2025, Northern Tanzania Union Conference Archives, Arusha, Tanzania.

7. Uzinza Adventist Secondary School administrative records, 2022–2026.

encyclopedia.adventist.org is an official website of the [Seventh-day Adventist World Church](#)

© 2020 General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists 12501 Old Columbia Pike Silver Spring , MD 20904 USA 301-680-6000