IRAN-EVACUATED UGANDANS LAUD GOVT

KAMPALA

By Julius Luwemba

Iran-based Ahlul Bayt International University Mechatronics engineering master's student Alexandria Wampamba was left with a few months to finalise her studies when war broke out.

"Fortunately, I had defended my thesis and was only awaiting the clearing of a few things before returning home," Wampamba, who was among the 43 Ugandans evacuated by the Government from war-torn Iran, said upon her return to Uganda last evening.

"Whereas it has taken us just a few days to return home, the journey has been long," she said. According to Wampamba, all the Ugandans studying in Iran were notified by the embassy about the converging point, before a bus was dispatched to evacuate them to the Iran-Türkiye border. Business management bachelor's degree student Shanitah Namiiro said during their 24-hour drive from Iran to the Türkiye border, they bypassed debris and some dead bodies of people bombed by the US/Israel strikes.

BETWEEN THE LINES

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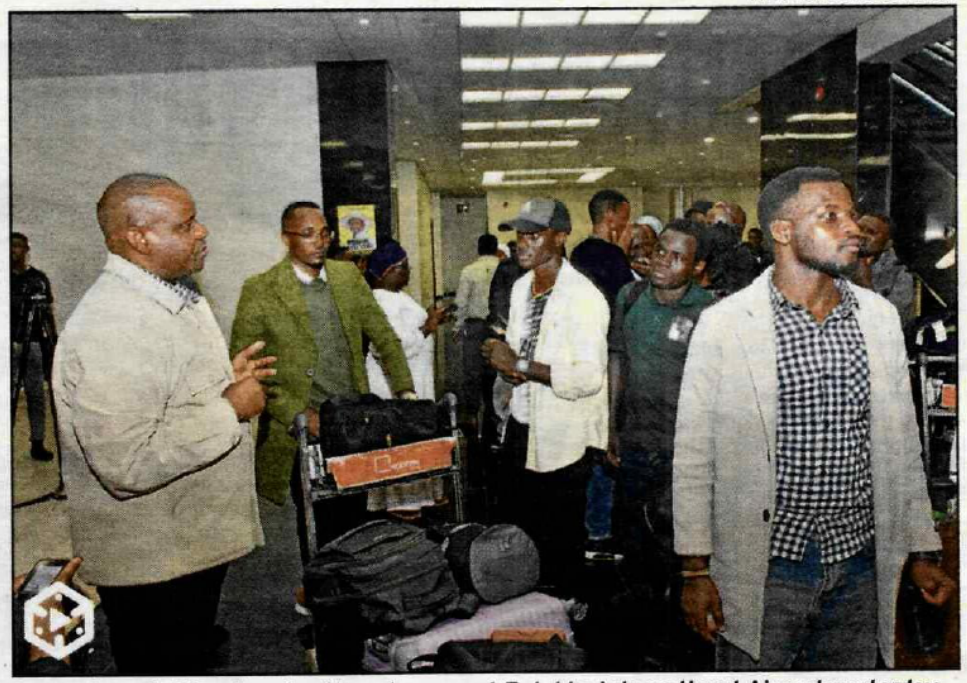
"The sights were horrifying. That's why we are so grateful to our government for coming through on time and getting us home safely," Namiiro said.

Mohammed Sebanakitta, also part of the group that was evacuated, lauded the Government for not only securing free scholarships in Iran but also ensuring their safety without charging any money.

Through the office of the permanent secretary of the foreign affairs ministry and the embassies in Iran and Türkiye, the Government of Uganda has conducted a successful evacuation of 43 Ugandans from Iran. The returnees were first expected to arrive in Uganda on Tuesday aboard Ethiopian Airlines, but their flight was rescheduled for yesterday.

The Ugandans were among passengers on evacuation flights set to rescue tens of thousands of travellers stranded in the Middle East, even as some airlines resumed on Monday. The US and Israeli attacks on Iran, which began on Saturday, followed by Iranian counterattacks on Gulf states and Israel, have led to the closure of the airspace of several countries.

PHOTO BY JULIUS LUWEMBA



Barugahara (left) welcoming the returnees at Entebbe International Airport yesterday. (Scan photo using Vision Digital Experience to watch video)

MORE UGANDANS TO RETURN

The group flew back to Uganda via Ethiopia aboard Ethiopian Airlines Boeing 777-200LR. They arrived at Entebbe airport last evening, where they were received by the youth and children affairs state minister, Balaam Barugahara.

According to Barugahara, there are ongoing efforts by the Government to repatriate the remaining 53 students currently studying at QOM University, Iran.