



HIGHER LEARNING

ADAPTING TO SOCIETY'S CHANGING NEEDS

For any economy to thrive, a well-structured transport sector is a requisite. Uganda Management Institute has introduced Chattered Institute in Logistics and Transport, a course that will see willing stakeholders in the transport sector trained on how to manage the transport sector better.

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Transport and logistics management is among the key technical courses that students are encouraged to study in Uganda today. This is because a good transportation system in the country can only be managed by people who are well trained.

Geoffrey Etyanga, a supply chain practitioner in Finance and Administration at the East African, is among the pioneers of Chattered Institute in Logistics and Transport at Uganda Management Institute (UMI).

To Etyang, there cannot be better management in transport and logistics in Uganda if people are not well trained in that field. "Currently, our country has a lot of gaps in the transport sector; our city is full of traffic jam and too many accidents. However, all this can change if people running the transport and logistics sector enroll for this training," he says.

He observes that ever since he obtained an Advanced Certificate in Chattered Institute in Logistics and Transport, he has been able to manage his company's fleet as well planning and managing the company's resources efficiently.

"I now know how to maintain my fleet. I know when to dispose of materials and this has helped my company to avoid unnecessary spending in the department of logistics," he adds.

Efficient business

Etyang encourages people in the transport and logistics sector to get these skills which he says will help them to effectively run their businesses. "Most people running the transport sector are only trained on driving basics but they need technical skills in transport and logistics," he adds.

Conrad Musiime, a driver in Seeta, Mukono, says training in transport and logistics managements should be every driver's goal. To him, the course would help them learn how to take care of their vehicles and also how to use the road well to avoid getting accidents.

"I have not yet enrolled for the course, but I will because it will help me become efficient at my work," he says.

According to Paul Wanume, the head of Chattered Institute in Logistics and Transport at UMI, the institution has introduced a new course; Chattered Institute in Logistics and Transport (CILT) whose main aim is to bridge the gap in the transport and

New course to give drivers transport, logistics skills

ABOUT THE COURSE

According to Wanume, Uganda Management Institute will offer an International Certificate in Institute of Logistics and Transport, an International Diploma, and an International Advanced Diploma to those that will enroll for the course. He explains that people who are studying the course for the first time will start with the International Certificate. However, those who studied Transport and logistics at university can enroll for a diploma. "Those who will complete all the three levels, will have an equivalent of a degree as per the National Council of Higher Education standards," says Wanume.



A new course, Chattered Institute in Logistics and Transport, will train drivers to keep safe on the road among other objectives.
PHOTO BY JOSEPH KIGGUNDU

logistics sector.

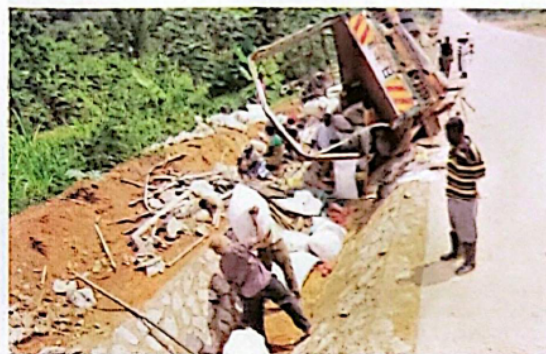
He says in order for any economy to thrive, a well-structured transport sector is a requisite. However, Wanume observes that although a number of key players in Uganda's transport sector are not well trained.

"Almost every organisation in Uganda has a transport department but who are the people who run these transport facilities? Are they trained on how to effectively run them? Do they know about the type of vehicles to buy? Do they know how to maintain them or how to dispose them off when the right time comes?" he asks.

Reduced risks

Wanume observes that currently, the transport sector in Uganda faces a number of challenges such as unsafe roads, overloading of vehicles especially heavy duty trucks which damage the roads. Old vehicles emit toxic gases in the air which pollute the environment and affect the ozone layer. "Majority of Ugandans are always not certain about reaching their destinations safely because of the numerous accidents on the roads," he adds.

"If people are well trained and equipped with skills in transport and



logistics management, they will be able to use the roads well, they will budget effectively and know which vehicles to purchase. They will also reduce the costs involved thus managing their transport businesses and avoiding losses," Wanume says.

He notes that most managers of transport companies manage their costs basing on a day's work. However, he contends that this would be properly done basing on mileage per journey.

He notes that approximately 50 per cent of an economy's budget is

consumed by transport and logistics yet the sector is being run by people who are not well trained.

He encourages government and private organisations to send people in the transport sector for this training, saying it will improve their skills. "All these people in the transport and logistics departments in different government bodies need to know how to effectively manage their sector. This will help our country to avoid incidents of procuring cars that are not necessary. By the end of the training, they will know which vehicles to buy and how to maintain them so as to minimise the costs," Wanume advises.

Wanume says with this new course, their trainees will be equipped with knowledge and skills on how to effectively manage transportation, which will help them minimise costs, increase revenue and general profits.

WHAT THE STUDENTS SAY

Course timely



"Most people who are running the transport sector are only trained on driving basics but they need technical skills in transport and logistics."

GEORGE ETYANGA, PIONEER STUDENT



Drivers will benefit

"Getting trained in transport and logistics management should be every driver's goal. The course would help them learn how to take care of their vehicles and also how to use the road well to avoid getting accidents."

CONRAD MUSIIME, A DRIVER

Accidents rampant

According to a Uganda Police Force report on accidents for June, a total of 1,024 accidents were registered during May 2017 and 129 accidents

registered in June. 156 of those were fatal, 582 serious and 286 minor. Also 127 victims of accidents in June 2017, were registered out of which 53 died and 74 sustained injuries.