

Insurers advised to increase professionals

By Edward Kayiwa

The state minister of finance for general duties, Gabriel Ajedra, has advised the insurance industry to increase the number of professionals in order to efficiently serve and grow the industry.

Ajedra said the current number of professionals, estimated at 538, is too small to serve the country's 42 million people.

The minister made the remarks on Friday at the graduation ceremony of the Insurance Institute of Uganda at Hotel Africana in Kampala.

He added that the limited number of insurance professionals in the country has also negatively affected the confidence of the public, necessitating more efforts to grow the sector.

"From the available data, it is clear that penetration stands at less than 1% yet the country has more than 40 million people. This means that less than four million people know about or have taken insurance

products," he explained.

The industry therefore has a burden to market its usefulness and also professionalise to effectively serve the huge potential in the market," Ajedra added.

He noted that the industry is yet to make strides in microfinance, banassurance and oil and gas which offer wide opportunities for employment, innovation, financial protection, economic growth and increased Gross Domestic Product.

Ajedra called on all players in the industry to ensure that their employees take professional courses in insurance to stamp out a bad image that has been painted by bad practices from unprofessional actors.

"We cannot as a country to have insurance as a by the way, because economic growth is underpinned by insurance. Therefore, all players have a role to play in this, and to ensure that there is trust, understanding and that more people take up insurance products," he said.