



The finance ministry is preparing to shift the supervision of mobile money services from the Bank of Uganda

Jonah Jackson Bakalikwira, civil servant

Civic education is fundamental

Civic education is a purposeful activity that leads the population into supporting and realising its defined goals and objectives. These objectives reflect the aspirations and interests of the people in a defined society. The people are the human beings that live in a given area and environment, they possess diverse levels of knowledge, needs, hopes, problems and challenges, which influence their levels of perception, convictions, attitudes, behaviours and action. Historically, societies have had interests in the ways in which their young ones are prepared for good citizenship and how they learn to take part in social growth.

Today there is a growing concern of how the youth are being prepared to play their roles and responsibilities to maintain and improve their communities and the country at large.

Ugandans should realise that Civic Education is fundamental to make us achieve our constitutional aspirations.

Behaviour, values and national ethics are not inherited but are inculcated. Each new generation is a new people that must acquire the necessary knowledge, skills and traits of private and public character that support good governance. These traits must be nurtured and consciously reproduced generation after generation.

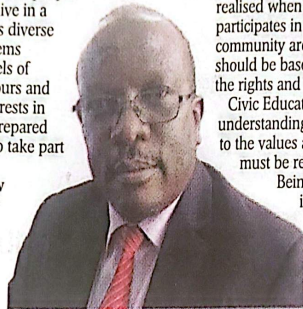
Civic Education is, therefore, of critical concern. It aims at developing an informed, knowledge based, effective citizenry and to produce the kind of society Ugandans need to live in. This requires an effective commitment on the part of the citizens.

The society Ugandans need to live in is well articulated in its national vision which is a "Transformed Uganda from a Peasant to a Modern and Prosperous Country within 30 years, with the following characteristics: Independent and sovereign; democratic and law abiding; stable and peaceful; knowledge-based and informed; able to exploit and use its resources sustainably; and in a strong federated East Africa with an effective African Common Market and a Strong African Defense Mechanism. This vision serves as a motivating force that galvanises the energy of a nation, the intellectuals, the experts, the specialised organs and the general population working to achieving the National Vision.

A meaningful civic education, therefore, is the one which will enable the citizens to meet this desired goal.

What Does Civic Education involve?

Civic education involves raising people's awareness on a



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given objective to cause a positive change.

Under democratic governance, it means that citizens are actively involved in their own governance; they do not just passively accept the wishes or demands of others.

In other words, the ideals of democracy are completely realised when every member of the political community participates in its governance. The members of the political community are its citizens and their effective participation should be based on informed and critical understanding of the rights and responsibilities of the citizen.

Civic Education should be concerned with promoting and understanding the ideals of the society and commitment to the values and principles of democratic governance. It must be realistic in theoretical teaching and practice.

Being aware that social change can be achieved if the citizens have the knowledge, the skills and most importantly the will to bring it about. That knowledge, skills, values, attitudes and perceptions of private and public character are the products of good civic education.

It helps citizens make informed and rational judgments about nature of civic life, politics and government. Why politics and government are necessary, the purpose of government, nature and purpose of constitutions, importance of civil society and civic responsibilities. Civic education should be based on the Constitution of Uganda, particularly, the National Objectives and Directive Principles of state policy where the peoples aspirations are enshrined.

Citizens who know and understand Constitutions appreciate the role of governments, and civil institutions can hold their governments accountable and ensure that its individuals' rights and

national interests are protected.

Citizens should understand that their involvement in political life and civil society helps in improving the quality of life in their households, neighbourhoods, communities and the nation at large.

If they want their voices to be heard, they must become active participants in all economic, social and political processes.

Although elections, campaigns and voting are central to democracy, citizens should learn that beyond electoral politics are many issues of development that calls for their participation.

The writer is assistant commissioner for National Guidance, Ministry of Information, ICT & National Guidance