UNIVERSITIES URGED TO FRONT ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS

BY RASHID MATSELELE

Education institutions should make entrepreneurship a key part of students' learning to prepare them for life beyond the classroom and enable them create their own jobs, Denis Ngabirano, an educationist, has advised.

"The level of unemployment in Uganda is extremely high. Therefore, we must change the narrative and strategy," he said, adding, "The strategy is that we come out and prepare the students to engage in entrepreneurship initiatives regardless of the course a student is taking. Entrepreneurship cuts across."

Ngabirano, who is also the chief executive officer and founder of Psalms Food Industries, was speaking during a public lecture at King Caesar University (KCU) in Kansanga, Kampala.

Ngabirano was the keynote speaker during the public lecture organised under the topic: *Where Academia Meets Industry Leadership*. The day's theme was; *Entrepreneurship Skills Development among Students*.

A former primary school teacher, Ngabirano drew on his food processing business run for 16 years to encourage students to always think like entrepreneurs.

He revealed that he first conceived his business idea while still a university student, crediting early ambition to the scale his company, which he has since achieved.

"A few years ago, I was also a student at the university and that is where my business idea started. I felt that it is really incumbent upon me to tell my story to inspire others because through such deeds, our economy can grow," he said.

Ngabirano urged parents to stop forcing children into professions that do not match their natural talents, citing his own experience where his father had pushed him into the teaching profession, which he abandoned for entrepreneurship.

Prof. Peter Turyakira, the head of the business and management sciences department at KCU, described the lecture as just the beginning of a broader collaboration that will include student internships at Psalms Food Industries, job opportunities and joint academic research.



Ngabirano, the CEO and founder of Psalms Food Industries, addressing King Caesar University students in Kansanga, Kampala, during a public lecture on Thursday