

Teaching methods frustrating skills development – experts

KAMPALA

By Lawrence Mulondo

Experts in the education sector have pointed at teaching methods in schools today as one of the challenges frustrating skills development in the country.

The over 100 members of Educate Uganda, a non-governmental organisation (NGO), said most teachers design teaching schemes that only focus on theory, forgetting to put the lessons into practical form for students to acquire the skills needed at workplaces.

The professionals who included teachers, school heads, consultants and commissioners, were attending a conference that was organised by Skills Development Cluster/Thematic Group, also an NGO.

Modern Kalema, the Educate Uganda programmes manager, said pupils, arts students in secondary schools and university graduates were the most affected by the poor teaching methods.

"Uganda produces over 40,000 degree graduates every year. However, only a small number is able to get jobs," he said.

He also said those employed, find it difficult to maintain their jobs as they fail to exhibit the skills expected by the employers.

"Ugandan graduates are not only unemployed, but also unemployable as they have no skills to carry out certain tasks," Kalema said.

Among the skills Kalema outlined was confidence, public speaking, creativity, critical thinking, team work and perseverance.

To restore skills education in schools, Educate came up with the skills lab, where teachers are required to prepare practical teaching schemes.

Educate Uganda national programmes manager Lydia Tumuhairwe said with the hub,



Educationists designing a primary school skills lab during the conference at Grand Imperial Hotel in Kampala recently. Photo by Lawrence Mulondo



Frank Kabushenga

each teacher is requested to present the topic with a skit performed by students.

She said in the process, students get skills such as negotiation, presentation, problem-solving, public speaking, among others.

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The commissioner for private schools department at the education ministry, Edward Sebukyu, said statistics indicate that learners are not learning.

"At teacher training colleges, teachers are taught to equip students with skills as they teach. However, most teachers care about what they get from schools, forgetting what students have to get," he said.

While teaching about love leadership at the event, Vision

Group's Frank Kabushenga, said teachers need to teach and reach out to the students with love.

Teach with love

"A teacher needs to look out for the good in the slow learning children as a motivation to impart knowledge into children who are slow at learning," he said.

Kabushenga said where there is no love, there is fear and that this results in incidences where teachers beat up children.

NEWS GO ROUND

Two arrested for kidnap

The Police in Mpigi are holding two suspects in connection with the kidnap and murder of a 28-year-old man on Thursday. The deceased, Mr. Bazanyo, was a resident of Kibibi town council. It is alleged that Bazanyo was kidnapped by persons who were travelling in a Toyota Corolla. His body was later found dumped near Nakirebe Police Station, Katonga. Police publicist Joseph Musana said the Police had arrested two persons, Juma Matovu and a one Ali to whom investigations. Bazanyo is said to have had a land wrangle with Matovu and had taken him to court over assault causing grievous harm.

Graduates warned over cybercrime

TORORO

By Faustine Odeke

More than 200 people were on Friday out after completing a two-week information and communications technology training with a call to use the knowledge for positive interaction and tapping business potential, rather than committing cybercrime.

The training exercise was organised by Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) Asinge Senior Secondary School using nine solar-powered computers.

Presiding over the function, the Tororo County South MP, Fredrick Jambanja, cautioned the graduands against using digital platforms for insulting people or committing cybercrime.

Nyombi Thembo, the ICT director for the communication development fund, who was touched by the testimonies made by the students regarding challenges they face due to limited number of computers promised to support the school with a 45-seater laboratory in the next financial year.

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exceptional teacher