

... May 2003, he responded during a meeting of the Movement

when some cadres joined to form the Reform Agenda.

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KAMPALA. President Museveni has awarded 50 individuals, including 11 women, with medals of honour in recognition of their distinguished service to Uganda during the 2026 International Labour Day celebrations.

Acting under the National Honours and Awards Act, the President conferred various civilian and service medals to professionals who have demonstrated exceptional dedication to the country's development across different sectors.

Among the notable awardees was Mr Ali Ssekatawa, the Director of Legal and Corporate Affairs at the Petroleum Authority of Uganda, who received the National Independence Medal, also reported as the Diamond Jubilee Medal, for his role in negotiating legal frameworks for Uganda's oil and gas sector.

As part of the core technical team, Ssekatawa is credited for playing a central role in negotiating and concluding the legal and commercial frameworks underpinning key national projects, including Tilenga, Kingfisher, the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (Eacop), and the refinery.

The other is Mr Kin Kariisa, the Managing Director of Salam TV and Salam Charity, who was honoured with the Diamond Jubilee Medal in recognition of his contribution to media development and community service.

Several members of the Uganda Police Force were also recognised for long service and professional conduct. Mr Isaac Omara and Mr Stephen Alele received Class II Honorary Medals, while ASP Night Diana Mpairwe and ASP Manana Philip Albert were awarded Long Service and Good Conduct medals for over 24 years of service.

President awards 50 medals at Labour Day celebrations



President Museveni (centre) with some of 50 individuals he awarded medals, including, left to right: Goeffrey Ogwang, Gilbert Kamuntu Muzahura, Ali Ssekatawa and John Bosco Habumugisha in recognition of their distinguished service to Uganda on International Labour Day on May 1. PHOTO/COURTESY

ers were awarded laptops and piece of land in recognition of excellence in delivery.

The event brought together government officials, labour leaders, educators, and workers' representatives in a ceremony that underscored the government's commitment to rewarding productivity and promoting national development through labour.

Mr Musa Okello, the chairperson of the National Organisation of Trade Unions (Notu), raised concerns over labour conditions, revealing that a newly established toll-free line had received over 5,000 complaints from migrant workers over mistreatment and violations within a month.

"We would like to address the issue of the mismatch in our education. People are qualified, but their qualifications cannot match the available jobs. If possible, there should be reform in our education system.

In her response, the Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Ms Betty Amongi, said the government has introduced reforms to tighten regulation of labour externalisation companies in a bid to protect Ugandan workers abroad. She, however, noted that several workers still leave through unofficial channels, complicating government oversight.

The minister added that under the new reforms, labour export companies are now required to deposit a Shs10 million bank guarantee, which the government will confiscate in cases where firms fail to repatriate distressed workers.

The May 1 ceremony, held at Nkoyo Boarding Primary School, Matala Grounds in Buikwe District, was marked under the theme: "Safeguarding Uganda's Progress: Empowering the Workforce and Promoting Decent Work for Competitive Enterprise".

In his address, President Museveni reiterated that wealth creation remains the most sustainable pathway to employment and national transformation. He urged Ugandans, especially the "Bazzukulu" (grandchildren), to align their skills and efforts with existing market demands to improve household incomes and productivity.

He also used the platform to highlight the persistent mismatch between Ugandan

WEALTH CREATION

“Wealth comes from production. Even four acres or less is enough if utilised well through intensive agriculture. Stop working haphazardly (*okutomera*) and plan properly. The 5,000 factories we are seeing today have come because of peace. With discipline, correct choices, and hard work, Uganda will continue to create jobs and prosper.” President Museveni

da's education system and labour market needs, arguing that unemployment is often driven by poor career choices rather than a lack of opportunities.

"In our market, we may want tomatoes, and you bring yams... yams are good, but we don't need them," Mr Museveni said.

The President further emphasised that Uganda's stability and peace should be leveraged to boost production, discipline, and enterprise development as key drivers of economic growth.

During the same ceremony, Mr Museveni commended teachers for their resilience and contribution to national development, pledging improved remuneration. Three outstanding teach-