DO NOT BE STATIC IN YOUR CAREERS, SAYS ZEIJA

By Nelson Kiva

The Chief Justice, Dr Flavian Zeija, has cautioned graduates against remaining static in their careers, but to embrace continuous learning and innovation in an increasingly competitive and technology-driven global economy.

Zeija made the remarks while presiding over as the chief guest during the 22nd graduation of Uganda Management Institute (UMI) in Kampala on Friday.

PHOTOS BY MARIA WAMALA



Vision Group's Baguma (left) with colleagues celebrate after the ceremony at UMI last Friday

REMAINING RELEVANT

During the 22nd graduation of Uganda Management Institute last Friday, the Chief Justice, Dr Flavian Zeija, noted that automation and technological innovation were steadily reducing opportunities in traditional clerical and administrative jobs, such as secretarial work, cashiering and some accounting roles.

He challenged educational institutions to revise their training programmes in order to remain relevant to changing global trends.

"Education institutions like this one should also position themselves to re-skill our citizens with the skills needed for innovations of the future," he said.

BE DYNAMIC

A total of 4,249 graduates were awarded qualifications in different academic disciplines, including 11 Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degrees and 801 master's degrees.

There were also 3,428 postgraduate diplomas and nine ordinary diplomas.

"You must be dynamic. If you are not, you may not be relevant in 10 years. The days of straitjacket professionals are over," Zeija said.

"To get a PhD, you must contribute to knowledge, but to advance further, you must publish. That is what distinguishes you from the rest." Citing the *2025 World Economic Forum* report, Zeija observed that nearly 59% of the global workforce would require re-skilling by 2030 in order to remain competitive.

"The question now is, how can we future-proof our workforces and adapt to these shifts?" he asked.

GRADUATES SPEAK OUT

Among the graduates was *New Vision* editor, Arthur Baguma, who graduated with a master's degree in Public Administration.

Baguma described the achievement as a significant milestone in his professional and academic journey.



Lydia Lakwonyero

"This is a milestone that deepens my commitment to public service and effective governance, even as I continue to serve as an editor at *New Vision*," he said.

"Balancing academic growth with newsroom leadership has enriched my perspective on policy, accountability and the vital role of information in shaping national development. I am inspired to apply this knowledge in advancing both journalism and public administration in Uganda."

Lydia Lakwonyero, a producer at Vision Group, graduated with a postgraduate diploma in Project Planning and Management. "Adult education is tough, but we made it. My studies in project planning and management equipped me with practical skills in budgeting, co-ordination, risk assessment and strategic implementation. I am optimistic about applying these skills to solve real-world challenges," Lakwonyero said.

Kellen Owente, a writer with the Presidential Press Unit who graduated with a Master's degree in Management Studies, said; "I chose this field because I have long been concerned about the gap between Uganda's well-formulated policies and their implementation on the ground. This inspired me to undertake research in this area, and I believe that, regardless of the scale, my work will contribute to improving policy implementation and governance in our country."

RESEARCH

The UMI director general Dr James Nkata, said the institute was implementing a strategic transformation agenda aimed at strengthening research, innovation and academic excellence.

He revealed that UMI had recruited 15 new lecturers since the last graduation ceremony. The director added that all the 15 hold PhDs, bringing the institution's PhD staffing level to 85%.

UMI chancellor and former Chief Justice, Bart Katureebe also challenged universities to strengthen community engagement, research dissemination and public accountability.

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