

THE CERTIFICATION IS TO IMPROVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH SKILLS, BUT NO FORMAL EDUCATION

By Shamim Saad

A total of 350 mechanics from different divisions in Kampala are to be awarded formal certificates in recognition of their skills.

This is part of the Government campaign to improve the employment opportunities for people with skills, but no formal education.

The initiative was officially launched in Kampala recently by the Ministry of Science Technology and Innovation. The under secretary, Emmanuel Freddie Mugunga, represented the science minister Elioda Tumwesigye.

In his speech read by Mugunga, Tumwesigye admitted that the high unemployment among the Ugandan youth is depriving the country of development opportunities. The country, he stated, is also losing out on a lot of foreign exchange through importing what can be made here.

"Uganda is enriching other countries by excessively importing products and services our own children can produce if assisted by the Government," he said, adding: "The youth are the ones to save us from imports and also generate exports using our huge natural resources and our comparative advantages if their skills are recognised."

The training is to run for the duration of three months in Entebbe, Mukono, Mpigi and Wakiso (four days per division in each district). The campaign will then be rolled

Over 300 mechanics to get formal certificates

Project co-ordinator Sirajje Yiga, the board chairman Crane Media Group Canon Godfrey Njagala, and Mugunga during the official launch of the training and certification of mechanics held at Fairway Hotel in Kampala recently. Photo by Shamim Saad



out nationwide.

Mugunga tasked Crane Media Institute, which is to conduct the training, with skilling the mechanics on how to bid for government contracts.

The training will commence on today.

General Petroleum (a German company that has been in Uganda for 14 years supplying auto lubricants) will pay sh100,000 of the sh300,000 required in training fees from each mechanic.

BETWEEN THE LINES:

The training is to run for the duration of three months in Entebbe, Mukono, Mpigi and Wakiso.

The project co-ordinator, Sirajje Yiga, said mechanics who successfully complete the training will be given work pass certificates, which will enable them win bigger deals.

General Petroleum, Salman Khan, pledged to continue supporting mechanics in order to solve unemployment.

"We believe that if we start with training mechanics who already have skills, it will bring jobs and money which will improve their standards of living," Khan explained.

The chairman Kampala City Mechanics and Engineers, Juma Waswa Lutakome, commended the Government for coming up with the initiative, saying it will reduce on the rate of exploitation mechanics suffer.

"I am happy that the Government has come up with this training. I believe that after we are issued with formal certificates, we shall be respected even by university graduates. It is us the mechanics who train these students," he said. "Previously, it hurt because we who would give hands-on training to university graduates would not be recognised," he explained.

Lutakome said the informal mechanics have skills that cannot be compared with those of graduates. "All we need is to be accredited with certificates," he said.

"The reason you will be issued with work pass certificates is because you already have skills, I urge each one of you to embrace this training because it will improve your life and can even earn you international jobs," Yiga said.

The general manager,



Strømme Foundation

EXCITING CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Background:

Strømme Foundation (SF) is a Norwegian based international development organization that works towards a vision of a world free from poverty. SF conducts its activities in accordance with basic Christian values, from which is drawn an obligation to provide for people in need, irrespective of ethnicity, religion, marital status, sexual orientation, age, nationality or political affiliation. The core values of SF are Dignity, Justice and Solidarity. Through challenging, committed and long term partnerships with local organizations, along with focused and lasting value creation for every donation the organization is entrusted with, SF aims to eradicate poverty by working with donors and partners in 13 countries of Africa, Asia and South America. SF's key area of concentration is the sectors of Education and Microfinance / Economic Inclusion. Strømme Foundation's Head Office is in Kristiansand, Norway. The Eastern Africa Regional Office (RO) of SF in Kampala, is one of SF's four Regional Offices, and supports interventions in the countries of Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and South Sudan. SF East Africa is now seeking an Education Manager to help quality assure and develop the region's education portfolio.

EDUCATION MANAGER

Position Scope

4. Required Qualifications:

- Individuals with a first degree in Education, Sociology, Development, Anthropology, with long relevant experience in social development



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