

Skill youth to gain from the oil sector

On October 26, *New Vision* reported that the oil and gas sector has transitioned from the exploration to the development phase. The oil and gas sector is projected to directly employ 13,000 people in the construction phase (within three to five years). Out of the manpower required, 15 per cent will be engineers and managers, 60 per cent will be technicians and craftsmen, while 25 per cent will be unskilled workers. An estimated 42,700 indirect jobs and 105,000 induced jobs will be created.

Given uncertainties over the relevance of some qualifications and the current lack of international qualification standards, it is highly likely that a good number of the graduates of certain institutions will not be considered to have the full range of competencies required by employers in the oil and gas sectors.

Having 83 per cent of youth unemployment in Uganda is quite absurd. Therefore, the government should provide and equip the youth with the relevant capacity skills to enable them benefit from a wide range of opportunities that is being created in the oil and gas sector. Therefore, it is important for the government to note that putting in place a local content policy without skilled human resource is meaningless.

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