1,300 PRISON WORKERS EQUIPPED WITH ENTREPRENEURSHIP SKILLS

By Aloysious Kasoma

More than 1,300 Ugandans, including officers from the Uganda Prisons Service, have completed an intensive entrepreneurship and business management training organised by Enterprise Uganda at the Enterprise Uganda Centre of Excellence for Business in Butabika, Kampala.

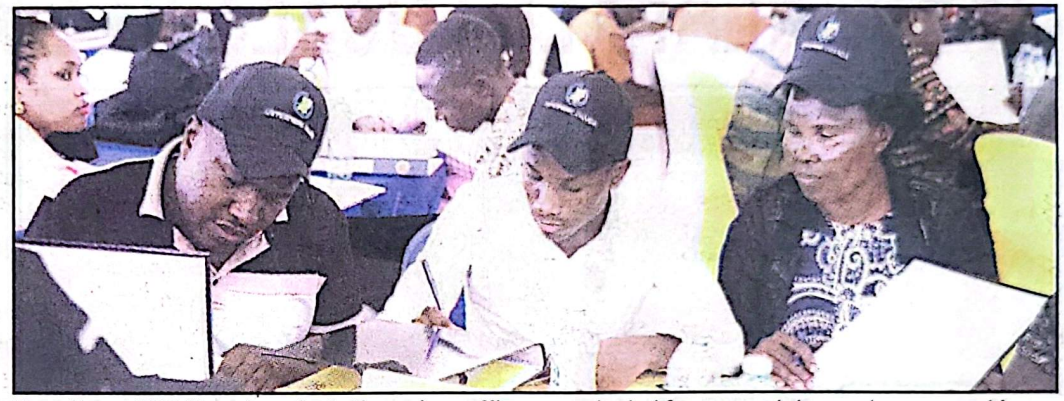
The week-long training, which ended on May 8, focused on entrepreneurship, financial literacy, mindset transformation, and practical business management skills aimed at helping participants start, grow, and sustain enterprises.

More than 100 prison officers from Kampala extra region joined entrepreneurs, youth, women, and small business owners in the programme.

Speaking during the graduation ceremony, Charles Ocici, the Enterprise Uganda director general, said Uganda's economic transformation depends on citizens embracing entrepreneurship, productivity, and financial discipline instead of relying on aid and donations.

"We are graduating 1,300 Ugandans who signed up for a one-week programme that teaches entrepreneurship and business management. This training is meant to trigger action and help people improve their incomes through enterprise," Ocici explained.

He said the global economy is increasingly shifting towards trade, innovation and investment partnerships, requiring Ugandans to become more competitive in business.



More than 1,300 Ugandans, including prison officers, graduated from a week-long entrepreneurship training in Butabika in Kampala on May 8, after gaining business and financial management skills



Samuel Binen (right), one of the participants, receiving a certificate from Ocici (left) after the training at Enterprise Uganda, recently

"The days of depending on donations are behind us. Every Ugandan must come to the table with a product or service that can compete in the marketplace," he said.

Ocici also highlighted Uganda's opportunities in agriculture and trade, citing a participant who expanded from 30 local chickens to more than 200 birds within months after attending a previous Enterprise Uganda training.

"That is the power of entrepreneurship skills and mindset change," he said.

TIP

AGRICULTURE AND TRADE PRESENT MANY BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES.

GRADUATION

The graduation ceremony was officiated by Ronald Balimwezo Nsubuga, the Kampala City Lord Mayor-elect, who praised Enterprise Uganda for promoting entrepreneurship and financial literacy among Ugandans.

Balimwezo said vocational skills alone are not enough unless people also understand financial management, investment, and business growth.

"You may already have a skill, but when you add financial literacy to that skill, you will never remain the same. That combination is equal to success," Balimwezo said.

He cited the example of a young woman identified as Grace, who reportedly built an investment portfolio worth nearly sh800m after starting with only her salary.

"That demonstrates what people can achieve when they embrace financial discipline and entrepreneurship," he said.

Balimwezo also welcomed the establishment of the Enterprise Uganda Centre of Excellence for Business in Nakawa, describing it as an important investment in human capital development.

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