

research and value addition.

President Museveni

The President dismisses and rebuffs criticism of government. The President questions to derail development efforts.

By Vision Reporter

President Yoweri Museveni has urged the youth to create jobs locally and avoid exploitative work abroad.

The President says the country's youthful population holds immense potential to drive economic transformation through innovation, agribusiness and enterprise development.

In a message delivered on his behalf by gender ministry permanent secretary Aggrey Kibenge during the 18th anniversary celebrations of Youth Platform Africa (YPA) at Kololo Independence Grounds in Kampala on Friday, the President said youth-led enterprises, such as YPA demonstrate that young people can build sustainable businesses and generate millions of jobs locally.

DRIVING ECONOMIC GROWTH

President Museveni said young people can drive economic growth through innovation, agribusiness, industrialisation and enterprise development instead of relying on low-paying and sometimes exploitative jobs abroad. "With trailblazers like YPA, our young people can create

'Create jobs locally, avoid exploitative work abroad'

millions of jobs and opportunities back home for themselves rather than flock out of the country to work as maids and offer unskilled labour in what are sometimes indecent and very dehumanising conditions abroad," President Museveni said.

STRATEGIC VISION ALIGNMENT

He stressed that YPA's strategic vision aligns with the historic mission of the National Resistance Movement to transform Uganda from a peasant society into a modern, industrial and prosperous nation through democracy, patriotism, Pan-Africanism and socio-economic transformation.

"Our greatest natural resource is not beneath the soil, but it is the energy, creativity and resilience of our young people," the President said, adding that countries that invest in youth consistently outperform those that rely solely on natural resources.

President Museveni highlighted several government programmes aimed at empowering the youth,



R-L Obed, Kibenge, Chief Chamuka VI from Zambia and Nakalema cut cake to celebrate 18 years of YPA at Kololo Grounds on Friday

including Universal Primary Education, Universal Secondary Education, Universal Post Primary Education and Training and improved healthcare services.

Uganda has one of the youngest populations in the world. According to the 2024 National Population and Housing Census, youth aged between

the age of 18 and 30 account for nearly a quarter of the population.

PRESIDENT COMMENDED YPA

The President also commended YPA for what he described as remarkable achievements over the past 18 years, including growing its membership to more than 18,000 people, expanding

goat farming enterprises, establishing a SACCOS capable of lending up to sh500m and extending operations to 16 African countries as well as markets in China and India.

According to YPA managing director Obed Ben, the organisation's membership has grown to over 18,000, with plans to increase the number to one million by 2030.

MODEL FOR TRANSFORMATION

State House Investors Protection Unit chief and YPA patron Col. Edith Nakalema described YPA as a model of youth-driven economic transformation.

Nakalema added that YPA's efforts complement government programmes and she encouraged their members to embrace modern technology, including Artificial Intelligence, while ensuring that technology remains guided by human values and priorities.

Guest speaker Chief Chamuka VI, the traditional leader of the Lenje people in Zambia, urged African governments and traditional leaders to create opportunities for young people by improving access to land, infrastructure and financing.