

Over 1,500 graduate at Nkumba University

By Julius Luwemba

The chancellor of Nkumba University, Gordon Wavamunno, has decried the quality of graduates passed out by universities. He said most of them lack skills and industrial knowledge to succeed in the job market.

"And after graduating, they expect much from the world. I have seen many who come asking for jobs in my office and expecting a salary of not less than sh1m," Wavamunno said.

He said some graduates are more expectant, admire to achieve a lot yet are less patient. Wavamunno made the remarks while officiating at the university's 20th graduation ceremony on Saturday, that saw 1,585 students graduate in different disciplines.

A total of 805 (50.7%) of the graduands were male. They received PhDs, master's and bachelor's degrees, diploma and certificates.

Uganda is among the top countries with the youngest population in the world, with over 70% of its people under the age of 30.

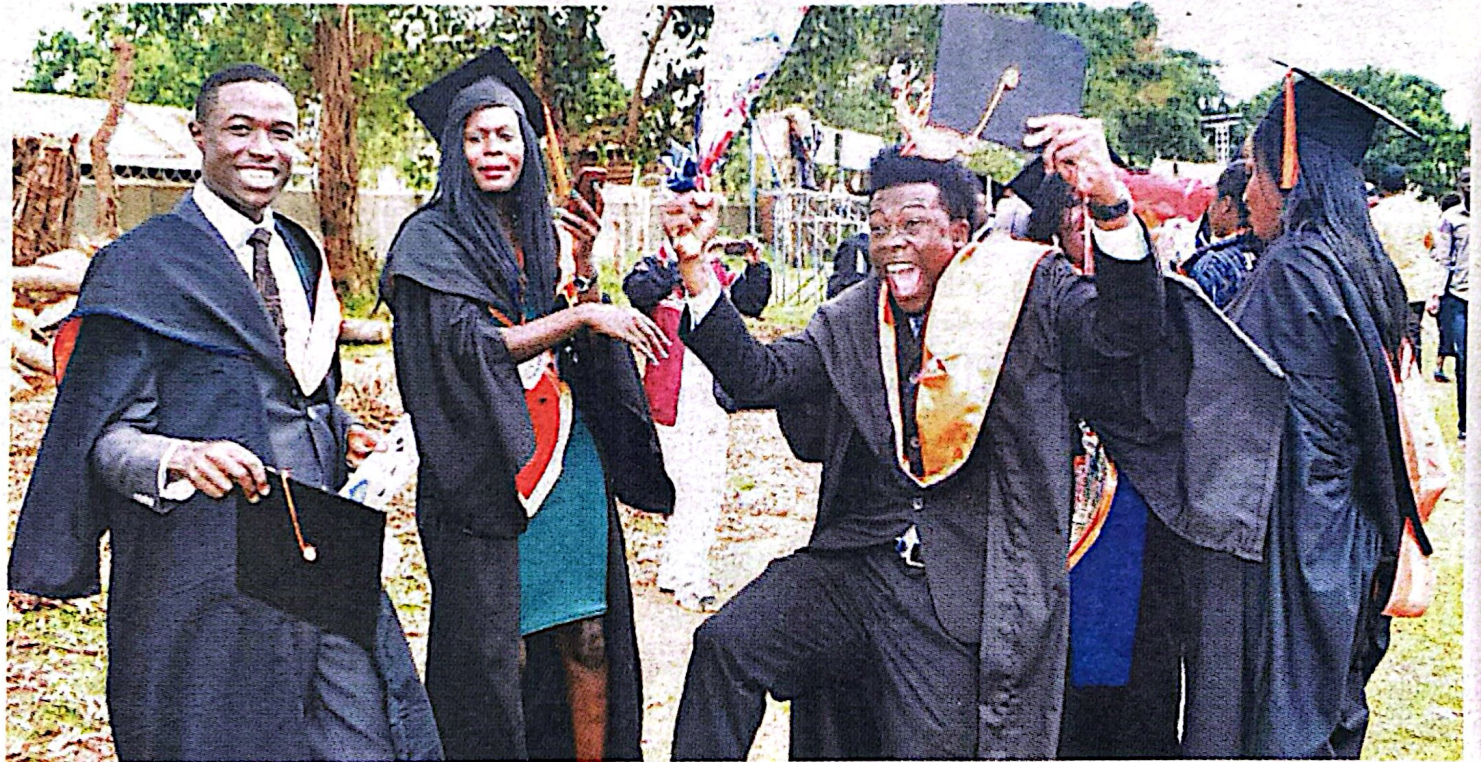
However, the bulk of young Ugandans are unemployed, with most of them hopping from one place to another in search of white collar jobs.

A total of about 400,000 students graduate annually from both public and private institutions, but Uganda Investment Authority (UIA) estimates that about 150,000 jobs are created in the formal sector annually. This leaves an estimated

250,000 unemployed. Recently, Onesmus Oyesigye, the executive secretary of Uganda Business and Technical Examinations Board, said whereas the country is grappling with high levels of unemployment, 60% are unemployed due to lack of competence in their various fields of study.

Wavamunno, however, encouraged graduands to stay hopeful despite

Graduands jubilate during the 20th graduation ceremony at Nkumba University recently.
Photo by Julius Luwemba



BETWEEN THE LINES:

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the hardships they may face after leaving university.

"The world is your oyster. With the qualifications you have achieved, there is no limit to what you can do. Although you may not immediately get placements in your chosen fields, this should not discourage you," Wavamunno said.

Nkumba University vice-chancellor Prof. Wilson Muyinda Mande echoed

the same remarks, urging students and graduands to seek skills and further education in different disciplines in order to counter the world's current challenges.

"Uganda currently needs someone with knowledge and skills for self-sustainability," Mande noted. He, however, said a degree is important since it allows someone to be employed anywhere in the world.