

world is needed, it requires skills that are imparted in the young generation

they are still young. Skills such as building, plumbing and preparing

Burman added. African Muhangi, one of the

are called upon to impart traditional skills in their children," he added.

Museveni challenges varsities on quality of graduates

MBALE

By Paul Watala

President Yoweri Museveni has asked both government-aided and public universities to emphasise quality education as a precursor to economic development and regional integration.

Museveni said this was one way of promoting competitiveness and raising efficiency in domestic production, so as to reduce poverty.

Museveni made the call in a message delivered by the First Deputy Prime Minister, Gen. Moses Ali, during the Islamic University in Uganda (IUIU) 25th graduation ceremony held at Mbale main campus recently.

"Transformation of society begins with the intellectual empowerment and awareness of the people. I thank IUIU for ensuring that people from different cultures, religions and backgrounds study and work together for the development of humanity," Museveni said.

"I wish to salute the IUIU administration for its strategic vision and plan to focus on introducing more programmes in science and technology because the solution to the unemployment and poverty challenges is industrialisation for exports," Museveni added.

Museveni said value-addition and the development of the service sector could only be realised through well-trained and skilled graduates.

He appealed to the graduands to promote the



Some of the students who graduated from IUIU Mbale campus recently. Photo by Paul Watala

spirit of hard work, diligence and discipline.

"The NRM development plan has aimed at not only making universal primary and secondary education possible, but also widening access for all who qualify to acquire university education. I thank students for utilising this opportunity well," Museveni said.

"Ensure that you enlist your entrepreneurial skills, intellectual acumen and insight so as to come up with new enterprises. You can then create jobs not only for yourselves but for others as well," the President's message read.

IUIU rector Ahmad Kawesa Ssengendo said over 2,000 graduates get degrees, diplomas and certificates in different disciplines annually.

Ssengendo said the university was positioning itself to utilise the great advances in science and technology that characterise the 21st century world.

"In this regard, the university will launch two online programmes in early 2018. They are bachelor of information technology and master's of business administration," Ssengendo added without giving details.