

Psychology is vital

Dear President Museveni, I write to you with the utmost respect and appreciation for your continued leadership and commitment to the development of our motherland Uganda. Your Excellency, your recent remarks reported in *Daily Monitor*, May 1, 2026 (What can you do with your SWASA, Psychology or Procurement?) prompted me to provide some clarification.

Psychology, particularly organisational psychology is deeply embedded in the functioning of our nation's institutions. For instance, nearly all civil/public servants undergo recruitment processes that begin with Psychometric/Aptitude Tests - tools that are scientifically designed and validated by psychologists.

Psychology plays a critical role in our country's development. Your Excellency, kindly note that psychology encompasses multiple branches, including military organisational, forensic and educational psychology etc.

Even the medical professionals often praised as pillars of science somewhat rely on medical psychology. Likewise, most modern military

da through complex socio-economic and public health challenges are widely recognised and appreciated. It is in this same spirit of national development that I humbly express my heart-felt concern regarding your perpetual stereotyped opinions about psychology - elsewhere, it is widely treated as a science that explores human behaviour and mental processes through scientific research and analysis.

While the promotion of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) is undoubtedly vital, I respectfully submit that the development of any nation requires a balanced integration of disciplines including social and behavioural sciences.

Your Excellency, it is worth noting that many great presidents' academic journeys do not solely follow the scientific track, yet their leaderships significantly shape their nations. This is an illustration of an important principle: - national progress is not built exclusively on the capacities of scientists, but rather on the collective contributions of diverse fields of knowledge. Even highly industrialised nations such as Japan maintain strong systems supported by professionals from the humanities and social sciences, including law, governance, and behavioural sciences. Nonetheless, if all students were to pursue sciences, who would effectively uphold the judiciary, governance, and social institutions that sustain nations globally?

Respectfully, the choice of academic pursuit should be guided by students' abilities, interests, and intellectual strengths, rather than opinions from stakeholders. Universities exist to nurture diverse talents that collectively contribute to national growth. Gone are the days when every child wished to become a doctor. Any doctor taken to courts of laws needs a lawyer like a sick lawyer needs a doctor to attend to him.

Your Excellency, your exemplary leadership during Covid-19 disaster - despite not being a medical scientist - demonstrated that effective governance draws on coordination, behavioural insight and decision-making beyond any single discipline. This further armoured the importance of the interdisciplinary respect and collaboration.

In a nutshell, I humbly submit that the discipline of Psychology deserves recognition as a vital contributor to Uganda's development. Encouraging a balanced appreciation of both sciences and social sciences will ensure a more holistic and sustainable national progress.

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training institutions on the globe incorporate Military Psychology to enhance performance, resilience and strategic decision-making. Military Psychology encompasses various specialties, including clinical psychology, where practitioners diagnose and treat mental health disorders like post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), which has been recognised since the Civil War era. Inclusively, military psychology plays a crucial role in optimising soldier performance and promoting mental health within the military community.

Your Excellency, your tireless efforts in steering Ugan-

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