

Kisaakye hailed Kikonyogo as a great person, who has

work she did and the legacy left behind," Kisaakye said.

as a person with the highest sense of justice in her decisions as a judicial officer.

hardworking," Kasule said.

"Through her effective carry out its duties

and child abuse.

By Henry Sekanjako

The increased dependency and high fertility rate among women is a key factor hindering Uganda's social economic development, a new report has said.

According to the State of Uganda Population Report 2017 released last week alongside the world population report, Uganda's dependency ratio stands at 103%.

"This implies that for every 100 economically active persons, there are 103 dependants. These have combined to put strong pressure on the economy," the report states.

The report indicates that the youth, who form the largest percentage of the country's population, between the age of 20 and 24 (65%) are unemployed, while 90% of those above 25 years are either unemployed or underemployed and their contribution to national production is marginal.

According to the report, Uganda's youthful population is majorly unskilled or semi-skilled and not financially empowered, which in the short-run, leads to low participation of Ugandan nationals in the market economy.

Anchored on the theme: "Transforming Uganda's economy: Opportunities to harness the demographic dividend for sustainable development", the report indicated that Uganda's growth has been mainly urban-based, while the rural subsistence farmers are left behind.

"Reintegration of those in the market economy will be essential for

Dependency, high fertility slows economic growth – new report



Bahati

increasing their income. There is a general concern that the poorest have not benefited much from the general improvements. Therefore, efforts directed at reaching them need to continue," the report says.

The report, which covered various sectors of the economy, also highlighted the high fertility rate among women as one of the factors that have hampered the country's economic growth.

Despite recent statistics showing that the fertility levels per woman have dropped to 5.4 children, the report

MORE OPPORTUNITIES



"WE as government have entered into agreements with other countries to enable our people get jobs where there are opportunities," Chief Whip Ruth Nankabirwa said.

compiled by the Uganda Population Council, with support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), says the fertility rate was still high compared to the country's growth rate.

Restructuring the economy

Dr Jotham Musinguzi, the director general of the National Population Council, noted that Uganda needs to restructure its economy for sustainable development. "Fertility is high, dependency is high and once the country has a high dependency



Muvawala

rate coupled with high dependency syndrome, its programmes face challenges," Musinguzi said during the launch of the report in Kampala.

He noted that the Government needs to restructure the agricultural sector, to enable farmers to access agricultural inputs such as seedlings, fertilisers and irrigation so that they do not depend on rainwater.

Dr Joseph Muvawala, the executive director of the National Planning Authority, noted the need for the Government to revisit the family planning model, so as to deal with the

increased nonproductive population. "We should re-engineer our family planning model and invest more in reproductive health. Our campaigns have been around but some campaigns and religions still hold strong views about them," Muvawala said.

UNFPA's Uganda director, Alian Saibenaler, urged the Government to invest more in family planning, noting that the majority of the women, especially those in rural areas, have no access to contraceptives.

"This is making them get unwanted pregnancies which contribute to high population growth," Saibenaler said.

Representing Prime Minister Ruhakana Rugunda, the Government Chief Whip, Ruth Nankabirwa, recognised the increasing population, especially the youth, which she said has both positive and negative impacts on the country's development.

She noted that with improved education and poverty eradication programmes, the Government was trying to create opportunities such as skills development for vulnerable groups such as the youth.

"The Government has entered into agreements with other countries to enable our people get jobs where there are opportunities," Nankabirwa said.

David Bahati, the state minister for finance in charge of planning, attributed the country's slow economic growth to climate change and the global economic crisis, which he said has not only affected Uganda's growth but even other countries.