

Labour export must be regulated – Kadaga

By Vision Reporter

The Speaker of Parliament, Rebecca Kadaga, has said Parliament will continue pushing the Government to always sign agreements with countries receiving Ugandan workers.

Kadaga said that there is need to identify the destinations Ugandans head to, nature of work, working conditions and pay before they leave.

“There is need for memoranda of understanding between the Government and the countries receiving Ugandans. We got an opportunity for our youth to get jobs in the Middle East and other countries, but we must have it regulated,” she said.

Kadaga cited countries such as the Philippines that have agreements with

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the receiving countries.

The Speaker made the remarks during the 13th graduation ceremony for Makerere Business Institute (MBI) on Friday.

This followed complaints from the MBI director, Nathan Twesigye Itungo, who decried the misleading and persuasive adverts for lucrative

opportunities in the Middle East, yet Ugandans who seek these opportunities end up being abused.

Twesigye, who is also the Kashari South Member of Parliament, added that the testimonies of Ugandans who have been working in the Middle East are heartbreaking.

“It is slave trade in its modern form.

Low pay, sexual harassment and assault are reported to be the order of the day. If well managed, it could offer alternative means of income, especially for these fresh graduates,” Twesigye said.

Kadaga, however, said “despite the shortcomings, all is not lost since some Ugandans I interfaced with recently while in Dubai and Abu Dhabi, working at the airports and big hotels, did not have any complaints”.

The Speaker added that the problem is with traffickers, who connive with relatives and sell Ugandans overseas.

“The gender ministry must address the alarming exploitation and harassment of Ugandans by receiving countries,” Kadaga said.

She called for close monitoring and supervision of labour exporting



Kadaga

companies to avoid exploitation.

Over 1,000 students graduate the Institute in different disciplines with 59% being female.