

Proposed graduate scheme meant to boost technical competence - experts

Supported. The coordinator of the Uganda Parliamentary Forum on Youth Affairs, says the proposed law will support government to regulate the way in which people who have completed university studies undergo internship and prepare them to work.

BY EPHRAIM KASOZI
ekasozi@ug.nationmedia.com

KAMPALA. Movers of the proposed National Graduate Scheme have asked the government and stakeholders to embrace the move, saying it is intended to build technical and civil competence among youngsters.

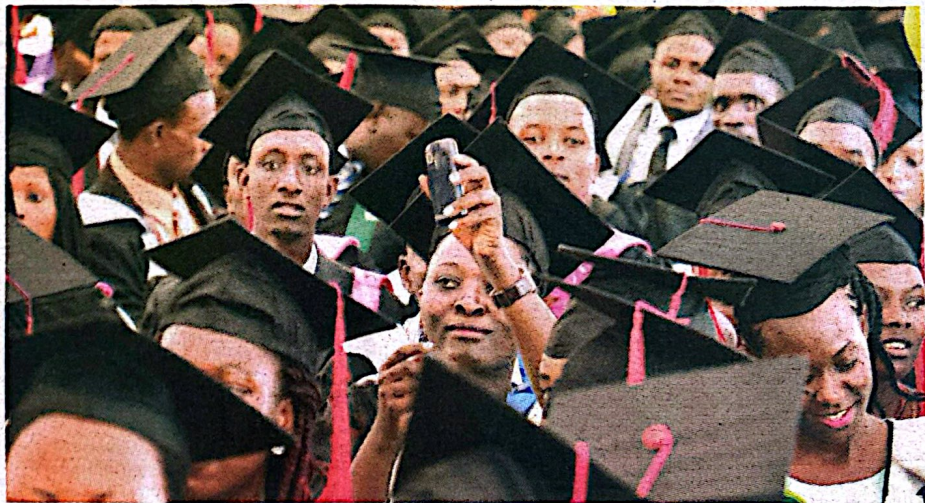
Last month, Parliament granted leave to Bunya East MP Waira Kiwalabye Majegere to introduce the National Graduate Service Bill, 2016 as private member's Bill. The legislation if passed would integrate social services within the education process.

Under the newly proposed scheme, a young graduate will be deployed for one year and provided with a good level of support when starting career and development opportunity.

Ms Elone Natumanya, the coordinator of the Uganda Parliamentary Forum on Youth Affairs, said the proposed law would support government to regulate a way in which people who have completed university studies undergo internship and prepare them to work.

"During the process, young graduates will be prepared, interact with the working environment but also provide labour to government projects while learning. And with this arrangement, government can enter a public-private partnership with private companies and institutions to take on the graduates to undergo a process of skilling, ideological orientation and mindset change," she said.

Ms Natumanya explained that people's perception towards work will change and also the proposed



Made it. Graduands at the 7th graduation ceremony of the Uganda Institute of Allied Health and Management Sciences, Mulago in Kampala recently. PHOTO BY DOMINIC BUKENYA

law will also build their capacity to make informed choices whether to look for jobs and create their enterprises.

She describes the proposed law as a springboard for legislations and policies which are all geared towards fighting unemployment among the youth.

Asked how the proposed law would fight graft, Ms Natumanya said: "If government is committed, the kind of training and orientation for one year provided for in the arrangement would enable one to serve their country, acquire skills, thereby re-orienting the new generation in terms of ethics and values and overall patriotism."

Mr Mpaka Mwine Rwamirama, the Youth MP for Western region, who seconded the motion in Parliament, said young people cannot find placement on the white-collar job market and neither are they able to create economic opportunities for themselves in the informal sector because the education system does not adequately equip them.

"The National Graduate Service

Scheme is important for our youth because it will help them build their personal assets, including character, connectivity, confidence and competence. We know too well that employability starts by building the personal attributes of young people for work and adulthood," said Mr Rwamirama.

"If this person satisfactorily completes his service, they are awarded a certificate of national service. This is treated as an additional qualification in serving the county and acquiring skills and also appreciating the social responsibility,"

WAIRA KIWALABYE MAJEGERE, BUNYA EAST MP

Describing the proposed legislation as a springboard of introducing the young people to the practice of asset accumulation through stipends and savings, Mr Mpaka said the initiative will help government in delivering Uganda to middle-income economy by 2020.

He said that the proposed law is in line with the national develop-

ment plan key strategy of increased employment creation through fast tracking skills development and harnessing the demographic dividend and reducing the number of young people not in education, employment or training by at least 20 per cent.

Mr Majegere said the law is long overdue, adding that it does not provide for free labour but rather seeks to integrate social services with the education process.

"Most graduates come out with hardly any experience or practical skills and they walk for years looking for a job but they need experience which they do not have. But this proposed arrangement is a solution for experience because government will now be required to place youngsters in both private and public entities across the country," Mr Majegere said.

He explained that the new law will create a secretariat which is going to govern all the activities of the scheme, and government will be required to deploy each graduate for one full year.

UPDF cap sent to court martial, a to CMI b

editor

KAMPALA. A UE rank of captain, while investigating November, has been martial for trial o duct.

The Unit Disci sitting at the Ch Intelligence (CM mandated Capt Tr indye Military B before the First tial in Makind jointly with Se January 13, 2 driver, Mr Mic held at CMI.

Capt Kibuu' from his objec fore the UDC rained over connection w He appear days after he pala Centra ment or training by at least 20 per cent.

firearms. Capt Kibu cial Investir CMI, was a and detain Station in was driver cleared of He was, detained.

Earlier newspaper were in re ments wi

Petition In a Kibuuka of CMI, his orde to have "I r mer