

... Photo by Henry Nsubuga

World Bank gives Kabasanda Technical Institute sh1.2bn loan

BY Agnes Nantambi

The World Bank has extended a sh1.2b loan to Kabasanda Technical Institute in Butambala to boost the capacity of the institute in offering technical skills to the learners.

The funds are provided under the Private Sector Foundation Uganda (PSFU) Skills Development Facility (SDF) project, which is funded by the World Bank.

Speaking at the handover of the dummy cheque to the institute's administration, Ruth Musoke, the head of the SDF project at PSFU, said the funds were aimed at enhancing the capacity of the institute through the adoption of innovative technical education learning systems that provide skills for competitiveness and enhancing employment opportunities.

She explained that the total project fund is about sh1.6b with the institute contributing about sh459m while the World Bank contributes sh1.2b for a period of one year. The programme will benefit about 1,500 trainees.

She revealed that the



Ruth Musoke of PSFU (Second right) and other officials looking at some of the students' innovations at the institute recently. Photo by Agnes Nantambi

project is in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and Uganda's Vision 2040 and the National Development Plan to contribute to improving the underdeveloped human resource.

"One of the strategic bottlenecks to development is consistent with Uganda's human resource strategy that includes skilling and tooling of potential workers as well as addressing critical skills gaps and lack of creativity and

BETWEEN THE LINES

■ The principal of Kabasanda Technical Institute, Hadijja Nakakande, said the institute which started in 1982 as a technical school upgraded to a technical institute in October 1983.

innovativeness," she said.

Musoke said the SDF project targets the youth, including

women.

"The trainees under the project are required to acquire skills needed on market, while the employed ones will have their proficiency in production and competitiveness increased, thus their job security will be enhanced to become a new generation of highly skilled industrial workers to revolutionise production in Uganda," she said.

She added that the funds would help to install 29 technical education learning

systems, send staff to the US for intensive training in technical education learning systems and training of instructors.

Other trainings will include training students and establishing a link with industrial entities for job placement.

She said the project benefit is expected to continue even after the project.

"The instructors will have their capacity and skills enhanced for continuity and the technical education learning systems will be highly marketed so that they attract paying trainees, thus generating income for the institute while the linkages to the industries will generate clientele for the institute technical education learning systems," she said.

The principal of Kabasanda Technical Institute, Hadijja Nakakande said the institute which started in 1982 as a technical school was upgraded to a technical institute in October 1983.

The institute participates in both formal and non-formal training programmes and offers eight technical courses among them, electrical installation and maintenance, electronic technology, automotive

mechanics, woodwork technology, plumbing, fashion and garment design, leather tanning and shoemaking as well as building construction.

She said the project would help to introduce integrated technology concepts, based learning and innovative technical education learning systems which integrates technical hands-on skills with essential workplace practices like problem-solving, team work and effective communication through project-based learning.

She said some of the critical gaps that the project would address is mechatronics, electronic sensor systems, electric motor control systems pneumatics, hydraulics, computer numerical control and mechanical drives, among others.

Winnie Naiga, a second year student, asked Government to consider providing funds to sensitise girls on the importance of vocational education.

The board chairman, Haji Abeer Mpungu, applauded the Government and the World Bank for supporting the project saying it would enhance capacity building at the institute.

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