

LETTERS

Private sector a solution to unemployment

EDITOR: The youth in Uganda constitute approximately 75% of the population. Most of these are faced by the challenge of unemployment, irrespective of their level of education. However, the phenomenon of job scarcity is faced by most African countries.

For the case of Uganda, government jobs are approximately three million; inclusive of the army, the Police, Prisons and the good old civil service, compared to a population of about 36 million people. The mindset of youth being employed by the Government is not a reality at all. The private sector in most developed countries offers the biggest chunk of jobs compared to the government, therefore, the invitation of investors in Uganda is one of the ways the youth can get employed.

The unemployment problem today cannot be blamed on the current government, but rather the previous governments that never paid much attention to the private sector unlike the current system. The employment issues are a combination of several aspects that were unavoidable. The example is our system of education which produces university graduates that are job seekers, rather than job creators.

Let us understand our situation and collectively find a solution to the prevailing levels of job scarcity bearing in mind the rapid population growth which is a result of peace and security of persons' life and property that has prevailed over the last 30 years. The Government has been a mother of solving accumulative problems created

by previous regimes/colonialists. Therefore, I call upon Ugandans to support the Government's initiatives such as Operation Wealth Creation, UPE and USE.

The Government should also continue calling for more investors as these will rejuvenate our technical skills, reduce the unemployment problem and strengthen our economic base through the paying of taxes.

The politicking of individuals and parties that promise to offer jobs to the youth once elected to positions of leadership may be a day dream. Where will they get jobs from? All over the world, stable economies have been a result of paying attention to the private sector that in turn offers employment.

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PICTURE BY EVELYNE NALULE