

40 graduate from Kimaka college

JINJA

By Jackie Nambogga

The Army Chief of Defence Forces, Gen. David Muhoozi, has said unity is paramount for member states of the East African Community to promote regional co-operation.

"We need to promote oneness by relating with each other. This is how we shall attain unity and promote regional co-operation," he said.

Muhoozi was recently speaking during the 12th graduation ceremony for 40 army officers drawn from South Africa, Burundi, Rwanda, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

The officers underwent a 47-week training in command and staff course at the Senior Command and Staff College, Kimaka in Jinja.

Among those passed out was the Omudhingiya wa Bwamba, Lt. Col. Martin Ayongi.

Muhoozi was convinced that the officers would be good practitioners with the knowledge acquired after attending what he termed as a 'prestigious course'.

He added that their focus of professionalising the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) was being attained with the introduction of a masters of arts degree in defence and security.

The college is affiliated to Makerere University with academia from Kyambogo University and Uganda Management Institute.

"The UPDF will continue to train its officers because it is through the continuous and consistent efforts of professionalising the UPDF through human resource development," Muhoozi explained.

He commended the good relations the UPDF is enjoying with other sister forces as a result of joint training programmes.

"Joint training indicates how UPDF relates with other sister forces, especially

within the region, including South Africa," he said.

The state minister for defence, Col. Charles Okello Engola (rtd), who was chief guest, said the college's mandate is to train and professionalise officers to assume high responsibilities in command and staff roles.

Engola said such training was crucial for officers in the 21st century in enhancing their awareness of the nature of the threats faced in dynamic security environs, hence their role as armed officers is to tackle such threats.

"You now have the tools necessary for command and the instruments to effectively face the challenges as a professional security expert," Engola said.

BETWEEN THE LINES:

Engola said such trainings was crucial in enhancing awareness of the extent of the threats faced in the dynamic security.

Engola said the college has continued to address the training demands of the UPDF and partner states in the region and beyond.

He acknowledged the growing demand by partner states for the course, which he said was a clear testimony of the continued college's high esteem.

Gen. Andrew Gutti, the college commandant, said of the 40 students, Uganda had the majority, with 31, while Burundi, Kenya, Tanzania and Rwanda had two each and South Africa one. Four of the trainees were female.

Gutti urged the trainees to uphold the college's core values such as patriotism, integrity, discipline, selflessness and professionalism.

He said the course content included core military subjects, global, regional and national studies, focusing on policy and strategy.



Engola hands Ayongi an award during the passing-out ceremony in Kimaka, Jinja on Friday