

in-chief of the armed forces, Kashaka, who also represented the rest of the senior officers who were to rise to their feet and their spouses. "We cannot take our spouses for granted. They take care of army brass every after a congratulatory tune every after an officer got their new badge. Agnes, ... John Ssewakambo," said her promotion)," she said.

Youth demand change of policy in livelihood programme

By Martin Kitubi

Several youth who gathered at Namugongo Kyoto in Kira municipality, Wakiso district, last Friday, called for change of policy in the Youth Livelihood Programme (YLP), preferably from distribution of cash to distribution of equipment and materials to engage the youth in money-generating activities.

Robert Mugisa, an unemployed youth and a person with disability (PWD) said if one is given materials, there is a higher possibility of work than waiting for the cash.

"I have failed to get a job and it is also difficult to access the YLP funds, authorities take long to respond to our requests."

"The Government should provide inputs other than cash and the youth will be in position to get them without bribing anyone."

Mugisa said this during the fourth graduation ceremony at the Leadership Academy, Namugongo Kyoto, Les Foyers De Charite in Kira municipality in Wakiso district.

Stanley Kamoga, one of the graduands, said the Government should buy quality inputs for the youth to start their own businesses.

"For instance, the Government could



Some of the graduands from the Leadership Academy with Oulanyah (in bow tie) after the graduation. Photo by Martin Kitubi

procure quality sewing machines and clothing for the youth who have interest in tailoring other than giving them money to buy the same," Kamoga said.

The genesis

In 2013, a total of sh160b was allocated by the Government to establish the Youth Livelihood Programme, equip them with skills and start-up capital

"Do not wait for others to solve your problems." Oulanyah

as a strategy to reduce unemployment levels.

The gender ministry was mandated to give the money to all youth in the country for development purposes.

Several youth and leaders across the country have been arrested over failure to refund and for mismanagement of the funds.

Dr Abubakar Muhammad Moki, the commissioner for policy development and capacity building at the Office of the President, said many youth can not run businesses when given cash.

He said: "We have realised that several young people cannot manage businesses when given cash, but the Government is considering to revise the strategy of the programme to attract many beneficiaries for the development funds."

Graduation

A total of 119 youth from across the country graduated at the Leadership

Academy under the Uganda Youth Network (UYONET) a civil society organisation that mainstreams young people's engagement in development and governance process.

The graduands were awarded certificates in various fields including self-leadership, transformation, public policy, advocacy, democracy and campaign strategy.

Other areas of study included pillars of Uganda's democracy setup, mentoring and social action projects where the youth were divided in groups to come up with problem solving projects for the benefit of needy communities.

Jackline Cherotich, who was one of the outstanding performers among the graduands, said: "I have gone through sessions on how to be self-reliant and how to have inclusive governance."

The Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Jacob Oulanyah, who was the chief guest, urged the youth to fight corruption and work together for the betterment of the country.

"Do not wait for others to solve your problems, everyone has a role to play to attain development collectively and let each one of us play their part," Oulanyah said.