

Graduates should not miss oil industry window

The oil and gas industry in Uganda has slowly absorbed Ugandans to work as technical people and managers.

This is partly because the country, save for the studies made decades ago, was not ready with graduates to embrace this trade. After agriculture, the extractive sector is the most important in this region.

Uganda has a window of opportunity which they can use to enlarge the economic benefits from its oil, gas and mineral industries. The lack of specialised expertise is a major bottleneck to the potential for more well-paying jobs and home-grown supplier companies.

There are significant skills shortage existing both in terms of numbers and quality, particularly within the science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields. We now majorly have to depend on foreign experts to do the work

for us. This is a great moment to reap big from this trade, in terms of employment; but the universities seem to have been caught off-guard.

Uganda is one of the countries that the World Bank is supporting to train workers for the extractive industries. Government has also tried to resolve the human resource gap in this oil and gas industry, with graduates churned out every year.

Investment in human resource development is one initiative that private and public energy companies need to place emphasis on to address the growing talent gap.

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