

Union.

leaders leasing part of the union's land to an investor during a meeting in Kachorwa District last Tuesday. PHOTO/DERICK WENANI

With an investment of up to Shs52 million, they are going to invest up to Shs52 million," he said.

Commonwealth's Zafar tips youth on career opportunities

BY PAUL ADUDE

ENTEBBE. The Director of Human Resource and Facility Management at the Commonwealth Secretariat, Ms Alia Zafar, has urged young people to recognise the value of the skills they acquire through education and leverage available opportunities to build sustainable careers.

Ms Zafar made the remarks on Tuesday evening shortly after arriving at Entebbe International Airport, ahead of the 7th National Career Guidance Day scheduled to take place at Kololo Ceremonial Grounds tomorrow, where she is expected to deliver the keynote address.

She emphasised the importance of strategic career planning, noting that young people must be intentional about the steps they take to grow

professionally.

"What we bring in terms of value means being able to go through those steps that young people need to take, how they build their careers, the kind of planning required, and how they can understand and utilise the opportunities available to them," Ms Zafar said.

Ms Zafar highlighted the critical role of mentorship and education—particularly in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM)—in shaping the future workforce. She added that the Commonwealth remains committed to supporting youth interested in careers within the development sector by guiding them on appropriate pathways.

"Youth have been a force for good in all countries. When we look at education, especially STEM, we must also focus on how careers are developed and

how mentorship can be strengthened," she said.

She further urged students to embrace technological advancements, while remaining mindful of both the opportunities and challenges that come with in-



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creased access to digital tools.

"It is important to understand both the positives and the challenges that technology presents. How individuals and institutions navigate this will determine future success," she noted.

Dr Kosea Wambaka, the chairman of Strategic Group of Companies, underscored the need to equip young people with practical skills that enable them to create their own employment opportunities.

"The public sector employs only about 300,000 people. The majority are in the private and informal sectors. The focus now should be on skilling young people so they can create jobs for themselves," he said.

He called on government to align technological advancement with skills development to better prepare youth for

the evolving job market.

Meanwhile, Ms Brenda Nakazibwe from the Science, Technology and Innovation Secretariat in the Office of the President, who represented Science Minister Dr Monica Musenero, said government is prioritising human capital development in science-driven sectors.

"These include health, what we call the pathogen economy, aeronautics and space science, Industry 4.0, as well as infrastructure innovations such as e-mobility, all aimed at supporting sustainable development," she said.

Ms Nakazibwe added that promoting career awareness among young people is key to strengthening the link between academia and industry, ensuring that graduates are better prepared for future employment.

The National Career Guidance Day is expected to bring together policymakers, educators and students to discuss pathways for youth empowerment and employment in Uganda.