

PS KAKANDE COMMENDS CHINA FOR TRAINING RDCs

By Eddie Ssejjoba

The Permanent Secretary in the Office of the President Haji Yunus Kakande has commended the Government of China for offering to sponsor resident district commissioners (RDCs) and their assistants in promoting economic and technical co-operation between the two countries.

He has, therefore, pledged that the Ugandan Government will send more RDCs to train abroad to benchmark and help to promote critical programmes in their respective districts, including the Parish Development Model (PDM), the country's flagship poverty alleviation programme.

Kakande says President Yoweri Museveni wants RDCs to spread his slogan for his new five-year political term, "Kisanja No More Sleep, No Corruption".

The President coined the slogan during his inauguration on May 12 at Kololo Independence Grounds in Kampala, where he urged



Senior presidential assistant on diaspora affairs Florence Kiremerwa (left) talking to some of the RDCs and assistants who were selected to go for the training in China. Second-left is Kakande. The function took place at the Office of the President

Ugandans to abandon complacency and work relentlessly toward wealth creation, industrialisation and national economic transformation.

The President also called for accountability within government programmes, warned civil servants and government officials against corruption and delaying

poverty alleviation programmes like PDM.

Kakande made the remarks last week while commissioning eight RDCs and assistants selected for a two-week training in China. The training will focus on promoting economic and technical cooperation between China and African countries, the governance system and modernisation for BRI (Belt and

Road Initiative) countries.

At least 60 RDCs were sent to train in India late last year under a similar programme, co-ordinated by Senior Presidential assistant on diaspora affairs Florence Kiremerwa.

MORE RDCs TO BE TRAINED

Kakande said his office would send more RDCs for training to effectively monitor government

interventions like the PDM, which he said was a game-changer for the National Resistance Movement (NRM). Launched in February 2022 by President Museveni, PDM aims to transition 33% of Ugandan households from subsistence to the money economy by promoting income generation, food security, and wealth creation at the parish level.

"PDM is the main reason President Museveni scored 71.65% of the vote in the last election, which is why RDCs must closely monitor its implementation and ensure that the money released goes to the right beneficiaries," he said, adding that the PDM was a game changer for the NRM.

MONITORING TEAMS

According to Kakande, chief administrative officers, LC5 chairpersons and councillors must be on the PDM monitoring teams, all geared to ensure the programme is properly managed and minimise corruption.

He urged the RDCs to

ensure that they use the knowledge and skills acquired from the training to tackle developmental challenges in their areas.

HIGH EXPECTATIONS

Nakaseke deputy RDC Sarah Nakitende said they are pleased that the Government is sending them to benchmark with more developed economies like China.

Kassanda RDC Phoebe Namulindwa said she would benchmark how China is digitalising and transforming its communities and use the knowledge to oversee the government programmes.

Iganga RDC Eric Ssewandigi pledged to use the training to learn how China is developing cities and local governments.

Others selected for the training, include Jimmy Nsimbi Mugwanya (Kayunga), Seifu Katabaazi (Kalungu), Mariam Kaberuka (DRCC Masaka City), Amuli Kintu Kasugga (DRCC Hoima City) and Ahmed Lyavala (DRCC Bugweri).

Court pledges salary review for secretaries