

National News

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Chevening scholars lauded for innovation

BY STEPHEN OTAGE

KAMPALA. The United Kingdom Scholarships Unit has described Ugandan beneficiaries of the UK Chevening and Commonwealth scholarships as among the most vibrant and dynamic globally, citing their innovation and passion for positive change.

Speaking at a return reception dinner for the 2024 cohort of 17 Chevening scholars and 24 Commonwealth scholars at the British High Commissioner's residence yesterday, Dr Emma Hennessey, head of the Unit, said Uganda continues to produce the calibre of talent needed to transform societies.

"Ugandan scholars and alumni are among the most dynamic in our global community. Their innovation and passion for positive change are inspiring. UK scholarships exist to empower leaders who will transform their societies, and Uganda continues to produce exactly that calibre of talent," she said.

Dr Hennessey, who has been visiting the country to assess projects initiated by alumni, noted that Uganda is one of the UK's strongest and fastest-growing scholarship partners. She said in 2025 alone, Chevening applications from Uganda reached 2,600, more than dou-

ble the annual average of 1,200, indicating rising ambition and trust in UK higher education.

She added that the UK government intends to deepen its partnership and support more outstanding Ugandans in the years ahead.

The British High Commissioner to Uganda, Ms Lisa Chesney, who hosted the reception, said Ugandan Chevening and Commonwealth scholars consistently stand out for their leadership both in the UK and at home.

She noted that their work is helping to shape better public services, stronger institutions and more resilient communities, adding that Dr Hennessey's visit reflects the UK's commitment to supporting Uganda's next generation of vi-

KEY RESOLUTIONS

The Chevening Scholarship is one of the UK's most longstanding and prestigious development programmes, supporting exceptional individuals from Commonwealth countries. In Uganda, the programme has been running since the 1960s.



British High Commissioner to Uganda Lisa Chesney (3rd left) says Ugandan Chevening and Commonwealth scholars consistently stand out for their leadership both in the UK and at home. PHOTO/STEPHEN OTAGE

sionary leaders.

Mr Patrick Michael Okeng, the president of the Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships Alumni Association of Uganda, said the scholarship he received from the UK government laid a strong foundation for his current work at PEAS Uganda, where he serves as a school support specialist focused on expanding access to quality secondary education across Africa.

He said Chevening and Commonwealth scholars share a common drive for positive change, strengthened by exposure to global systems and how they operate.

Dr Nicholas Okot, the president of the Chevening Alumni Association of Uganda, told the returnees that completing their academic programmes marks the beginning of a new chapter of service to the country. He said

the association is focusing on harnessing members' shared leadership experience for societal transformation through platforms for intellectual exchange, networking and mentorship, as well as support for community initiatives.

He encouraged the scholars to uphold the highest standards of professionalism so that the benefits of their scholarships extend beyond themselves.