

Industrialisation must be our priority - Kasaija

Create jobs. For Uganda to solve the problem of unemployment, it must industrialise to create jobs for the rapidly growing youth unemployment.



“

Innovation is the way forward. We don't have the money we need but we are definitely trying. If you don't innovate, you are as good as dead.”

MR MATIA KASAIJA FINANCE MINISTER

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BUSAN, SOUTH KOREAN. Uganda must prioritise industrialisation if it is to expand the economy and create enough jobs for the rapidly growing population, Finance minister Matia Kasaija, has said.

Speaking on the sidelines of the 53rd edition of the African Development Bank (AfDB) meeting in Busan, South Korean, Mr Kasaija said one of government's top priorities was to industrialise and to encourage youth innovation in order to curb the rapidly growing rate of youth unemployment.

“Youth unemployment can be tackled through encouraging innovation because societies that have developed have taken innovation [as a cornerstone of their economies],” he said.

Uganda, according to Uganda Bureau of Statistics, has a youth unemployment rate of more than 80 per cent. Similarly, industrial growth has been slow growing at an average of 3 per cent in the last decade.

Leverage on resources

Mr Akinwumi Adesina, the AfDB president, said Africa must leverage on the availability of cheap labour, natural gas and minerals to push industrialisation of the continent to match population growth.

“Africa exports raw commodities. Things need to change,” he said during a media briefing.

Founded in 1964, AfDB has been a key development partner for the African continent with focus on fighting poverty and improve livelihoods on the African continent.

Mr Kasaija said innovation will spur development and countries such as South Korea have used this model to reach where they are.

“Every day, there is something new they discover, innovate or modify. This [innovation] is the way forward. We don't have the money we need but we are definitely trying. If you don't innovate, you are as good as dead,” he said.

The meeting also discussed how Africa can ‘bridge innovation and industry’ putting youth at the centre of solving continental challenges.

Mr Adesina told journalists that AfDB has chosen to host its meeting in South Korea because the country is an active member the continental bank, which has a membership of 80 countries, 54 of which are African countries and 26 non-African.

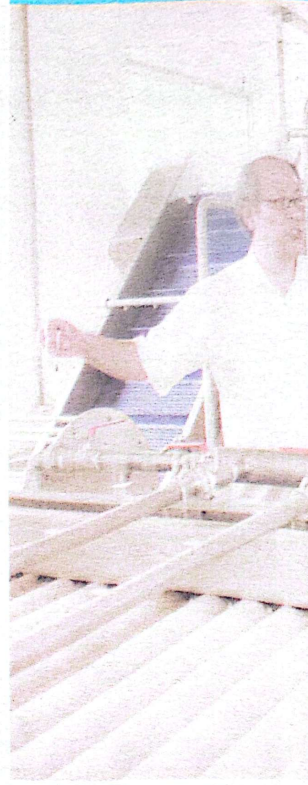
BENCHMARKING INDUSTRIALISATION

Meeting outside Africa. This is the second time the meeting is held outside Africa. Last year the meeting was held

population. “Korea was as poor as any African country in the 1960s. Today, it has a

when a country industrialises,” he said. African leaders are expected to discuss the continent's

On course. Soroti Fru



Rewarded. An engineers explains to Ms An last week. According to Ms Kyambadde, th expected to open in August. The Soroti Fru International Cooperation Agency and Tes

Tax imported farmers dem

BY STEPHEN OTAGE
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Mbabazi

KAMPALA. The Rice Association of Uganda has said they will petition Parliament to impose Import Duty on rice sourced out of the country.

Ms Racheal Chiconco Mbabazi, the chairperson of the Rice Association of Uganda, said they reject tax waivers on imported rice as 80 per cent of rice consumed in Uganda can be got here if farmers are given capacity to do their work in a better way.

“We produce 80 per cent of the rice consumed in Uganda. Rice is now both a cash and food crop but government does not [take the industry as a priority],” she said adding that rice farming is still disorganised which is the reason production per acre is still low.

The association, Ms Mbabazi said, has farmers in Butaleja, Bugiri,

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