

Govt to enforce vocational training

Determined. Education minister says government is already enforcing the programme in all secondary schools.

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BUIKWE. Government has announced plans to enforce vocational education at all levels to address unemployment in the country.

Vocational education equips students with hands-on skills in different fields such as carpentry and joinery, brick laying, electrical installation, tailoring, hair dressing and beauty therapy, secretarial studies, plumbing, catering, motor vehicle mechanics, welding and metal fabrication among others.

The Minister of Education and Sports, Ms Janet Kataha Museveni, said government is already on the course of enforcing the programme in all secondary schools.

This was in her speech delivered by the Commissioner of Business, Technical, Vocational and Education Training, Ms Safina Musenye at Nile Vocation Institute's graduation ceremony in Buikwe District last Wednesday.

"As government, we have realised that formal education is supply driven and academically focused because it equips the students with skills relevant to the needs of the la-



Skills. Nabisunsa Girls School students take part in water supply system competition at Viva College in Jinja District recently. PHOTO BY TAUSI NAKATO

bour market. Whereas formal education can transform the curiosity of an individual with appropriate analytical tools, it lacks the transfer of market driven knowledge and skills hence vocational knowledge a way to go in enhancing productivity, development and reduction of unemployment problem," Ms Museveni said.

She added: "The relevance of practical skills an institution presents and passes on to its students is key."

She urged Ugandans to learn from countries such as Japan and China which are far in development be-

cause they utilised vocational skills.

"Once we equip our people with relevant skills and improve their innovative capacity, development will be automatically achieved," Ms

UNEMPLOYMENT

Numbers. Statistics from Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development show that more than 400,000 job seekers enter the labour market each year.

Museveni said.

The director of Nile Vocational Institute, Rev Paul Hannington Suubi, said 89 per cent of the students from his institute are always booked for employment before graduation.

However, the deputy executive director of Uganda Business and Technical Examination Board, Mr Geoffrey Kawanguzi, said they initiated a national qualification framework with competent standards where all institutions will be undertaking national examination set by the board to ensure quality.