Balaam rallies young people to love, defend their country

By Nelson Kiva

The Minister for Youth and Children Affairs, Balaam Barugahara, has emphasised the importance of patriotism among young Ugandans, urging them to love and defend their country.

The minister made the remarks during the launch of an eight-day patriotism training programme at Kyema Technical College in Masindi district on Sunday.



Balaam (right) is welcomed as he arrives for the launch of an eight-day patriotism training programme at Kyema Technical College, Masindi district, on Sunday

The training, aimed at equipping young people with ideological clarity and a strong sense of national identity, brought together students from various technical disciplines.

Barugahara stressed that patriotism is a cornerstone of Uganda's socio-economic transformation and sustainable development.

"Technical skills without patriotism can be misdirected. Our country needs skilled professionals who are disciplined, hard-working, and committed to integrity," Barugahara emphasised.

The training programme will cover key topics including national history, economic transformation, mindset change, leadership and the role of youth in safeguarding national sovereignty. Students were encouraged to focus on becoming job creators rather than job seekers, using their knowledge to develop local solutions to community challenges and reduce dependency on foreign expertise.

JOB CREATION

Barugahara encouraged the students to focus on becoming job creators rather than job seekers, using their knowledge to develop local solutions to community challenges and reduce dependency on foreign expertise.

The minister also warned against corruption, poor workmanship and sectarianism, describing them as obstacles to national progress.

Barugahara reminded the young people that unity be[illegible] tribe, religion, or region is essential for peace and stability in Uganda.

Barugahara pledged the government's commitment to supporting youth development initiatives. The administration at Kyema Technical College expressed gratitude for the training programme, saying it would help students develop a sense of national pride and responsibility.

Students who attended the launch expressed appreciation for the programme, saying it had already begun reshaping their understanding of citizenship and responsibility.

The minister said the training was part of broader efforts to instil national consciousness among young Ugandans, particularly those pursuing technical and vocational education, who are considered vital to the country's industrialisation agenda.

The event was attended by, among others, Hoima Resident District Commissioner, Badru Mugabi.

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