

# There are few institutions handling oil courses – Opuda

The governor of Bank of Uganda, Emmanuel Tumusiime Mutebile, while launching the laboratories at the International University of East Africa noted that: "Central to economic development is the application of progressively more advanced technologies in production processes like oil mining and infrastructural development."

He said the advancement in technology should also be streamed into institutions of learning. "This will improve the training of students, to match the economy development project.

"The processes of technological upgrading would not be possible without human capacities to plan for, adopt and operate new technologies," Mutebile added.

He said it was wrong for the country to rely on foreign engineers and experts, especially in the oil industry.

"As our economy becomes more technologically sophisticated, especially with the discovery and mining of oil, our requirements for engineers and technicians will expand many-fold. If we fail to expand our human capacities in engineering and technology, the development of our economy will be impeded."

Prof. John Opuda-Asibo, the executive director of the National Council for Higher Education, said there were very few institutions handling oil mining in the country, which he said "exposes our available jobs to the foreigners".

He noted that: "Most universities were focused on training graduates, who may handle management, financing and negotiation oil and gas deals, and not those

who can directly handle the mining."

Opuda proposed that there should be a discussion with the ministries of education and also that of energy and the National Planning Authority to carefully plan for human resource in this industry.

"We must strategically plan for the country's human resource, especially for the major sectors. Our role as NCHE is to guide the ministries and the planning authority," Opuda said.

He added that: "The law – the Universities and Other Tertiary Institutions Act – tasks us with guiding the Government on the human resource development for the country. It has not been done, for a long time. It is high time we get it done. It has to be national priority."



Opuda-Asibo