

SUPPLEMENT

AVAILABLE SLOTS CAN ONLY ACCOMMODATE LESS THAN 90,000 EMPLOYEES

major youth challenges

Roles of youth include...

Ibrahim Kitatta, the secretary general of the National Youth Council, says the young people must be able to participate in decision making at all levels, which can only be achieved through representation of young people at all levels of planning and implementation.

"The young people should be at the core of these budget framework papers that will later be read out as a national document called the budget," he says.

At the end of the day, the youth should also be involved in monitoring the implementations to ensure that the ideas they came up with were executed. Layne Robinson from the Commonwealth secretariat explains that this year, the Commonwealth youth ministers' meeting theme: "Resourcing and financing youth development, emphasises the role of young people in youth development".

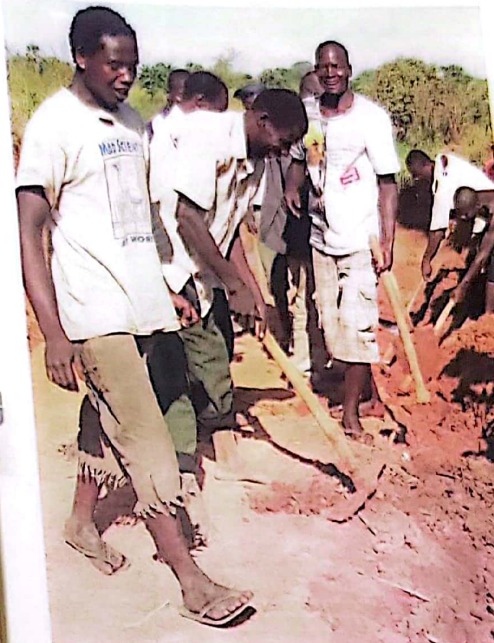
"The theme has two parts to it - resourcing and financing - so on one hand we are looking at human resource as well as the legal and regulatory framework around young people. It is the young people and the people who work with young people that are the greatest asset in youth development," he says.

"So, we are saying if you invest in youth and work with them, they are an asset in the community. In fact, our argument is, if you work with young people, they will add value to all the things that are happening globally," Robinson adds.

He explains that this will be achieved through the assets approach, where youth are seen as assets for national development instead of a needs-based approach which portrays youth as beneficiaries.

Kitatta advises youth to be at the forefront of continuous capacity building such as volunteering in order for them to compete favourably.

"Sadly, the youth want money for everything they do but someone should first see the value in you before they can spend that extra coin," Kitatta says.



Youth working on a community road in northern Uganda. Not most of the youth have been lucky to access funds disbursed by the Government purposely for the youth



Youth receive lessons in welding. Most youth tend to ignore hands-on jobs

young people aged 18-34 display the highest rate of entrepreneurial intention and those aged 25-34 display the highest rate of start-up activity.

Unfortunately, younger entrepreneurs are often constrained by lack of access to resources, including financial resources, and legal and customary difficulties with ownership and rights.

Robinson also highlights the fact that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2015 debate on financing development had a big gap - the debate did not focus on young people having a role in development of national economies and sustainable development.

"We are not seeing the support and financing of young people to actually make that step to contribute to national development, planning and development outcomes," he says.



Oulanyah says only 12% of Ugandans are saving in commercial banks

When we come home, Uganda is ranked as the 120th out of 158 countries in affordability of financial

services, according to the Economic Forum Global competitiveness report 2016/17. The major constraints of setting up an enterprise by a young person globally are start-up and operating capital.

Jacob Oulanyah, the Deputy Speaker of Parliament, observes that the country has less than 12% of the population saving and making resources available for short-term lending by commercial banks. However, the Government also goes for these meagre savings, causing the interest rates to go as high as 30%.

"As a result, you find a young person who wants to develop their capacity, competing with government entities. It does not make economic sense," Oulanyah says.

The Government introduced programmes such as the Youth Livelihood Programme (YLP) and the Joint Capital Venture

to address issues of youth financing.

However, Mpkwa Mwine, the chairperson of the Uganda Parliamentary Youth Forum, says these have only reached a fraction of the intended beneficiaries and suffer from a high default rate because they attract a high interest rate.

"A recent evaluation shows that the YLP has received only 40% of the resources as of 2016, which have reached only 56% of its intended beneficiaries," he says.

Mwine adds that although sh265b was allocated for the YLP, only sh90.6b was released and 68% was dispersed with 46% default rate.

When it comes to the Joint Capital Venture, Mwine states that the intervention offers a small grant that attracts security and an interest rate of

15% and a maximum of four years repayment period.

Mwine argues that provision of cheap long-term credit remains the window to leverage youth entrepreneurship and employment. He suggests that this will be achieved through a youth development bank that will give youth loans at an interest rate as low as 7%.

Central channel
"Channelling youth resources through one central entity makes it easier to implement and monitor projects," Mwine said.

Oulanyah says the solution is restructuring the economy such that our financial sector is resilient and has the response capacity to absorb external factors that have been affecting our economy for long.

"That way, a young entrepreneur will survive. Otherwise they will be thrown in an ocean with strong tides waiting for time to die," he says.

Oulanyah goes on to state that there is need for systems that will ensue some insulation to entrepreneurs.

"You cannot come youth here to other because those your support systems," states.

An example of systems is the tax on youth business taxes are high at have never step business permit we do. Please u businesses benefit taxes on us," E carpenter, says

YOUTH DAY

MORE THAN 400,000 YOUTH ENTER THE JOB MARKET IN UGANDA ANNUALLY YET THE Unemployment, financing

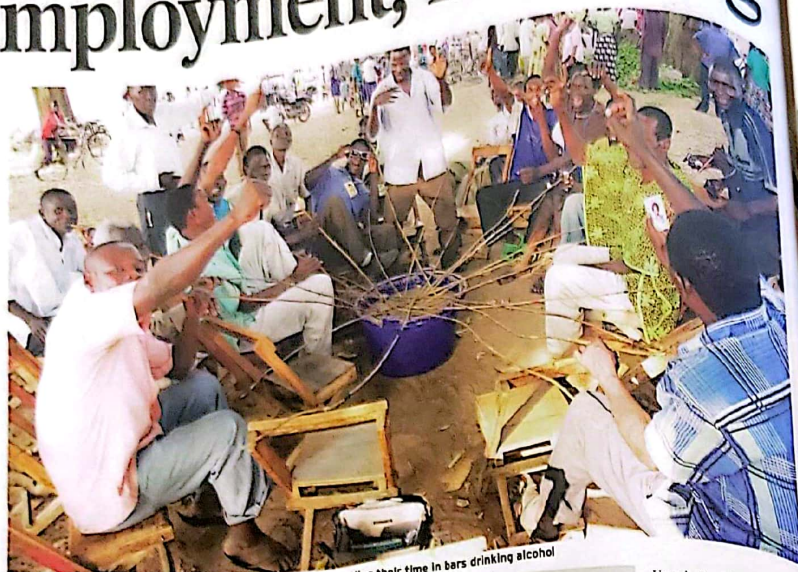
By Jacqueline Emedek

Gorge Odeke went through some of the prominent secondary schools in Uganda and offered mathematics, economics and geography at Above. When he sat for his Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education, he scored top points and was admitted at Makerere University Business School on government sponsorship, offering bachelors of commerce.

Odeke graduated with a first class degree and first volunteered as an accountant for a fuel station in Jinja district for two years. However, this stint did not sustain him and he chose to look for a better paying job after a year at home. Odeke pooled his savings with his elder brother and started a restaurant in Kampala.

Sadly, this venture only lasted six months because most of the money earned went in paying for rent and amenities such as electricity, water, collection of rubbish and staff salaries.

Having spent all his savings and hardly made any profits, Odeke returned to the fuel station in Jinja and volunteered for another year before they started paying him a salary of sh400,000.



Due to the rampant unemployment, most youth resort to spending their time in bars drinking alcohol

Unemployment
According to the Global Youth Index and report 2016, global growth and poverty reduction over the next 20 years will be driven by today's young people, yet many of them face significant difficulties in finding productive employment.

This picture is further highlighted by the labour market transition of young people in Uganda Survey, 2016, which puts the unemployment rate among young people in Uganda at 6.5%, with the more educated and women being more unemployed.

"The unemployment rate among young people increased with each additional level of education attainment, with the tertiary level unemployment rate being 11.8% and that with no education being 3.6%. In addition, young women had a higher unemployment rate (7.4%) compared to the males (5.5%)," the report reads.

The survey also notes that about one quarter (27%) of the young people in Uganda successfully completed their labour market transition and

the period of completion was still quite lengthy, lasting an average of nearly three years.

Mondo Kyateka, the commissioner for youth and children affairs in the gender ministry, attributes the high unemployment rate among the youth to their mindset.

"The education ministry under the initiative of skilling the youth, concentrated on establishment of polytechnics, but people do not want to go to the institutions because

they believe that it is below them. Someone would rather do development studies than study plumbing," he says.

Kyateka gave an example of Rwengye polytechnic, which was established at a cost of sh6 to accommodate about 6,000 students, but has only enrolled 2,000.

"It is not the mindset of the children only but also the parents. The parents look down on professions such as being a musician or plumber, which could actually earn one a good income. They would prefer that their children have degrees," he adds.

Aside from the mindset, Kyateka states that there is also a skills gap caused by the fact that many of the institutions are obsolete and so are instructors and tools used to teach.

"So you wonder what they will produce," he says.

Kyateka suggests that the country needs to address the issue by changing the mindset of the people such that they embrace informal jobs instead of being focused on white collar jobs.

Layne Robinson, the head of programmes in the Youth Division under the Commonwealth Secretariat, says there is need to recognise youth work as a distinct profession.

Statistics

Recent estimates from the World Bank suggest that 250-300 million young people are unemployed or idle, and another 150-200 million young people around the world are in unpaid or poorly paid work.

In Uganda, statistics from the labour department in the gender ministry show that over 400,000 jobseekers enter the Uganda job market annually and compete for the 12,000 jobs advertised in the formal sector.

As a result, 65% of the youth aged between 20 and 24 (a time when most people are expected to graduate) are unemployed, according to the housing census of 2014. This means 11.8 million youth, majority from university and other tertiary institutions, struggle with securing employment.

Uganda should view the population growth positively and harness demographic

This is because once young people are skilled, they provide labour for a long time. "Simply put, we shall have a big percentage of working-aged adults supporting a small number of dependants which is productive and contributes to the country's development."

The demographic dividend was partly responsible for the rapid economic growth of the 1970s and 1980s. This is also need to focus on innovations in agriculture since it is the main sector and source of youth employment globally.

However, the Global Youth Development Index and report of 2016, states that while this is changing and the share of agricultural employment is falling as economies grow and develop, agriculture will still provide the majority of employment opportunities for young people in sub-Saharan Africa for the foreseeable future.

Economics
Young people around the world are also at the forefront of innovation and entrepreneurship. The Global Entrepreneurship Monitor report for 2015 states that

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