

Minister Kabanda urges youth to join presidential skilling centres

By Ibrahim Ruhweza

The Minister of Kampala Capital City and Metropolitan Affairs, Minsu Kabanda, has urged young people across the country to join the presidential industrial hubs and acquire knowledge that can quickly translate into jobs and enterprises.

Kabanda noted that while higher education remains valuable, it often delays young people's entry into the world of opportunities. On the other hand, skilling hubs offer practical training with readily available jobs.

"Even those with degrees should go and get some skills for a start," she said.

The minister made the remarks on Wednesday, while presiding over the 6th graduation ceremony at Ice Kenny School of Beauty, held at Nsambya Sharing Hall in

BETWEEN THE LINES

Fr Deogratius Kiibi, the parish priest of St Joseph Catholic Church in Mpigi, encouraged youth to marry early and have children, saying it helps preserve family legacies.

Kampala. About 150 youth graduated in hairdressing, pedicure, manicure, as well as fashion and design.

Kabanda said young people with practical skills stand a better chance of starting their own businesses and even employing others.

HISTORY OF INDUSTRIAL HUBS

President Museveni initiated the presidential industrial (or zonal industrial) hubs to equip vulnerable and out-of-school youth with practical, income-generating skills.



PHOTO BY PATRICK KIBIRANGO

Kabanda (second-right) handing over a certificate to graduand Alex Kibuuka as the director of Ice Kenny School of Beauty, Kennedy Mugalu (second-left) and Dr Mukasa Lusambu (right) an education ministry commissioner, look on. This was during the 6th graduation ceremony of the institute held at Nsambya Sharing Hall in Kampala on Wednesday

The programme grew out of earlier efforts introduced in Kampala around 2017. The programme has since expanded into a nationwide strategy aimed at reducing youth unemployment, curbing school dropouts and promoting

wealth creation.

The hubs, which form part of the broader Parish Development Model and the national "skilling the youth" agenda, train young people in trades such as welding, carpentry, tailoring, baking,

hairdressing, leatherwork and motor vehicle mechanics.

Uganda currently has about 19 zonal skilling hubs spread across regions nationwide. Each hub trains up to 600 learners per year, giving the entire network a

national training capacity of approximately 12,000 to 12,600 youth annually.

The courses typically run for six months, culminating in vocational qualifications, with graduates supported through co-operatives, start-up capital and market linkages.

CREATIVITY, FAMILY VALUES

At the same event, actor and co-director of The Ebonies, Sam Bagenda, popularly known as Dr Bbosa, urged fresh graduates to remain creative despite the disruptions caused by artificial intelligence.

Fr Deogratius Kiibi, the parish priest of St Joseph Catholic Church in Mpigi, encouraged youth to marry early and have children, saying it helps preserve family legacies.

"As you focus on your studies, also look for someone who will marry you, have children and help sustain Uganda," he said.