

The secretary, Office of the President, Haji Yunus Kakande, has underscored the critical role of patriotism in curbing immoral acts such as strikes in schools.

Haji Kakande said patriotism training teaches learners to love their country, and loving one's country requires discipline and responsible citizenship.

"There are no more strikes in schools due to patriotism. Students now understand the repercussions of destroying school property; this is all because of patriotism training," he said.

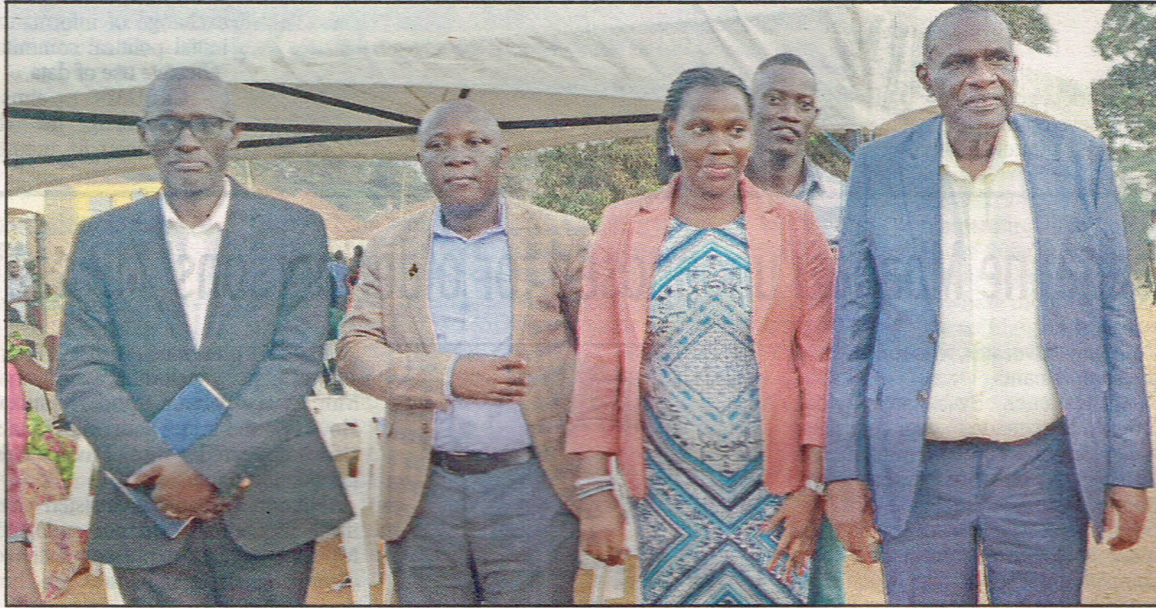
Haji Kakande made the remarks on Thursday while officiating at the closure of a patriotism training programme for 380 students at Kira Secondary School in Kira municipality, Wakiso district. The training was organised by the National Secretariat for Patriotism Corps under the Office of the President.

Kakande commended President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni for initiating the patriotism programme in Uganda, explaining that the initiative had produced a new generation of citizens committed to the national cause, with values of love, loyalty, sacrifice and discipline.

"These children have learnt to love their country while still young. They now understand what patriotism is. Some of us never had that opportunity. It was President Museveni who initiated the programme. Now people understand what patriotism means," he said.

"The more children are trained, the more productive citizens they become. These patriots are now ambassadors of patriotism for their school and the Government."

'Patriotism lessons curbing school strikes'



Haji Kakande (right) with other officials during the closure of patriotism training for 380 students at Kira Secondary School in Kira municipality, Wakiso district on Thursday

Addressing the trainees, Kakande urged them to use the skills acquired to become responsible citizens of Uganda.

He also urged parents and residents of Kira to appreciate President Museveni for steering development, particularly in education.

He assured them that he would inform the President about the need to improve infrastructure at the school so that it could accommodate more students.

"I also request you to vote for President Museveni in the forthcoming general elections for more development," he said.

BETWEEN THE LINES

▶ Kakande commended President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni for initiating the patriotism programme in Uganda, explaining that the initiative had produced a new generation of citizens.

The assistant resident district commissioner of Kira municipality, Sharon Abur, commended parents for allowing their children to participate in the patriotism training.

"I also thank the trainees for taking

part in this training. It is very important in your lives. What you have learnt, put it into practice in your communities," she said.

The principal education officer of Kira municipality, Micheal Ssenkusu, thanked the President for his visionary leadership that led to the establishment of the Patriotism Secretariat, which has greatly impacted Uganda.

"Patriotism is the foundation for the development of our country. The skills you have acquired are very critical because they will help you to thrive in the future. We need patriotic citizens, and I am confident that you have acquired the values that define

patriotism," he said.

However, Ssenkusu decried the limited number of schools in the municipality, noting that there were only 26 government-aided primary schools and three government-aided secondary schools serving a population of over 500,000 people.

The headteacher of Kira Secondary School, Godfrey Ssekandi, congratulated the trainees on successfully completing the one-week patriotism training, which he described as life-impacting.

"We are truly grateful for the programme provided by the secretariat to our learners," he said.

Ssekandi also expressed concern at the limited infrastructure at the school.

He said the government school has an enrolment of 1,328 students, a number that exceeds the capacity of existing facilities, yet the school is required to accommodate increasing enrolments.

"In this regard, we request the Office of the President to fund our plan to establish an amphitheatre to accommodate creative and practical subjects, as well as indoor sports activities on the upper slab," Ssekandi said.

The representative of the participants, Ethan Ivan Kalanzi, highlighted key areas covered during the training. He said participants were trained in discipline, safety, security and crime prevention, accountability as well as the role of youth in nation-building.

He also expressed appreciation to the National Secretariat for Patriotism Corps, headed by Hellen Seku, for the opportunity.

"We also thank the facilitators, our parents and teachers for their guidance, support and encouragement," Kalanzi said.