

# RALLY BECOMES SOBERING REFLECTION OF MISSED OPPORTUNITY

## NAKASEKE YOUTH WARNED AGAINST SHUNNING FACTORY JOBS

PHOTO BY LAWRENCE MULONDO

By Lawrence Mulondo

Leaders in Nakaseke district have cautioned the youth against shunning available jobs created by local industries, warning that such actions not only frustrate government efforts to fight unemployment, but also slow down economic transformation.

The warning came during the Youth Wake Up mobilisation and accountability rally held on Sunday in Kapeeka, Nakaseke district. The minister of state for youth and children affairs, Balaam Barugahara, organised the event.

What began as a platform for young people to air out their grievances quickly turned into a sobering reflection on missed opportunities, frustration and broken trust between leaders and the communities they serve.

The youth who spoke during the rally painted a picture of desperation and uncertainty. Brian Sebyaala, a resident of Kapeeka, said unemployment remains one of the biggest challenges facing young people in the area.

He appealed to other young people to continue supporting the National Resistance Movement Government, saying he has faith that solutions will come. His voice carried both hope and tiredness, emotions shared by many in the crowd.

However, not all frustrations were about the lack of jobs. Shafik Lutaaya, another youth, acknowledged the presence of industries but questioned the dignity of the wages offered.

He recounted how self-employment once earned him sh20,000 a day, only for him to switch to factory work where he earned sh8,000 for long hours of labour every day. To Lutaaya, the pay feels like an insult to his effort and energy.

Others, however, countered this view. Issiah Sizoomu, a

### STATE MINISTER REASSURES

Youth state minister Balaam Barugahara likened the factory jobs to government programmes such as the Parish Development Model, where opportunity only bears fruit if handled wisely. He explained that production costs, particularly the high price of electricity, affect the wages that industries can pay.

He revealed that President Yoweri Museveni directed the energy ministry to reduce electricity costs, a move expected to ease pressure on factories and eventually improve workers' pay. His words offered a glimmer of hope to an audience hungry for reassurance.

bodaboda rider at Naluvule stage, argued that low pay was not the core issue.

Sizoomu said many workers complained about mistreatment and poor working conditions, factors that quietly drain morale, pushing the youth away from formal employment.

When Barugahara took to the stage, his message was firm and emotional. He urged the youth to appreciate the presence of industrial parks in the district (Liaoshen and Namunkeker), noting that many districts across the country yearn to have such investments.

He reminded the youth that these factories currently employ more than 15,000 people and were established deliberately to benefit the



Foreground, left-right: Issiah Nsequivu, an aspiring Kapeeka town council representative; Rose Namayanja, the deputy secretary-general of the National Resistance Movement; Sarah Najjuma, the Nakaseke District Woman MP and Barugahara during the Youth Wake Up mobilisation rally in Kapeeka, Nakaseke district, on Sunday

### BETWEEN THE LINES

Barugahara urged the youth to appreciate the presence of industrial parks in the district, noting that many districts across the country yearn to have such investments.

children and grandchildren of bush war veterans.

The minister cautioned that factory jobs are meant to serve as a starting point for ordinary youth seeking capital and experience, and not as permanent solutions.

Wyclif Kayondo, a member of the Kapeeka Bricklaying Association, said their group had repeatedly been tossed from office to office without accessing the Parish Development Model funds.

In response, Barugahara invited Nakaseke district technocrats, led by the chief administrative officer, to account for funds received under various programmes. However, none of them was present.

Visibly angered, the minister said he would call for investigations, expressing suspicion of misuse of public funds.

Nakaseke District Woman MP Sarah Najjuma echoed the minister's sentiments, advising youth against laziness. She said those already working in factories stood to benefit when wages improve.

## IN LOVING MEMORY

The late Capt. Dick Kajugilira

Died: 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2016

It has been 10 years since you departed from us.

Your Love, guidance, wisdom stay with us every day.

We are grateful for the memories we shared and the lessons you taught us.

Your dear wife Diana, children, family and friends will forever miss you.

*We trust you will forever rest in Peace*



**Romans 14:8:** For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.