

Educationists urged to start skilling learners in primary

By Steven Odeke

Ugandan educationists have been urged to skill learners from as early as primary school if the country is to attain its development goals by 2040.

The appeal was made by Edward Muhigirwa, the board chairperson of Mulika Junior School in Wakiso district, during a thanksgiving service last month.

"It is important that we impart in our learners, not only academic theories, but also skills because we want our young ones to grow up while ready to confront the future with innovation," he said.

Muhigirwa encouraged learners and other education stakeholders not to focus on class marks alone.

"A child can pass highly but fail to get a job. So, what happens next? The child has to use his or her hands," he said.

Muhigirwa encouraged learners to take up training in baking, arts and crafts, tailoring, swimming, and music.

The function, which was attended by parents, teachers, religious leaders and political leaders from Kira Municipality.

Deo Ssekakoni, the school headteacher, also appealed to parents to take note of the children's talents and nurture them so that they excel.

"By thoughtfully designing programmes, listening to parents, and keeping the child at the centre of decision-making, you can achieve a balanced, holistic educational

experience in the primary school years. We want a holistic child who can excel in both academics and survival skills," he said.

Ssekakoni added that while the school has made significant progress, operational challenges such as high taxes continue to affect growth and expansion plans. He called upon government to consider grants and tax relief to enable private institutions delivering community impact to thrive.

Ssekakoni said because of talent nurturing, the school also recently celebrated five-year-old Mugabe, who was crowned Little Miss Uganda on December 22, who will represent Uganda in Kenya at the Little Miss and Mr International pageant.



Muhigirwa hands a certificate of excellence to one of the learners during the recent thanksgiving ceremony in Wakiso district