

Patriotism training key to shaping reliable citizens, says commissioner Seku

By Vision Reporter

The commissioner of the National Secretariat for Patriotism Corps, Hellen Seku, has emphasised the importance of patriotism training in schools, describing it as a critical tool for sharpening the ideological consciousness of young Ugandans and preparing them to become responsible citizens committed to national development.

Speaking during the pass-out ceremony of patriotism trainees at King's College Budo in Wakiso district on Saturday, Seku urged students to embrace positive values, discipline and love for their country.

"It is our time to be ideologically sharpened, change our mindset to positive thinking, and be responsible, hardworking at all times, and avoid harmful behaviours like drug abuse, excessive alcohol consumption, and corruption," she said.

A total of 2,513 participants, including 113 teachers and staff of the school, completed the week-long patriotism ideological development

Kasamba (left) and Seku (right) handing over a certificate to one of the best-performing students during the passout of over 2,500 patriotism students and teachers at King's College Budo on Saturday



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BETWEEN THE LINES

○ Seku warned students against engaging in acts of violence in schools, saying patriotism-trained students should become champions of discipline and peaceful engagement.

Makerere University, we no longer hear of frequent strikes," she said.

The headteacher of King's College Budo, Godfrey Kasamba, thanked President Museveni and the Government for facilitating what he described as a transformative programme.

"We deeply appreciate your commitment to shaping the moral, civic and national consciousness of our young people," Kasamba said.

He added that the school, founded in 1906, remains committed to nurturing responsible citizens and leaders beyond academic excellence.

"Real patriotism is demonstrated through discipline, integrity, hard work, responsibility, respect

for others and commitment to national development," he said.

Kasamba added that the training had provided students with practical lessons in leadership, teamwork, time management, sacrifice and national identity.

"The country needs young people who rise above selfishness, division, corruption, violence and hopelessness to embrace unity, service, resilience and excellence instead," he said.

Speaking on behalf of the students, the school head prefect, Amos Mwesigwa, expressed gratitude to the national secretariat and President Museveni for initiating the patriotism programme.

"It is nurturing us into people of integrity, unity, discipline, acceptance and love, thus protecting the gains of our country, Uganda," Mwesigwa said.

"We have learned that patriotism is not merely about rights, but about actions that promote peace, integrity, responsibility and national development."

course organised by the secretariat. The training featured civic education sessions, mentorship and lectures by senior army officers and other facilitators.

Seku conveyed greetings from President Yoweri Museveni, whom she described as the "chief patriot," and the First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports, Mrs Janet Museveni, who serves as the deputy patron of the programme.

She said the patriotism course is officially recognised under Uganda's education curriculum and is examinable in schools.

"If you don't embrace it in your schools, you deny Ugandan children important information and exposure beyond the classroom," Seku said.

The commissioner said the training seeks to instil values such as hard work, discipline, ethical conduct, mutual

respect, patriotism, financial literacy, health awareness, moral integrity and knowledge of Uganda's political history and economy.

Seku warned students against engaging in acts of violence in schools, saying patriotism-trained students should instead become champions of discipline and peaceful engagement.

"Because of patriotism programmes in schools and universities, including