

80 Madhvani beneficiaries graduate from Makerere

OUR REPORTER

Eighty beneficiaries of the Madhvani Foundation Scholarships recently graduated with honours degrees from Makerere University. The students were part of a group of over 250 students who were awarded scholarships between 2008 and 2010, worth over Shs 1.6bn.

Commenting on the students' course completion, Madhvani Foundation Scholarship Committee's chairman, Anthony Butele, said: "The only way to empower the nation's youths is through education, training and imparting them with skills which will help them not only look for jobs, but create employment. We, therefore, don't just stop at giving scholarships, but also run a mentorship and further training programme for our beneficiaries through the alumni association. This is a group that aims to provide a common platform and networking opportunities to former beneficiaries."

Seeing the students graduate, Butele said, was very satisfying and important for the foundation because it confirmed that Ugandan students were serious about their education and that the funds were being well spent.

"This is a very positive sign for the future of the country. The foundation is proud to be playing a small but meaningful part in the development of our nation," Butele added.

Speaking after the gradua-

tion ceremony at Makerere, one of the beneficiaries, Cissy Nantale, who graduated with a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery, said she was very grateful to the foundation for paying for her studies.

"At the time I sat the interviews I was at a dead-end and none of my friends or relatives were able to support me financially. I was contemplating dropping out; the foundation gave me a new lease of life and I was able to focus on my books. Today, I am on the verge of achieving my dreams of becoming a gynaecologist. None of this would have been possible without the foundation," said Nantale.

Since the foundation scholarship scheme was revived during the 2003-2004 academic year, over 1,000 students have been awarded university scholarships worth over Shs 3bn.

SK Iyengar, the foundation's secretary, encouraged gifted, but financially challenged students to apply for scholarships in the 2014-2015 academic year. They can do this through the foundation website, when the application period opens at the end of March 2014.

"Potential undergraduate candidates must have completed the first year of university with Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) of not less than 2.2, with no retakes," he pointed out. Postgraduate students should have a minimum of a degree and work experience in the related field.



Cissy Nantale on her graduation day PHOTO/COURTESY