

Facing life after a scholarship

BY PAUL TAJUBA

editorial@ug.nationmedia.com

Majority if not all students go to school with hopes of getting a job after graduation but this does not come to pass as exemplified in the skyrocketing unemployment currently standing at 83.5 percent according to Uganda Bureau of Statistics abstract report 2013 amongst the youths who are the majority in the Uganda.

In fact, some universities are now advocating for a wholistic approach to education where students graduate with ability to create jobs rather than seeking which is currently enslaving many graduates.

The Madhvani Scholarship Alumni Association, according to its deputy chairman Emmanuel Ngolobe, will help to tap raw talent from universities through mentoring, organising career days, entrepreneurial skilling and recommending their sponsored students to potential employers and also absorbing some when the company enlists jobs.

The association which started in 2009 now boasts of more than 500 active members all from Madhvani scholarship foundation which commenced in 2003 to help needy but bright students strictly those doing sciences courses. The recent entrants were four students. Mr Anthony Butele, the chairman of the scholarship committee, was quick to silence critics for having such a small number: "We offer 100 scholarships

to students but we urge even other mushrooming sugar cane factories to help our youths. They say the future is yours but how can it be when you are unemployed?" he asked.

Critical performance

In his observations, the committee and the chairman "are proud of the students who value the foundation scholarship opportunity and they are critical of their performance and integrity,"

There are some successful stories from the foundation and the alumni association but more is needed in practical training and job creation in order to create a multiplier effect for the hundreds of youths in the economy since education is just a first stage to jumping out of poverty.

In a recent interview, Prof. David Kabasa, a principal at the College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resource and Biosecurity (COVAB) Makerere University said higher institutions of learning are shunning out peasants to compete with intellectually sound individuals from other countries in a global market, a thing which he says has resulted into low home productivity.

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ANTHONY BUTELE,

CHAIRMAN, MADHVANI FOUNDATION