

Students Loan Scheme favouring the rich – Kagonyera

LUWERO

By Frederick Kiwanuka

The Government's Students Loan Scheme, that was meant to benefit financially disadvantaged persons, is benefitting children of the rich, Prof. Mondo Kagonyera, an academic, has said.

He said the criteria being used to choose the beneficiaries of the scheme favours students who attended good primary and secondary schools.

"The Government gives scholarships to students who scored four or three 'As' at A'level, but what they do not realise is that these are the sons and daughters of people who can afford fees. These are people who have gone through first-class nursery, primary and secondary schools, while some are specially trained to pass exams," he said.

Kagonyera made the remarks while

BETWEEN THE LINES

■ Prof. Mondo Kagonyera, an academic, said the Students Loan Scheme favours people who have gone through first-class schools, while some of them are specially trained to pass exams.

addressing graduates at Ndejje University, Luwero district, on Friday. About 100 of the graduates were beneficiaries of the Students Loan Scheme.

Kagonyera said the criteria for choosing beneficiaries should be revised, so that it benefits those who are incapable of affording their fees. He also criticised the tendency of "unnecessarily" stressing exam passing, at the expense of imparting knowledge.

Michael Wanyama, the director of

the higher education financing board, the agency charged with overseeing the implementation of the loan scheme, said over 10,000 students countrywide had benefitted from the loan scheme since its inception in 2014.

He said Ndejje University had so far hosted over 1,000 students benefitting from the scheme.

Wanyama urged the beneficiaries of the loan scheme to start paying back as soon as they start earning an income.

The chancellor of Ndejje University, Dr Kisamba Mugerwa, advised the graduates to showcase the relevance of higher education through the skills and quality of their lives at their workplaces and communities.

Wanyama Tendo, an engineering student and Junior Joseph, a computer science student, received special recognition as the best female and male graduands.

