

Korea aids Iganga Technical Institute

IGANGA

By George Bita

South Korea has been hailed for boosting the renovation of Iganga Technical Institute.

Eva Kwesiga, the Iganga Resident District Commissioner, said the youth in Iganga used to shun the institute, but they are now attracted by its new look.

"My appeal to the Koreans is not to stop at Iganga Institute, but also assist other local institutes. We need aid in the entire Busoga," Kwesiga said on Monday.

She said the institute's enrolment had risen from 230 in 2010 to over 500 at the moment.

David Eliachu, the principal, said the funding channelled through the Korean International Cooperation

Agency involved construction of training facilities and dormitories.

Genesis

Abdullah Balunywa, the Bulamagi LC3 chairperson, said the institute was founded by a Catholic priest, Fr. Damian Slot, over 70 years ago, as a training centre with a bias in vocational skills.

"The doors opened for the first students in 1932. Later, in 1954, it was turned into a public institution," Balunywa said. He said the Government takeover brought in new courses, such as motor vehicle mechanics, tailoring and plumbing.

Korean aid

Byung Kyoo Ha, the ambassador of South Korea to Uganda, said the rehabilitation of the institute

was part of a sh74b loan in 2014 to renovate five such institutes nationwide.

The other beneficiary institutes are Arua, Kiryandongo, Mubende and Nyakatare Technical Institute (Kanungu district).

"We will continue to work with the Ugandan government to skill Ugandans. The most important thing is to have a mutual understanding for the good of friendship between

our two countries," he said.

Trainees testify

Musa Kitakufe, a student who is about to attain a certificate in motor vehicle mechanics, said: "The instructors are thorough and we get hands-on training. Our workshop offers services to locals at a fee, including computerised vehicle checks."

Aida Mutesi, another trainee, said she had attained

skills in tailoring international fabrics, including those worn by Koreans.

"This means I can get international clients. It is a commendable trend since we live in a global village."

International skilling

Eliachu said through intercultural fetes, like the Korean Festival, students have been made to embrace Korean culture.



One of the newly refurbished buildings at the institute. Photo by George Bita