

UMI asked to include integrity, sciences in their courses

By Jeff Andrew Lule

The Uganda Management Institute (UMI) has been asked to incorporate integrity and science in all their academic programmes to meet the needs of the market.

The higher education state minister, Dr John Chrysostom Muyingo, said the institute should review its curriculum to ensure it produces highly upright people.

"Many of the students are stealing government money and [many] have ended up in Luzira Prison. Most of these went through this institution. Where could the problem be? That is what we need to find a solution for," he said.

Muyingo made the remarks yesterday while officiating at a breakfast meeting as part of the activities to mark 50 years of UMI's existence as a premier public administration institute.

At the same event, UMI unveiled the institute anthem and flag.

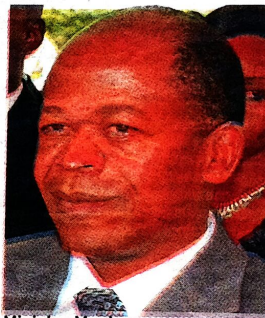
They also held a thanksgiving prayer session led by the Inter-Religious Council of Uganda members.

Muyingo said UMI's leadership should review its curriculum to emphasise integrity and ethics as an integral part in all their trainings.

He revealed that during one of his visits to Luzira recently, he interacted with 15 prisoners and realised 10 of them went through UMI with degrees and masters.

He also cited the two former finance ministry officials; John Charles Ogot and Geoffrey Turyahumika, who were sentenced by the Anti-Corruption Court to two years in prison on Monday, for allegedly soliciting a bribe of sh186m from an investor in 2017.

"UMI must re-examine and research on its programmes and see whether you remain relevant," Muyingo said.



Minister Muyingo

He also noted that the institute should start training the students in new technologies to easily compete in the job market.

"With new technologies, it means

some jobs will be done by machines. So, how do you help your graduates compete for the available jobs?"

In her speech delivered by Muyingo, the First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports, Mrs Janet Museveni, appreciated the institute for addressing the issue of human resource development.

However, she stressed that although UMI continues to re-invent itself to equip citizens with the required skills, "our public services still leave a lot to be desired".

"Society has become more complex and new ways of managing it have to be found. I challenge the institute to focus not only on technical management skills, but also equip scholars with knowledge about governance and economic evolution of the country including soft and life skills," Mrs Museveni said.

Mrs Museveni asked the institute

to always do introspection whenever there is a strike in a public university, corruption in public sector or other unethical behavior.

The chairperson governing council UMI, F. X. Lubanga, said the institute has grown from the population of 100 students in 1969 to 3,000 today.

UMI was in the past used to train only public officers in administration. Today the institute offers diploma, degree, master's and PhD programmes.

Lubanga said the institute now offers consultancy services to other countries such as Somalia and Sudan.

The institute has also introduced video conferencing in three centres (Mbale, Mbarara and Gulu) to increase enrolment beginning next academic year.

The institute chancellor, Namirembe Bitamazire, thanked the past and current leaders for maintaining the legacy of the institute over the years.