

Rowdy politicians undermining education, says Makerere don

By Farooq Kasule

A senior lecturer at Makerere University College of Education and External Studies has accused 'rowdy' politicians of abusing education.

Dr David Onen observed that rowdy politicians have made the educated look abnormal unlike in the past.

"Currently, for one to become a leader in Uganda, you must look like a mad man. The educated seem abnormal these days. We are losing sense of what quality things are and we must address this. Otherwise, we are in trouble," Onen said.

Onen made the observation during the second memorial lecture of former Makerere University lecturer Prof. William Sentenza Kajubi at Makerere University on Thursday.

The event attracted hundreds of educationists, students and a number of Buganda kingdom officials, led by former Katikkiro Dan Muliika.

Onen also wondered how graduates end up becoming 'thieves', yet this is not taught at school.

"Every graduate we produce these days is a potential thief. Where do they learn such habits? We do not teach them?" he wondered.

Onen cited poor implementation of policies as another factor responsible for poor quality education in the country at all levels.

"Prof. Kajubi made good recommendations on the transformation of education in the country, which



Dr David Onen

included teaching in local languages, but it is unfortunate that most of them were ignored to date," he said.

He implored lecturers to emulate Prof. Kajubi who, he said, never sought monetary gains, but focused on nurturing quality graduates.

"Prof. Kajubi used to walk to university, but some of us are driving luxurious vehicles. Why is it that the quality of graduates we are producing is poor?" Onen said.

The Rev. Can. Dr John Ssenyonyi, the vice-chancellor of Uganda Christian University, suggested regular curriculum reviews at all levels of education in order to match the current needs.

"If the quality of higher education is to be improved, institutions of higher

learning, whether private or public, should collaboratively partner with the Government to define areas of improvement and pay due attention to them," Ssenyonyi said.

He called for strict accreditation and licence procedures of all institutions in the country to boost the quality of education.

Lorna Magara, the chairperson of Makerere University Council, implored educationists not to blame the Government over the quality of education in the country but to instead become the changers.

On behalf of Kajubi's family, Wasswa Kajubi commended Makerere University for honouring their father.

About Prof. Kajubi

Born in Kireku village, Mityana district in 1926, Kajubi died in 2012. From 1964 to 1977, he was director of National Institute of Education at Makerere University. In 1979, he became professor of higher education. Between 1977 and 1979, he was vice-chancellor of Makerere University and in 1986 Kajubi was appointed principal of Kyambogo Institute of Teacher Education, serving in that capacity until 1989. In 1990, Kajubi was again appointed vice-chancellor of Makerere University, a position he held until 1993. In 1994, he became the vice-chancellor of Nkumba University until his retirement in 2008.

Prof. Kajubi wrote the White Paper as the chairperson of the Education Policy Review Commission that recommended the Universal Primary Education system.