

# Train learners to compete better – Rugunda

KABALE

By Job Namanya

The Prime Minister of Uganda, Dr Ruhakana Rugunda, has said there is shortage of skilled labour in the country because some teaching methods and training institutions do not adequately prepare learners to compete favourably in the job market.

The Premier's comments were contained in a message read for him by the state minister for finance in charge of planning, David Bahati, who represented him as the chief guest, during the third part of the 20th graduation for Bishop Barham University College, Kabale, a constituent college of Uganda Christian University.

A total of 409 students graduated with masters, bachelors, diplomas and certificates in various fields.

The ceremony was held at the university grounds on Rugarama Hill in Kabale municipality.

Rugunda said many institutions still hold onto the traditional theoretical training without putting into consideration the fact that the job market requires graduates who have hands-on skills.

Rugunda added that with



The chancellor's procession leaving the graduation grounds. Photo by Job Namanya

the best approaches, Uganda will prosper using her own products.

"I implore you graduates to have tailor-made solutions that will help in addressing national problems through research and development.

"The country needs graduates that will create jobs and employ others," the Premier said.

The Chancellor of Uganda

Christian University and outgoing Archbishop of the Church of Uganda, His Grace Stanley Ntagali, asked graduates to be creative, active and disciplined, in order to survive in the ever competitive job market.

"Uganda Christian University gives you complete training and, therefore, we expect you to exhibit honesty and true

discipline out there, if you are to represent us well," he said.

The UCU vice-chancellor, Dr John Senyonyi, asked graduates to endeavour to pursue more studies, if they are to develop with the world.

"For those who have attained your first degrees, just know that your academic journey has started.

"The world now needs

qualified people to move with it and, thus, do not relax, but rather consider this as an opportunity to keep on moving," he said.

Dr Medard Rugyendo, the institution's principal, decried the Rwanda-Uganda border crisis that has seen the university miss students from the neighbouring country and thus hindering its

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development.

"We would admit more than 100 international students every year and most of them were from Rwanda.

"Since February, our enrollment has been dropping due to this crisis.

"We pray that our people resolve this challenge as soon as possible, for our development," Rugyendo said.