

Minister directs varsities to start lectures immediately

GULU

By Arnest Tumwesige

The First Lady and education minister, Mrs Janet Kataaha Museveni, has told Gulu University to start lectures at the beginning of semesters.

Mrs. Museveni noted that when semesters begin, lectures are delayed by two weeks.

In her speech read by Joyce Moriku Kaducu, the state minister for primary healthcare, during the 14th graduation of Gulu University on Saturday, the First Lady said: "This compromises academic performance and quality of graduates. University management must ensure that this stops forthwith in all universities."

The minister also appealed to students to avoid solving problems through agitation and strikes, adding that this is not acceptable.

She said strikes are destructive to the socio-economic life and smooth delivery of academics and put unnecessary pressure on all stakeholders in the post-strike period.

"Students, parents, staff and university management



Justus Baryomumeisho was awarded a PhD during the graduation. Photo by Arnest Tumwesige

suffer greatly when trying to compensate for the time lost," she added.

Presiding over the graduation of 1,548 students, Prof. Frederick Kayanja, the university chancellor, noted that several developments have been registered at the campus, including computerisation of

the university business process using the Academic Information Management System.

With this technology, Kayanja said student applications to the university, fees payment and the registration process have been eased.

Kayanja cautioned the graduates against taking risky

decisions, in pursuit of greener pastures.

"If at the beginning you cannot find a job, this does not mean that you have failed," he added.

Other developments

Prof. George Ladaah Openjuru, the university vice-chancellor, said after two years of protracted negotiations with the Law Council and National Council for Higher Education, the university's law programme has been recognised.

He said the law graduates can now enroll for the bar course at the Law Development Centre.

Under the faculty of agriculture and environment, the university has developed an innovative community-oriented approach of training students.

The approach is based on the student-centred and agribusiness-innovation models.

Openjuru said this is aimed at producing graduates that are enterprising and responsive to community needs.

The graduates included one PhD holder, 72 with masters degrees, 90 with post-graduate diplomas and 1,385 degrees. Other students were awarded diplomas.