

# TVET LAW FORMULATION PROCESS SET TO START

By Nelson Kiva

The First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports, Mrs Janet Museveni, is set to meet education ministry technocrats as the Government embarks on the process of formulating the Technical, Vocational Education and Training (TVET) law.

Education ministry spokesperson Dr Dennis Mugimba told Members of Parliament on the parliamentary committee on education and sports on Sunday that the new law may effectively repeal the Business, Technical, Vocational Education and Training (BTJET) Act 2008.

Mugimba, who was briefing the MPs on a recent benchmarking study they had in Kenya on improving technical and vocational education, said the decision on whether to totally repeal or make amendments in the BTJET Act will depend on the advice of their technical people.

He made the remarks at the end of a three-day retreat organised by



Chairperson parliamentary committee on education John Twesigye Ntamuhira and Byakatonda during the retreat at Lake Victoria Serena Golf Resort & Spa in Wakiso district on Sunday

the Directorate of Industrial Training (DIT) at Lake Victoria Serena Golf Resort & Spa in Wakiso district.

"It is the justice ministry which drafts for us laws and it will determine whether this is an amendment or total

repeal based on how much of the current BTJET Act is being changed," Mugimba said.

Although the TVET Bill is yet to be drafted pending consultations, some of its principles, Mugimba said, include the need to establish the TVET council as a regulatory body for TVET all over the country.

Urging the MPs to support the Government in fast-tracking the new law, Mugimba said it will also avail the legal framework required to establish a technical university on top of ensuring the necessary financing to the sector.

Mugimba revealed that the education minister will hold a meeting with the technical people on the matter on Friday.

Cabinet in January 2019 approved the TVET policy aimed at establishing an employer-led TVET system and TVET qualifications framework consistent with the regional framework.

The cabinet decision, according to Mugimba, cleared the ministry to draft the principles or the pillars of the new

law that will come out of the policy.

"The technical people are expected to show the minister the principles of the proposed TVET law that will help to implement the TVET policy," he said.

## COMPLETE REPEAL UNNECESSARY

Abdul Mutumba Ssetuba (Kiboga West MP) said a complete repeal of the law was not necessary, except amendments to re-align the roles of different institutions clearly.

Beatrice Akello Okori (Agago Woman) said: "There is no need for us to develop totally a new law when we already have the existing law. We can improve what we already have".

DIT director Patrick Byakatonda said the retreat was intended to equip the MPs for the mandate of DIT and to effectively support technical and vocational education through budget appropriations, among others.

"We are underfunded, it is the same committee to know what we do and what is required for us to perform better," he said.

## 'Make investments that empower girls'

By Betty Amamukirori

Just like boys, when empowered, girls can make tremendous achievements that not only benefit their families, but their country too.

Speaking at the launch of the Rotary Club's fellowship for empowering women, UNAIDS executive director Winnie Byanyima said though strides have been made in empowering the girl child, the numbers are still low and much more effort is needed.

She called for more investments in education and health that target the girl child to ensure that in their formative years, they are protected and have the opportunity to thrive.

She added that two-thirds of girls in Africa are not in school, especially at secondary level and that 4,500 girls are infected with HIV every week on the continent.

"We are failing girls through such low investments in education and health," Byanyima said.

She added that the most challenging time for a girl is during adolescence and if at this time they were kept in school, they would be protected from falling prey to the factors that push them out of school, such as unwanted pregnancies.

When it comes to the world of employment, Byanyima said girls should have the same opportunities that allow them to have a voice.

She delivered her speech to a group of Rotarians who have enrolled into the programme. Byanyima said gender injustices are worse in rural communities where women's ownership of productive assets like land is restricted.

"If we want to empower women, we have to focus on transforming agriculture and pay attention to the inequalities in these communities," she said.

### BETWEEN THE LINES

Byanyima said women in the rural areas spend a lot of time doing unpaid domestic chores, which leaves them with no time to venture into productive work.

The women empowerment fellowship was launched on Saturday in Kampala. Through the fellowship, according to Blessing Owomugisha, the project's director of programmes, Rotary will target the production of one million sanitary pads, which will be distributed to girls in communities and schools. It will also skill 100 girls to make sanitary pads and train women in basic skills through which they can earn a living.

### SANITARY PAD FACTORY

Rotary also seeks to set up a sanitary pad factory to not only empower the girl child, but also offer employment opportunities to communities.

Board chairperson of the project Rosetti Nabbumba said women face a lot of injustices that need to be addressed. Therefore, through the programme, they are 'putting a face to actions that can make change'.

Nabbumba, who is also the immediate past Governor of District 911, noted that most girls never attain their full potential. Through the programme, she said, they will work in the communities to identify girls with leadership potential and support them.

Byanyima implored the fellows to use their voice to speak against gender-based violence.

During the launch, the board for the Rotary fellowship for empowering women was also launched. It will be headed by Nabbumba.



Deputy vice-chancellor Makerere Josephine Nabukenya, Nawangwe, principal College of Humanities and Social Sciences Makerere Josephine Ahikire and other university members of staff commissioning the multimedia production HUB at Makerere University yesterday

## Govt commits more research funds to MAK

By Vision Reporter

Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe has told Makerere University researchers that their work should have an impact on the economy to justify the immense support to the university's research agenda by both state and non-state actors.

Makerere University vice-chancellor Nawangwe, shortly after commissioning a multimedia production hub established by the university's department of journalism and communication (DJC) yesterday, said the Government has committed sh30b more to improve research through the Makerere University Research and Innovation Fund (MakRIF).

The hub, which worth sh110m, was established with support from

MakRIF. It is aimed at enhancing communication capacity of researchers and innovators.

According to Nawangwe, the sh30b has supported over 700 research projects.

### PUBLIC FUNDS

"If all those [research projects] are translated into production or policies, we will do wonders. We need to show the society that we are committed to solving their challenges because we are being supported using public funds," he said.

The sh30b earmarked for this financial year, Nawangwe said, will bring the total government research funding to the university through MakRIF to sh60b.

He added that the Government was funding other research

programmes at the university outside MakRIF funding.

"The Government is giving us that money to carry out research on the issues which affect Uganda's development and we are seeing the impact of this money much more than the millions of dollars we get from around the world," he said.

The total research funding of the university, Nawangwe said was now above \$40m (about sh141b) every year.

Nawangwe urged MakRIF to permanently fund the hub as an avenue to disseminate information regarding university programmes.

Dr William Talemwa, who was a principal investigator, said the hub will enhance multimedia production to support increased uptake and visibility of research and innovations at the university.