

Private sector foundation pushes for graduate trainees fund

By Paul Kijuuwa

The Private Sector Foundation Uganda (PSFU) is pushing for the creation of a special fund to cater for the welfare of graduate trainees under the National Graduate Scheme Bill 2018 (NGSB).

Led by Moses Ogwal, the director PSFU, the team told legislators of the parliamentary committee on gender, labour and social development that the Bill is silent on who shall meet the costs for

placement of graduate trainees in the private sector at the time of training for a period of one year.

"We are requesting legislators to insert a section in the NGSB 2018 that government shall create a special fund or a monthly stipend to cater for associated trainee costs, including: insurance in case of health hazards, if a trainee sustains an injury in a factory, loss or damage of property, transport, uniform, factory boots stationer. This will enable the graduate achieve their

goals," Ogwal said.

Eric Sempambo a senior private sector officer at PSFU, said: "The Bill tactically avoids any financial stipend to be given to graduates under the scheme. It should include a clause that mandates government to give a monthly stipend to the graduate trainees. We propose at least \$200. (about sh740,000) monthly to cater for the trainees.

The Private Member's Bill was introduced by Kiwalabye Majegere

(Bunya East) on November 22.

The Amuru Woman MP, Lucy Akello (FDC), asked for a legal clause that protects the trainee. She said most companies or agencies have policies that shift the burden of unfortunate circumstances like incurring shortages to the worker.

PSFU appeared before the committee to give their views on the NGSB 2018.

"The Bill does not cater for workman's compensation? Who

should meet this? Asked Ndeezi. The committee shall cater for their requests to be included in the Bill," added Ndeezi.

He added: "The Bill stipulates that a graduate who satisfactorily completes graduate service shall be awarded a certificate issued by the minister. A graduate shall not be employed in the Public Service, government ministry or department unless he or she possesses a certificate of graduate service."