



Parents celebrating with their son who graduated from St Joseph's Technical Institute in Fort Portal, on Saturday



Stella Kibirungi, one of the best-performing students, receives a prize. Photos by Wilson Asimwe

Women urged to embrace vocational training

KABAROLE

By Wilson Asimwe

Women have been encouraged to take technical courses if they are to earn a better income in the future.

While presiding over the 11th graduation ceremony of St Joseph's Technical Institute, an affiliate of Uganda Martyrs University, Fort Portal campus on Saturday, Edson Mirembe, the principal of the institute, said not many women have embraced vocational training.

He said with the increase in the number of factories and organisations, the demand for a skilled workforce has grown, too.

Mirembe encouraged parents to consider taking their children to technical schools, saying such courses are not for failures as it is often perceived.

"Only a handful of girls have embraced technical training. Even the few who have been enrolled do not complete their courses sometimes," he said.

Mirembe said through vocational training, the youth are equipped with practical skills that can enable them to

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Edson Mirembe, the principal of St Joseph's Technical Institute, said: "Many Ugandans believe that technical education is for the academically weak. Parents take their children to technical institutes only when they have failed to find good schools for them. Technical education is their last resort. That attitude must change."

easily get employment or create their own jobs.

"Parents must encourage their children to take vocational training. Unfortunately, many Ugandans believe that technical education is for the academically weak. Parents take their children to technical institutes only when they have failed to find good schools for them. Technical education is a last resort. That attitude must change," Mirembe said.

The Rev. Fr. Christopher Mukidi, the academic registrar of Uganda Martyrs University, said Uganda needs practical people, who can ably address the challenges that the country is currently facing.

"Every year in Uganda, many youth graduate and enter the job market. However, only a few jobs are created every year, which leaves the remaining ones without jobs. If they do not have vocational skills, they will remain jobless," Mukidi said.

Wilfred Nahamya, the deputy director of Uganda Business and Technical Examinations Board (UBTEB), said there was need to enhance skills development in the country.

Nahamya warned parents against taking their children to institutions that are not accredited by the Ministry of Education and Sports.

"Parents should not take their children to institutions that are not accredited, lest they are given fake awards that will not benefit them," he said.

At the event, over 127 youth graduated in different fields, including carpentry, engineering and plumbing.