

India is helping Uganda prosper through providing access to high-quality education

By Jacky Achan

The Police information technology officer, Alex Kevi, had always received encouragement from friends to apply and study online.

They desired to see him advance his skills, but, somehow he never explored that platform.

He was reluctant, thinking of the cost that would come with it.

It was not until he was asked to apply for the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) study course, a short-term course programme offered to professionals in developing countries across the world, that Kevi picked interest.

"I settled for telecom intelligence network and added services which complemented my work well. I was in India for two months; the course was practical and rigorous. Within that short period, I had improved my skills, it was powerful," Kevi, who studied at the centres for excellence in telecom technology and management institute in Mumbai, revealed.

Eve Trinity, another alumni of the Indian study programme, scooped the ITEC scholarship. Trinity and her friend Doreen Nasiwa were both availed with the opportunity to study entrepreneurship and promoting small businesses at NESBAT in Noida, New Delhi.

India's High Commissioner to Uganda, Ravi Shankar, says bilateral relations between India and Uganda are strongest in the field of education.

Shankar made the remarks as he hosted the 2018/2019 ITEC alumni at his residence (India house) in Kampala.

**Benefits of ITEC**

The ITEC programme was started by the government of India in 1964. It offers capacity building and skills development training to public servants in developing countries across the world.

Over 150 Ugandans from the Government and non-governmental organisations have so far benefitted from the ITEC programme.

Recently, another group of twelve people, mostly

# India-Uganda relations strong in education



ITEC alumni take a "selfie" at the residence of the Indian High Commissioner to Uganda, Ravi Shankar, during a function in Kampala. Photos by Denis Dibebe

**150**

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dairy farmers, was flagged off to India under the ITEC programme.

"We offer courses that cover practically everything under the sun in a bid to develop human resources. The feedback has been positive, many have come back with added knowledge and fond memories," Shankar says.

Florence Okullo, a commissioner in the education ministry who represented

the state minister for higher education, Chrysostom Muyingo, said India has provided Ugandans with practical education.

"The short and mid-term courses at the institutions of excellence in India have not only empowered the Uganda alumni professionally, but has also enabled them compete favourably in the global market," she said.

Okullo acknowledged that India is helping Uganda prosper through providing and increasing access to high-quality education to its human resource.

She says the ITEC programme is in line with Uganda's Vision 2020, which is also aimed at transforming the country to a competitive, modern, upper middle-income country.

**The Indian experience**

I am looking for another opportunity to go back, but I

THE ITEC PROGRAMME OFFERS CAPACITY BUILDING AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT TRAINING TO SEVERAL PUBLIC SERVANTS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ACROSS THE WORLD.

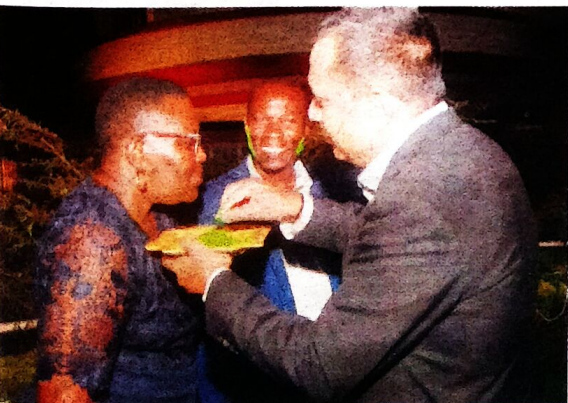
friendliness "If there was any opportunity right now, I would go back to learn some more," she says. Kevi also says the same of India's friendliness, but says one should always keep an open mind to events as not everyone is exposed to the world.

His only challenge was the humid weather in Mumbai. You can find it hot and difficult to breathe.

Trinity and Nasiwa on the other hand had to grapple with the cold winter season.

"We had to bear it, we were told to carry heavy clothing but we had to buy more because we had never experienced winter in Uganda," they said.

But, overall Trinity says the experience was good and skill attained was practical.



Shankar (right) puts colours on Okullo to mark the Holi festival at India House. Looking on is AIGP Haruna Isabirye

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**FLY the Crane to the Pearl of Africa**

The Indian Association Uganda, Indian Business Forum (Wing of Indian Association) congratulates H.E Gen. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the President of the Republic of Uganda and the people of Uganda upon the achievement of this great milestone of getting a National Carrier.

Long live Gen. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni! Long Live Uganda!