

BY FRANCIS EMORUT

The Government has urged universities to strengthen quality assurance mechanism that match international standards if they are to remain globally competitive.

The call was made by the state minister for higher education, Dr Chrysostom Muyingo, in a speech read by the commissioner of higher education, Timothy Ssejoba.

This was during the 12th graduation ceremony of ISBAT University at Hotel Africana in Kampala on Thursday.

"I call upon universities and other institutions of learning to strengthen their quality assurance systems by establishing functional directorates of quality assurance, as well as adhering to set standards and adopting best international practices," Muyingo said.

He encouraged other stakeholders to remain vigilant to ensure that quality standards are maintained in higher institutions of learning as they continue to provide the much-needed human capital required by the country's growing economy.

He emphasised that the National Council for Higher Education (NCHE) will continue to be strengthened in order to effectively and efficiently perform its mandate conferred by the Universities and other Tertiary Institutions Act.

He told guests that the Government is committed to transforming the country into a knowledge-based economy, where creation, adaptation and use of knowledge are critical factors for economic growth and development.

He stressed that universities play

# Universities tipped on quality assurance



Vision Group CEO Robert Kabushenga (second right) and ISBAT University officials lighting candles during the graduation ceremony at Hotel Africana on Thursday

a critical role in the generation of knowledge and skills.

Muyingo appealed to the ISBAT University management to engage in research and innovation programmes, having obtained a charter so as to have knowledge transfer through incubation

centres and solve societal problems.

He advised graduands to uphold ethical values acquired from the university and desist from corruption tendencies.

"I challenge you to remain alive and stay away from all forms of corruption,

including self-indulgence and be good stewards of the environment," Muyingo said.

A total of 302 graduands were awarded degrees and certificates.

Robert Kabushenga, the chief executive officer and managing

director of Vision Group, who was a chief guest, advised graduands to exercise honesty and discipline if they are to succeed in life.

"You must be honest and reliable," Kabushenga told graduands and guests.

He outlined other attributes that the new graduands should value, as setting their goals in what they want to become in life, being organised, curious to ask questions, never to give up, working hard, reading widely and be focused.

He narrated his story of how he became a managing director, saying they can also make it if they put extra effort.

Kabushenga was backed by the visiting professor, Mathanna Thimmuya from Bangalore India, who told graduands to set long-term goals and also be prepared to change course as circumstances dictate.

He advised graduands to be on the look out for opportunities and seize them.

The university chancellor, Fred Omach, implored the new graduands to have a positive attitude towards life and to always plan if they are to be successful.

He thanked President Yoweri Museveni for signing the charter, saying it is a great milestone for the university.

Varghese Mundamattam, the chairman board of directors of the university, appealed to the graduands to utilise knowledge and skills acquired for the betterment of society.

"Use your knowledge and skills effectively to improve the lives of communities," Mundamattam said.