

680 graduate at Bushenyi UTC

BUSHENYI
By Chris Mugasha

Six hundred eighty three students at the Uganda Technical College (UTC) Bushenyi graduated last Saturday after completing their studies in different courses.

"The graduands have withstood harsh conditions to acquire knowledge in technical education," said the college's principal, Silver Mukwatsibwe, as he congratulated the graduands who included a clergyman, Michael Bamwiine.

Out of 683 graduands, 214 were awarded a national diploma in building and civil engineering, 50 for a higher diploma in construction engineering, 85 national diploma in water engineering, 78 a national diploma in architecture while seven got a national diploma in ceramics engineering.

A total of 135 got a national diploma in electrical engineering, 22 a higher diploma in electrical engineering, 73 a national diploma in mechanical engineering, while 16 got a higher diploma in mechanical engineering.

"They are now ready for the job market," Mukwatsibwe said.

At the graduation where male graduands dominated with 84%, 17 graduands were recognised as star performers. Mukwatsibwe, however, said the number of female graduands was steadily growing from 9% during the 10th graduation to 16% during the 11th one.

BETWEEN THE LINES

■ Onesmus Oyesigye, the executive secretary for UBTEB, implored those seeking employment to enrol for skilled courses.

Officiating at the graduation ceremony, the National Water and Sewerage Co-operation managing director, Dr Silver Mugisha, congratulated the graduands and the college on adding to the country's skilled manpower.

Mugisha urged the technical colleges and other institutions to increase their collaboration with the employers, including industries/factories.

"You need to teach what resonates well with the challenges of the industry but not to train people and



Mukwatsibwe (left) and Mugisha awarding one of the best graduands during the ceremony on Saturday at Uganda Technical College Bushenyi. Photo by Chris Mugasha

you think that is what the employer wants," Mugisha advised.

Mukwatsibwe hailed parents and guardians for having made a smart choice of investing in technical education. He told the parents and guardians that the demand for skilled people is high.

"Different companies approach us to book our products," he added.

Mukwatsibwe said unlike in the past, the public's perception of

technical education had tremendously improved.

The college's governing council chairperson, Dr Joshua Mutambi, thanked the Government for transforming it [the college] into a centre of excellence. He said the country continues to get investors in the industrial sector, which will require a technically skilled population.

Speaking at the graduation, the executive secretary for Uganda

Business and Technical Examinations Board (UBTEB), Onesmus Oyesigye, told parents not to labour with universities: "Bring your children here to get skills and they will study for a degree on their own," he said.

Oyesigye implored those seeking employment to enrol for skilled courses.

"If you took a course and it has not helped you in your life, come and start on a new one," he said.