

First class degree made Isabirye forget PLE's 19

By Charles Kakamwa

Nathanail Isabirye is one of the students that scored first class degrees at Makerere University's 69th graduation that started yesterday.

Isabirye, who topped the Human Resource Management (HRM) class at Makerere University Business School (MUBS) with a first class degree says he forced his father, Stephen Mukembo, to enroll him into school at an early age, compared to his peers in rural areas, who start school at the age of seven.

He started school at Budondo Primary School in Budondo sub-county, Jinja district at only 5 years.

In the early 2000s, Isabirye says his father enrolled his elder brother for P1, Isabirye went along. To everyone's surprise, the young boy entered class with his elder brother and refused to return home.

On realising that Isabirye and loved what he was doing, the class teacher advised his father to let him stay and study with the rest.

"Isabirye has always shown great love for education and a determination to succeed. He has always excelled, despite the challenges, I am not surprised he has got a first class degree," Mukembo said, on receiving news that his son got a first class degree at MUBS.

During the Primary Leaving examinations (PLE) in 2008, Isabirye passed in second division after scoring aggregate 19 at Budondo P/S. But, the fact that many pupils from urban schools scored aggregate four did not discourage him. In 2009, he joined Senior One at Jinja Progressive Academy. He got aggregate 24 in the Uganda Certificate of Education (UCE) in 2012.

For his A' level, he scored 19 points after taking History, Economics, Geography and Submath (HEG/Submath).

Consequently, Isabirye was admitted to MUBS on government sponsorship to study a bachelor's degree in human resource management. He excelled with a cumulative grade point average of 4.67, making him the best across all MUBS campuses.

While at university, Isabirye says he remained focused. He said his success is as a result of listening to advice from lecturers, peers and elders.

"I always worked hard at university, my target was to pass with a first class degree so that my name is always mentioned among the best alumni," he said.

Isabirye advises students joining university and other tertiary institutions to embrace hard work, avoid alcohol, choose good friends and have trust in God so as to succeed in their education.



Isabirye