

FOCUS

The university intends to provide relevant, affordable, high quality, inclusive and community responsive education

By Vision Reporter

President Yoweri Museveni has inaugurated the University of St Joseph, Mbarara and contributed sh200m towards the construction of a three-storey building that the institution is constructing on Nyamitanga Hill in Mbarara municipality.

The institution admitted 215 pioneer students in business administration, information communication technology as well as primary and secondary education courses in August last year.

The university plans to have new academic programmes such as bachelor of agriculture and extension management, nursing (focusing on healthcare), medical laboratory technology, primary healthcare, environmental science, technology and engineering.

The National Council for Higher Education granted the university a working licence in November 2017 to operate as a private institution.

During the fundraising drive on Wednesday, sh400m was raised out of nearly sh7b that is needed to erect the complex. The structure will accommodate lecture rooms, science laboratories, workshops and the required specialised equipment.

"Part of this sh7b, sh800m is in form of taxes. Government will find a way to subsidise it. The total of sh400m raised today is just a drop in the ocean because we still need sh5.5b. I urge the business community to contribute willingly as I mobilise for more money to cover the remaining portion," Museveni said, according to a release from State House.

At the climax of the fundraising, President Museveni installed the Mbarara Archbishop, Paul Bakyenga, as the first chancellor of

President gives sh200m to University of St Joseph



President Museveni installing the university chancellor who is also Mbarara Archbishop, Paul Bakyenga, during the inauguration of the University of St Joseph Mbarara in Nyamitanga, Mbarara district on Wednesday. PPU photo

the institution.

"I congratulate His Grace Archbishop Bakyenga for being installed as the first chancellor of the university. He is not being installed by virtue of his position in the Church, but more importantly, it is because of his effort that we are realising this dream. Together we win," he said.

President Museveni commended Archbishop Bakyenga for being patriotic and for the development made in setting up educational institutions for the community on Nyamitanga Hill. He said the University of St Joseph, Mbarara will impart knowledge and skills to many people across the country.

Museveni said the NRM

FUNDRAISING

The fundraising drive realised sh400m of the required sh8b meant for the construction of a complex

government's principle of unity had contributed immensely to the development of the national economy, education and health sectors, through a private sector-led growth. He said out of the 59

universities and higher institutions of learning in the country, only nine were government-owned. Museveni added that the trend serves as evidence of the good that comes with a private sector-led economy.

During the event, the state minister for higher education, John Chrysostom Muyingo said under the NRM government, the level of education in the country had grown, especially that of the girls. He added that in the past, girls occupied only 2% in education but currently they constitute 44.5% at university level.

Muyingo commended the administration of the university for introducing new and unique education programmes.

In his submission, Archbishop

Bakyenga said the University of St Joseph's uniqueness lies in its ability to deliver relevant, affordable, high quality, inclusive and community responsive education. He said it emphasises innovation, entrepreneurship and community engagement.

Bakyenga said there was need for the establishment of more universities to serve the academic aspirations of the 41 million Ugandans.

"Training boosts professional practises to avoid shoddy, substandard work in service delivery. We need people with talents and skills in our society to enable the country meet its current and future challenges," he said.