

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION WILL TRANSFORM UGANDA TO A MIDDLE-INCOME ECONOMY-HON BIRAAHWA MUKITALE

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While appearing on Radio One popular talk show the Spectrum hosted by Edmond Kizito on 16th March 2017, the Bullisa County Member of Parliament Hon. Biraahwa Mukitale Stephen instigated that Uganda will ably achieve a middle-income status in 2020 only if Ugandans adopted vocational education. In his opinion, Biraahwa noted that students from peasant background will do much better if equipped with vocational skills in carpentry, plumbing, welding among others because with such skills, they will be able to start up own businesses and create jobs for others. " If a student has a qualification in welding, he/she does not need land to cultivate but rather a place where he/she can operate from and start production." He noted. Hon.Biraahwa advocated for introduction of vocational educational in all secondary schools like as it a norm at secondary schools like Gayaza, Namugongo, Namagunga. "This is the only way to transform the economy. Transformation of country is by skilling Ugandans". Biraahwa added. Hon.Biraahwa further argued secondary schools to introduce vocational education courses so that by the time a student complete O'level has UNEB and UBTEB Certificate. This makes our education system relevant. "The unemployment we are complaining about is because of lack of vocational education. You ask a university graduate what job you studied for and they can't speak" Biraahwa observed.

Prof. Venansius Baryamureeba who is also UBTEB Board Chairperson, concurs with Biraahwa. " We need to make vocational education compulsory for everybody. Let it be a policy with a central assessment body.The universities many as they are aren't doing this" Prof.Baryamureeba stated.

The UBTEB Executive Secretary, Onesmus Oyesigye argued Ugandans to embrace vocational education because there have been serious reforms in the curricula that enables the country to produce skilled and competent graduates that can compete globally.