

SPEECH

BY

HIS EXCELLENCY

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AT THE

OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE

**MANAGEMENT TRAINING AND ADVISORY
CENTRE (MTAC) NTUNGAMO**

8TH NOVEMBER, 2024

NTUNGAMO DISTRICT

It is a pleasure for me to be part of the official opening of the Management Training and Advisory Centre (MTAC) in Ntungamo. I appreciate the organizers for their invitation and I congratulate you upon making it a success.

MTAC opening in Ntungamo is a testimony of hard work and visionary leadership. I congratulate the leadership and the entire administrative board for working hard to foster the education cause of our children by seeing to its expansion beyond Kampala. With this kind of spirit MTAC will surely achieve its objectives towards success of not only the institution but also Uganda. I am glad to note that the objectives of MTAC are aligned with the NRM objective of ensuring that Ugandans achieve employable skills and can be active in the money economy. This sets you apart from other advisory institutions which do not handle skills as a vital aspect of entrepreneurship. I therefore commend you for your focus and encourage you to continue.

I believe that entrepreneurship and skills training is the wheel which can propel the Ugandan economy towards self sustainability and self-reliance. Any African nation that will ignore entrepreneurship and skills training will not be in position to fully harness its resources. It will remain poor and be open to suppression from external actors.

Uganda and many other developing countries have been be-devilled by a number of limitations and many opportunists have been-taking advantage of our weaknesses. Each of them habitually coming in to suck and walk out with loot and leaving us in want and in waiting. The NRM leadership can no longer allow this to continue and we shall continue to preach the gospel of skilling for entrepreneurship until fruition.

When the NRM took up the leadership of this nation, we came up with a clear diagnosis of the problems of our people. We have tackled a number of them, prioritizing one by one working with like-minded communities and institutions, organizations, investors and stakeholders and we are beginning to see the green light towards socio-economic development.

We are currently advocating for African integration so that we can ably broaden our negotiation ability for markets abroad. Once we skill our youth and they produce in bulk, they must have access not only to internal or local market but also external markets, paying attention to ensuring Standards in production.

We have been encouraging Ugandans, mostly the youth to take up science based courses in higher institutions of learning as well as joining skilling centres. Many of them have been enrolled in several government and private skilling centres started by political and community leaders. Under the Presidential Initiative and fund through State House, we have opened up skilling hubs in different regions of Uganda and skilling centres in Kampala and in the suburbs and many youths are beginning to be self employed after training.

Entrepreneurship and skilling of the unemployed youth remains one of the major approaches that will deliver us from joblessness and poverty. Many bad elements have been taking advantage of the vulnerability and helplessness of our youth and planting seeds of idleness and hate of their own country; putting their lives at stake and deeming them to eternal begging. The NRM leadership will not allow this and will forever stand up to the truth of hard work and the efforts geared towards banishing poverty out of Ugandan households.

Right from 1996, we introduced a Wealth Creation Fund known as “Entandikwa” (Start-up capital). The money was aimed at being an interest-free finance capital scheme to help families in poverty to get out of that trap. We have given that fund different designations (names); but the essence is the same. Take this interest-free, low-interest or, sometimes, grant money or materials and get yourself out of poverty by going commercial. That is all we have been telling the people. These funds have been designated as: “PMA”, “Entandikwa”, “NAADS”, “Microfinance”, “OWC”, “Women Fund”, “Youth Fund”, “NUSAF” and “PRDP”. This is all government money put aside to help those who want to get out of poverty without borrowing from the Banks. This money is channeled through the Local Governments and I encourage you all to take advantage of them. Let us all fight Poverty by default – people being poor when they should not be poor. Having food without money is a sin. We all have a part to play since the NRM leadership has already opened your eyes to the enemy of our growth.

We must also instill acceptable standards of integrity amongst the youth to overcome the enemy of corruption. This is because a corrupt free economy will always thrive and prosper. This must be promoted right from our homes and in institutions of learning so that when people finally begin to work, the messages of how corruption cripples economy, patriotism, Pan- Africanism have sunk.

Today we celebrate the establishment of MTAC Ntungamo, as one of the institutions that will greatly add lusture to the entrepreneurship and skilling body of the Ugandan economy. I applaud you for always supporting the NRM leadership and urge all the people of Ntungamo and neighbouring regions to continue supporting the NRM leadership as it ushers you towards a secure future,

I commend all the people that have made it a success over since inception and encourage all stakeholders to continue working in partnership with MTAC Ntungamo and other institutions to ensure that we develop our national human resource and that of the African race.

Finally, I declare Management Training and Advisory Centre (MTAC) Ntungamo officially open.

THANK YOU