

## Babu urges government intervention to catalyze private sector development

The Minister of State for Works, Housing & Communications, Hon. Edward Francis Babu has said government appreciates the role the Small and Medium scale enterprises (SMEs) play in the provision of services and are key players for sustained economic growth, creation of employment and poverty alleviation. He pledged that government shall in liaison with development partners, support Enterprise Uganda to enable many people going into private business attend training programs on business development. Mr. Babu said this while officiating at the graduation ceremony of 32 entrepreneurs who completed the 10-day entrepreneurship training workshop conducted by Enterprise Uganda at Hotel Equatoria recently. He said, "experiences from countries like Japan, Britain, Italy, USA and many others indeed demonstrate that it is imperative for Government to implement affirmative action for the private sector generally and more particularly for micro, small and medium scale enterprises so as to catalyze entrepreneurship".

The UNDP Resident Representative Mr. Cornelius Klein said he was delighted by the achievements of the new institution in the past four years in creating quality jobs and improving the profitability, productivity and competitiveness of local SMEs. He said, "according to a recent evaluation conducted by UNDP, we noted that each of the 286 SMEs that received structured business development support from Enterprise Uganda employed on average 9 permanent staff of whom 4 had been recruited on newly created jobs". Others had strengthened their entrepreneurial behaviors and 63% also reported improvements in their management style. 70% implemented the business plans formulated with Enterprise Uganda support. The result was that within 1-2 years of implementing those business plans, the quality of products/services as well as the profitability shot up for the majority of the SMEs".

He implored the graduates to be ready to persist in the face of stiff competition that comes with globalization and choosy clients of today. He pledged UNDP's continued partnership with Government to support Enterprise Uganda, through the next UNDP/Government of Uganda Country Cooperation Program.



*Hon. Edward Francis Babu hands over a certificate to one of the graduates while the UNDP Resident Representative H.E Cornelius Klein looks on.*