

By Rhyman Agaba

The executive director of the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC), Nyombi Thembo, has urged newly graduating ICT professionals to uphold integrity as they join the fast-expanding digital sector.

He made the call on Friday during the 18th graduation ceremony of the Uganda Institute of Information and Communications Technology (UICT) in Nakawa, Kampala.

Addressing the class of 2025, Nyombi reminded them that their work will shape the future of Uganda's digital ecosystem.

"You carry the hopes of a nation that looks to you to strengthen our networks, shape our digital services and safeguard the integrity of our communications ecosystem," he said. "Use your skills, your creativity and your integrity to build solutions, serve your communities, and lift Uganda higher in the regional and global ICT value chains."

Nyombi said this year's graduation theme, *Empowering the Digital Generation: Building Adaptive ICT Talent for Uganda's Future*, aligns with the national digital agenda to build a skilled, innovation-driven workforce.

He reaffirmed UCC's statutory

UCC calls for integrity in technological innovations

mandate under the Uganda Communications Act to regulate the sector and guide UICT's development, noting that the institute produces over 70% of Uganda's foundational ICT professionals.

Nyombi also outlined ongoing investment in the institution, including upgraded digital laboratories, smart learning environments and innovation infrastructure supported under the Uganda Communications Universal Service and Access Fund, formerly the Rural Communications Development Fund.

He said UCC is also scaling digital inclusion, citing the recent training of 750 teachers across Moroto, Fort Portal and Mbarara districts.

Nyombi called for stronger collaboration among government, development partners and private sector actors to support UICT's new five-year strategic plan and make the institution more self-sustaining.

"You are joining a sector of opportunity and responsibility," he told graduates. "Use your expertise, creativity and integrity to serve



Baryomunsi

BETWEEN THE LINES

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your communities and strengthen Uganda's digital future."

Speaking at the same event, Dr

Aminah Zawedde, the permanent secretary at the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance, highlighted the Government's digital transformation roadmap (2023/24-2027/28). It prioritises digital skills, innovation and technology deployment to transition Uganda from a consumer to a producer of ICT solutions.

Zawedde reported growing access and adoption of ICT services.

"By 2025, Uganda recorded 38.6 million mobile subscriptions (76.2% of the population), 14.2 million internet users (28%) and 86.5% of active mobile connections broadband-capable," she said.

Zawedde added that Uganda's digital growth, together with the national business process outsourcing (BPO) policy launched in February 2025, is driving employment opportunities.

Currently, Uganda has 243 registered BPO companies, 50 active firms, 10,000 direct jobs and 15,000 indirect jobs.

"These achievements confirm Uganda's growing competitiveness in

global digital work," Zawedde said.

She applauded UICT's BPO flagship programme in which interns worked with Japanese companies and delivered over 10 ICT projects.

ICT minister Dr Chris Baryomunsi said the sector has become a central pillar for Uganda's economic growth.

He noted its expanding role in key sectors, including agriculture, health, education, finance and the creative economy.

"It fuels entrepreneurship through online shops, mobile money, ride-hailing and delivery platforms," Baryomunsi said, adding that farmers now benefit from digital advisory services, weather alerts and price-information applications.

Dean Munene, the chairperson of the UICT governing council, stressed that building Uganda's digital future requires partnerships across sectors.

"The digital future cannot be built in isolation. ICT challenges are complex, and no single person can solve them alone," he noted.