

**JANUARY 17 2006 SPEECH BY
HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA**

AT THE LAUNCH OF

**“JOBS WITHOUT BORDERS” A JOB CREATION PROGRAM
THROUGH A NEW MODE OF EDUCATION KNOWN AS
EASYLEARNING**

Ladies and gentlemen,

The new global information economy has created new world paradigms. It places a premium on multi-skilled individuals, capable of performing a variety of tasks in a global networked economy with global jobs that can be accessed from anywhere, so long as there is infrastructure in place to tap them from wherever they might be.

Participation by Developing Countries in this new global economy has been stultified because they are faced with barriers towards the supply of its masses with the critical employable skills in Information Communication Technology (ICT) and related professional disciplines. These barriers include a very high cost of “expert content”, limited subject matter experts and lack of infrastructure. As a result, the growing global out-sourcing service industry or Call-Centre industry, which now numbers over 400,000 Call-Centres and accounts for some 20 million jobs, has little representation in Africa.

However, this state of affairs for Uganda will soon change. Two years ago, as government, we embarked on the idea of the need to establish a job-outsourcing services industry or International Call-Centre industry in the country. This can only be achieved by re-tooling our unemployed graduates in appropriate and sufficient skills for this expanding industry, through an affordable educational delivery methodology of EasyLearning (e-Learning).

This way, many more Ugandans can afford to study and acquire employable skills to create a critical mass of Uganda’s graduates from tertiary institutions with value-added skills to attract these global jobs, which we will now call “jobs without borders”. With implementation of this program, Uganda has now a tremendous opportunity of benefiting significantly from this rapid growing global outsourcing trend.

There are millions of such global jobs which can be outsourced to Uganda and perfectly executed inside Uganda by our young, educated, clear accented English speakers. The clarity of the English accents by the majority of Uganda’s graduates must be turned into an asset for our country and an exploitable advantage to attract such jobs. These jobs could include: IT export services, Tele-marketing and ticketing, helpdesk services, financial services, insurance, medical billing and accounting, product research and development, engineering and design, among others.

This new industry can employ a sizeable number of Uganda’s unemployed graduates if only the country is able to demonstrate to international Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) companies and Call-Centre operators that there is ample availability of a skilled labour pool to serve and sustain the industry inside the country. Through the EasyLearning Program, significantly reducing education cost in ICT and professional development courses in the country is a hands-on approach, adopted by the Movement government to meet this challenge.

This initiative of “Jobs without Borders” through EasyLearning is in fulfillment of my 2001 manifesto pledge to prepare the economy to absorb Ugandans graduating from Educational Institutions and to use ICT strategically as part of Uganda’s modernization process. This will also enhance “Education for all-Bona Basome” program.

Furthermore, this initiative is in support of our recently introduced NRM manifesto which will support the provision of e-learning educational technologies, establish e-learning centres and support the private sector to invest in outsourcing services for data entry and call centre enterprises in country.

The NRM government is committed to bring the cost of education in the county at its lowest levels. Under the new NRM manifesto, the introduction of Universal Secondary Education will be enhanced by this low cost of educational methodology, which will provide on-line Certification-level Information Communication Technology and Professional Development courses and vocational skills including Call-Centre technologies and management. This will prepare them for jobs and careers in the Call Centre Industry and other rewarding technical and professional careers.

EasyLearning has many advantages for students, employees and employers;

It is affordable at the lowest cost in the country as Ug. Shs 12,000 per course. Students will study course material at their own pace, accommodating different learning styles with assistance of audio and visual tools. Final examinations will only be taken when a student is absolutely ready, guaranteeing him or her a certificate on completion. These courses also conform to international standards and can earn credits towards United States Universities.

Advantages for the working people

- It is convenient for busy employees who can upgrade their career and take courses from the comfort of their office desk or home, at minimum cost to obtain more certificates for better paying jobs.
- No costly travel to training centres; no traffic jam inconveniences to catch a class.
- Employees can take as much or as little training as required. They can take a module or an entire course curriculum and each comes with a certificate.

Advantages for Corporations and Employers

- EasyLearning provides significant savings for Public and Private Corporations' Education budgets for staff training and civil service, and training takes place anytime, any place
- No fixed classrooms or permanent training staff required
- No new equipment is required; the program runs on existing computers or network
- It enhances professional skills for organizational employees' productivity and efficiency in the workplace environment

Therefore, because of the advantages associated with this new education method, I urge and encourage all Institutions, private and public, and Ugandans in general to embrace and adopt this easier and low cost education delivery methodology, that will introduce the course curriculum necessary to prepare our graduates to adapt to the increasingly globalized and competitive world of business around us, and produce more marketable national labour pool and graduates for this new emerging industry of global Information economy. With the emerging Information age, almost every job will have significant Information Communication Technology (ICT) component, and all our educational Institutions must come to terms with this reality.

With these few words, I'm pleased to launch the "JOBS WITHOUT BORDERS" Program through low cost, affordable EASYLEARNING.

Thank you.

President Museveni
Jinja, Uganda
January 18 2006