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Minister Mkenda challenges TCU on need of ranking system in evaluating graduates

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

EDUCATION, Science and Technology minister Prof Adolf Mkenda, has challenged Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU) monitoring role; urging on a need of having a similar ranking system that will bridge graduates' quality gaps and thus promote quality education in the country.

The minister gave the remarks over the weekend in Dar es Salaam when wrapping up the two-day consultative training workshop engaging members of university councils, senate and the governing board. The workshop was themed: "enhancing quality of education through strengthening internal quality assurance systems, university governance and Leadership."

He said: "It's time the commission waves out the notion that graduates from certain universities are best products compared to others as it has come to the observation that those considered to be the best have poor knowledge input."

"Other parts of the world have elite universities that if you are from a certain university you are considered the best of your kind. I really don't know how tenable this is but I think it is time all universities equalize on the same grading standards towards quality education enhancement,"

he said.

"Lack of standardization opens a room of familiarity; a worthy or prominent parent finds it easy to relocate his or her student to another university hoping to get a grade. A common agreement without compromise is needed in universities to achieve the same input in the market industry," he added.

According to him, the graduate quality gap is much influenced by students' admission tension whereas a lot is needed to ensure that quality is obtained.

Prof Mkenda further noted: "We would love seeing many graduates however the failure aspect should not be compromised with the fund raising management process. The fact that teachers are always questioned over students' failure, it therefore forces them to reduce the set passing average to accommodate all students. A lot is needed to make this successful."

He also gave a hint that its time (TCU) eye on plagiarism cases and agree on taking effective measures on universities found guilty with such cases.

"The endorsed education at university level should be more of a problem based on the need and challenges associated with new technology innovation," he insisted.