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# USIU scholar identifies reforms necessary for job creation

By Standard Reporter

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**NAIROBI, KENYA:** United States International University-Africa Scholar has challenged government officials to work on the education and skill development reforms to address youth unemployment in the country.

It is estimated that unemployment among young adults aged 16 to 22 is very high in sub-Saharan Africa, where young people make up 37 percent of the working-age population and

60 percent s of the total number of unemployed.

“It is critical and is by large evidence deficient. Critical education and skill development reforms are important not only in Kenya, but the world as a whole to unleash the development potential of its youthful population,” said Associate DVC USIU-Africa Prof. Francis Wambalaba

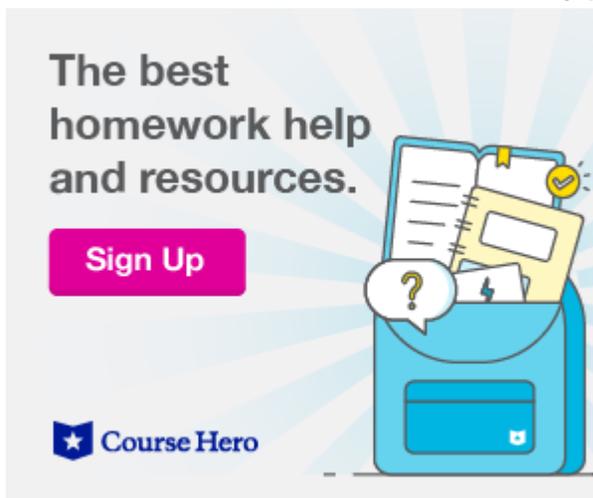
“Accelerated and inclusive economic growth will create the decent jobs that the continent urgently needs to graduate into middle or upper middle income economies.”

He was speaking on the sidelines of a public discussion dubbed the Science Policy Café.

The session was aimed at discussing the challenges and opportunities for youth development and education reforms in general. In particular, the deliberations focused on higher education reforms and the mainstreaming of transferable skills in formal school curriculum.

The deliberations also examined the role of the private sector in supporting the education reforms and skill development agenda, and the nature of public-private partnerships that Kenya and the continent should forge to create an enabling environment for the private sector to blossom.

Executive Director, AFIDEP Dr. Eliya Zulu, noted that the Café seeks to contribute to the reforms in Kenya’s education sector by stimulating new thinking and evidence-informed guidance that will enhance the effectiveness of key policies and initiatives in higher education



in Kenya.

“The USIU-Africa curriculum is carefully crafted such that soft skills are embedded in the training of students, irrespective of what they major in through general electives, class sizes that allow for presentations and group work, community service, work study, clubs, sports and internships. The classroom is just part of a whole complex of learning and the students are provided a platform for wholesome learning that arms them with diverse skills to tackle life's multitude of challenges.” He added.

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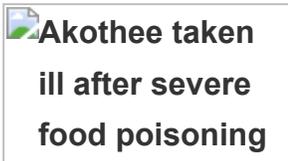
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