

uace results

UACE performance improves slightly

Rating. According to Uneb, 97.8 per cent qualified for the award of the UACE certificate compared to last year's 97.4 per cent.

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KAMPALA. The Uganda National Examinations Board (Uneb) yesterday reported a slight improvement in performance in last year's Senior Six examinations.

Mr Mathew Bukenya, the Uneb executive secretary, reported that 82,567 candidates will qualify for admission to universities and other tertiary institutions this year.

Of these, 56,656 students (56.7 per cent) had a minimum of two principle passes required for university admission.

"The overall performance of candidates in the 2015 UACE examination shows that a very high percentage of candidates (97.8 per cent) qualified for the award of the UACE certificate, about the same level as last year with 97.4 per cent," Mr Bukenya said at the release of the results.

A total of 2,202 students failed the examinations and will be required to repeat if they want to proceed for further education.

Results of 279 students were withheld and await a hearing after the country's February 18 general election. The Uneb has for the last two years registered a decline in number of candidates sitting exams from 108,419 to 101,270.

Mr Bukenya said the board changed their exam results grading system to a new one to meet global assessment standards.

"Grade cutoff points and grade hurdles have therefore been adjusted. It will therefore not be possible to compare grade levels from 2015 to those of 2014 and before. These adjustments, however, will not result in a reduction in the overall pass levels," Bukenya added.

The chairman of the Ministry of Education selection committee, Mr Lucien Omagor, reported that



Former students of Nsambya Hillside High School celebrate their UACE results in Kampala yesterday. PHOTO BY ALEX ESAGALA

150,029 students out of 274,863 who passed the 2015 Advanced Certificate of Education examinations will be admitted to Senior Five, primary teachers colleges, business, technical and vocational institutions.

For the second time in a row, Uneb said female candidates had performed better than their male counterparts at all levels with a lower failure rate.

There were candidates who showed lack of understanding of basic concepts, listed their points during examinations when descriptions were needed, and gave generalised answers to the questions.

"Zero scores were recorded in almost all subjects. Examiners reported that schools rush through the UACE syllabus in order to complete it by Term One in Senior Six. The result is that many students don't grasp adequately the key concepts

in the subject," Mr Bukenya said.

Ms Jessica Alupo, the Minister for Education, advised learners to utilise opportunities in technical and vocational courses to have a positive impact in the Skilling Uganda programme.

She added that the newly created universities of Lira, Soroti and Kabale will only admit students on sci-

ence courses.

"It is helpful to make use of these results for early planning. 2015 has recorded a drop in candidature as was in 2014. I would like to assure the country that we continue supporting the teaching of sciences. The first cohort to be admitted to Lira, Soroti and Kabale universities will all be on Science programmes. We would like to encourage all other universities to equip learners with skills through science courses," she said.

Ms Alupo asked Uneb to ensure the grading they use reflects actual levels of competence on what candidates know and can do.

At the same function, Mr Bukenya bid farewell to his colleagues and other players in the education sector. "I shall be retiring from Uneb work and this is the last examinations I am releasing," he said.

SCIENCE SUBJECTS

31.3 per cent

The number of candidates who did Mathematics in the 2015 Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education exams. Physics had 16.9 per cent, Chemistry 12.1 per cent while Biology registered 13 per cent.