

# Carpenters, hairstressers to receieve degrees

By Martin Kitubi

The education ministry is due to introduce degree awards in several vocational courses and skills, including carpentry and joinery, tailoring, motor vehicle mechanics and hairstressing.

Safina Musene, the commissioner in charge of Business, Technical, Vocational Education and Training (BTVET) at the education ministry, said that the move was intended to promote expertise in vocational education.

"For instance, some nurses start with certificates, get diplomas and then degrees. The ministry intends to introduce the same for vocational skills to enable learners upgrade in their respective fields," Musene said.

He was on Friday speaking during the graduation ceremony of 386 students

Jimmy Sekasi Business Institute in Bunga, a Kampala suburb.

He said the introduction of degree programmes will start

as soon as possible under the guidance of the BTVET council, which will soon be established.

The council will harmonise vocational training, offer strategic leadership, planning, oversight of the implementation and evaluation of the outcomes based on current and future skills needs in the economy.

The institution mandate of the BTVET council will be to regulate BTVET through establishment of standards, qualification, registration and accreditation of the vocational institutions, programmes and trainers.

Musene also revealed that the education ministry is undertaking issuing of certificates of competence in vocational skills to those in the informal sector to enable them compete for different opportunities and projects in the country.

"There are several experienced people in the informal sector. The ministry will give them certificates to compete for jobs with graduates," she said.

