

Govt reviews nurses' curriculum

BY PATIENCE AHIMBISIBWE

pahimbisibwe@ug.nationmedia.com

KAMPALA. The government will, beginning this year, start testing nursing and midwifery students on soft skills to improve their attitude while attending to patients when they join the world of work.

Ms Mariam Walusimbi, Uganda Nurses and Midwifery Examinations Board (Unmeh) chairperson, said candidates

will be expected to articulate and display the different skills required for each procedure.

"In order for candidates to pay the required attention to the right attitude in nursing care, the board will set independent test items on soft skills acquisition and practice. It is envisaged that the quality of nursing care will gradually be strengthened in all health facilities," Ms Walusimbi said.

In February last year, Ms Ja-

net Museveni, the Minister of Education, tasked the board to review the nurses' curriculum and include ethical training in handling patients.

Unethical conduct

"There are increasing reports of cruel, insensitive and unethical conduct and behaviour among health professionals," Ms Museveni said while releasing the nurses' results then.

She added: "Apart from

openly displaying their discomfort while handling patients, who understandably deserve and expect greater care and compassion, it is not uncommon to see some of them shouting and displaying all forms of disgust at patients."

The Business, Technical and Vocational Education Training (BTJET) department at the ministry then moved fast and has completed this review which mainly targets the professional conduct of the nurses and spells out what competencies will be acquired at each level.