

Accountant technicians to sit national exams

By Vivian Agaba

Students pursuing accountant technician diploma courses are to start sitting national exams set by the Uganda Business and Technical Examinations Board (UBTEB). Hitherto, the students were being assessed by the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Uganda (ICPAU).

An accountant technician can do a range of finance roles, including accounting and budgeting, costing and credit control, payroll administration and tax returns.

A Memorandum of Understanding between UBTEB and ICPAU was signed at UBTEB offices in Ntinda Kampala, yesterday, to effect the change.

The education ministry's assistant commissioner for business education, Sarah Namuli Tamale, said the move will, among other things, enable the upward progression of students pursuing accountancy related programmes at certificate and diploma levels from Business, Technical, Vocational Education and Training (BTVET) institutions.

Namuli said with competence-based assessment by UBTEB, and the joint effort with ICPAU, BTVET graduates will be provided with an avenue for access, progression and continued learning in accountancy. They will also build capacity for skills development, with focus on learner, employee

and employer needs.

The executive secretary of UBTEB, Onesmus Oyesigye, explained that accountants who have been nationally assessed by UBTEB will not be required to sit for accountants' technician diploma courses under ICPAU.

He explained that initially, UBTEB graduates would be required to train for ICPAU courses before they are employed as accountants,

BETWEEN THE LINES:

■ With the MOU, the two organisations will ensure smooth career progression of students who enroll for certificate and diploma programmes in UBTEB - accredited centres and ICPAU's partner universities, such as Nkozi University.

However, that will no longer be the case under the new arrangement.

Other areas of co-operation include conducting joint curriculum design, development and review of certificate and diploma accountancy programmes and organising and conducting accountancy examinations at certificate and diploma levels among others.

The secretary/ chief executive officer of ICPAU, Derick Nkajja said the MOU reinforces the body's mandate of re-skilling and enhancing professionalism in accountancy.