

Govt to merge examination bodies

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KAMPALA. The government has proposed to merge national examination bodies a decade after they were separated from Uganda National Examinations Board (Uneb).

According to Mr Alex Kakooza, the ministry of Education permanent secretary, Uganda Business Technical and Vocational Education and Training (Ubtet) and the Directorate of Industrial Training (DIT) will be

merged to form a new technical and vocational examination body, while Uganda Nurses and Midwives Examinations Board and Uganda Allied Health Examinations Board (UAHEB) will be merged to form a new health professional assessment body.

The proposals will be housed under the newly-created Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Council that will be responsible for planning, looking for funds, regulating qualifications, assessment and institutions. They

will also be charged with evaluating market demands and ensuring that the training meets these employment needs.

Ubtet was established in 2008 by an Act of Parliament and given the responsibility of examining business, technical and vocational courses that were initially being examined by Uneb, while the nurses and midwives training was transferred to the ministry in 2005 from the Ministry of Health in order to streamline its training and assessment.

Ubtet executive secretary Onesmus Oyesigye and his counterpart at the UNMEB offices, Ms Hellen Mukakarisa, have welcomed the merger, saying it will save resources.

The National Curriculum Development Centre (NCDC) is no longer going to make curriculum for TVET courses, whereas the National Council for Higher Education mandate on technical and vocational education has also been shifted to the TVET council.

Ms Janet Museveni, the Education minister, said the private sector will now control funds contributed towards skills development and hopes as government, they will learn from their efficiency.