QUOTE OF THE DAY

House Speaker Ar
Speaker of Parliament. Tl

EDITORIAL

Why healthcare students deserve another chance

The release of the 2025 results by the Uganda Health Professions Assessment Board (UHPAB) has once again stirred an important national conversation about failure and Uganda's health work force's future. While the overall performance was commendable, the results revealed that 939 students, 215 from certificate programmes and 724 from diploma programmes, did not meet the required pass mark.

In response, the Minister of Education and Sports, Ms Janet Museveni, urged the affected candidates not to lose hope but to consider repeating the assessments and take advantage of future opportunities. Her message was that failure in an examination should not define a student's destiny.

Indeed, the numbers tell a story that is more encouraging than alarming. In the certificate assessment alone, 13,089 candidates passed, translating to a 95.8 percent pass rate. Meanwhile, 4,469 diploma candidates passed, representing 83.2 percent. These statistics suggest that Uganda's health training institutions are producing a large pool of qualified graduates ready to join the country's healthcare system.

The Issue: Healthcare students.

Our view: A failed paper should not erase years of learning or extinguish a young person's ambition to serve their community.

However, the 939 students who fell short cannot simply be dismissed as statistics. They represent young Ugandans who have invested years of effort in pursuing careers in nursing, midwifery, and other allied health professions. For them, the difference between success and failure may lie in factors such as inadequate preparation, personal challenges, or gaps in training facilities.

Ms Museveni's call for perseverance therefore deserves strong support. Encouraging students to repeat examinations offers them a second chance to correct mistakes, strengthen their knowledge, and ultimately contribute to the health sector. In a country that continues to face shortages of skilled health professionals, nurturing every potential worker should be a national priority.

The results also raise broader questions about the quality and capacity of health training institutions. Authorities have previously expressed concern that some institutions admit more students than their facilities and training placements can handle, potentially undermining the quality of education. Addressing such structural challenges is essential if students are to receive the support they need to succeed.

The government's continued investment in training infrastructure, including new hostels and classroom blocks in several nursing schools, signals recognition of this challenge. Such investments must be accompanied by strict supervision to ensure that institutions maintain high standards of teaching and practical training.

Ultimately, examinations are only one measure of a student's potential. A failed paper should not erase years of learning or extinguish a young person's ambition to serve their community. What matters most is how institutions, policymakers, and families respond. Uganda's health sector needs dedicated professionals. This is by encouraging perseverance and addressing systemic weaknesses in training, the country.

Our commitment to you

We pledge:

- To be accurate and fair in all we do.
- To be respectful to all in our pursuit of the truth.
- To refuse to accept any compensation beyond that provided by Monitor Publications Ltd. for what we do in our news gathering and decision-making.

Further, we ask that we be informed whenever you feel that we have fallen short in our attempt to keep these commitments.

Managing Director Susan

CamScanner