

National News

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The graduates completed their courses last June but are yet to receive their transcripts, dimming their chances to get jobs or upgrade at the moment.

BY PHILIP WAFULA

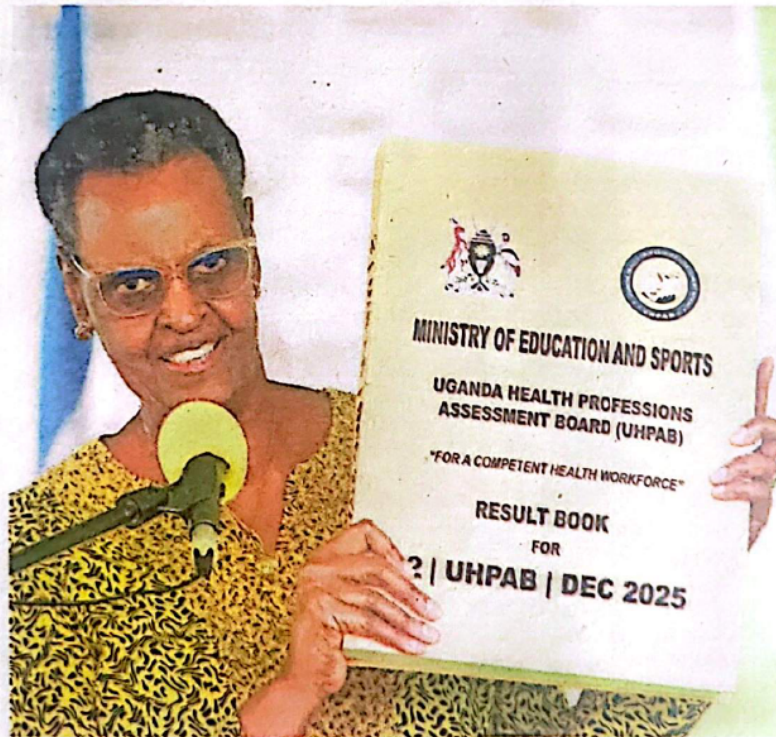
Students who completed the medical laboratory course at both Certificate and Diploma level in 2024 and 2025 have never received their academic transcripts, which has curtailed their competitiveness in the job market and upgrade for further studies.

The latest development comes after the Minister of Education and Sports, Ms Janet Museveni, last Friday released the results for the second cohort of candidates who sat the December 2025 examinations held across 215 accredited Health Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) assessment centres, including 147 Nursing and Midwifery, and 68 for Allied Health Programmes.

Asumani Mubiru, the Vice President of Unified Medical Laboratory Students Association of Uganda (UMLSA-U) which is the national medical laboratory students' body from certificate to degree level, said it previously took between three and six months to get a transcript after completing the course.

He now cites unexplained delays by the Uganda Health Professions Assessment Board (UHPAB), the body re-

Medical laboratory graduates in dilemma



Education minister and First Lady Janet Museveni releases the results for the second cohort of candidates assessed by the Uganda Health Professions Assessment Board last Friday. PHOTO/COURTESY

sponsible for the assessment and certification of all trainees undertaking Allied Health, Nursing and Midwifery programmes at diploma and certificate lev-

el in Uganda under Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET).

The UHPAB was established by the TVET Act (2025). The regulation was in line with the ongoing Rationalisation of Government Agencies and Public Expenditure (RAPEX), where the Uganda Allied Health Examinations Board (UAHEB) and the Uganda Nurses and Midwives Examinations Board (UNMEB) were merged to form UHPAB.

Mr Mubiru noted that the actual number of students affected by the unusual delay in issuing transcripts could be "in thousands" as it comprises all institutions that teach medical laboratory under diploma and certificate programmes of UHPAB.

"These students have missed job opportunities as they can't get employed without their transcripts, which is the requirement for them to register and get practicing licences," he said on Tuesday, adding that this delay has caused the graduates anguish and elicited mistrust from their sponsors who doubt if they completed the courses.

Mr Solomon Muge, one of the affected students, was already employed as a laboratory assistant on certificate level

and did a diploma to become a laboratory technician. "I am a civil servant who is eyeing promotion. My district asked for the transcript because it was them that sponsored my upgrade to diploma, but I don't have it which must be embarrassing to them," Mr Muge said.

Mr Tom Kiiza said he completed his course at Jinja Medical Laboratory Training School last June and passed; however, nine months later, he and his colleagues are yet to receive their transcripts and have exhausted all avenues.

The Principal of Jinja Medical Laboratory Training School, Mr Moses Sbwala, said students have been talked to and asked to be patient, adding that the new organisation (UHPAB) is doing its best.

Another principal at one of the affected schools, who declined to be named because he isn't authorised to speak to the media, attributed the delay to the merger of UAHEB and UNMEB.

"After the merger, they started looking for staff, a new Board and laying systems which takes time; that is how policies work. Recruitment of staff can take up to four months, while agreeing on the format of the transcripts also takes time...The organisation says it is doing its best, but the students say opportunities are passing them. Our responsibility was to teach and examine them," the source said.

UHPAB spokesperson, Ms Agnes Wadda, declined to comment on the matter.

The students' woes have worsened after the government started the recruitment of 18,100 health workers for available positions which include; health ed-

18,100
MEDIC JOB SLOTS
FOR GRABS