

Education

Skills

Results

Half of vocational workers pass competence tests

By Cecilia Okoth

A total of 14,412 (62%) of the vocational workers who sat for last year's competence tests set by the Directorate of Industrial Training (DIT) have passed, making them eligible for employment in Uganda and abroad.

The seventh series of the occupational competence-based assessment results were released by Dr Chrysostom Musingo, the state minister for higher education, at the President's Auditorium in Kampala yesterday.

The exams are based on occupations from the labour market scans, profiled, standards set and assessments done on the principles of competence-based assessment in the business, technical, vocational education and training sub-sector.

Patrick Byakatonda, the acting director DIT, said 22,526 candidates registered for last year's exams and training was conducted between October 16 and December 1.

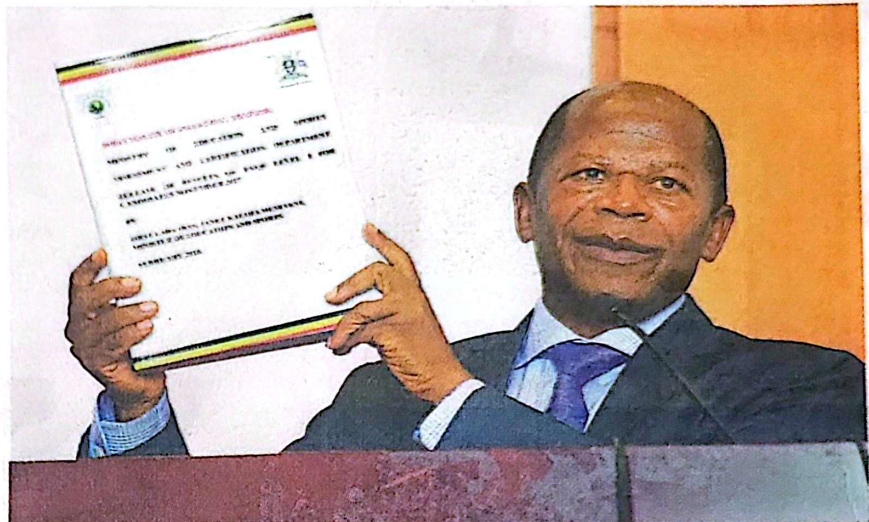
Of these, 12,240 were female. A total of 7,907 were registered for the full occupational assessment (level I, II, III) and 14,619 candidates registered for the modular assessment.

Byakatonda said four sectors including agriculture, construction, manufacturing and tourism and hospitality were assessed.

Some of the occupations assessed include computer technicians, mechanics, electricians, welders, plumbers, painters, decorators and carpenters.

Others include farmers, agro-processors, secretaries, tour guides, housekeepers, graphic designers, nutritionists, counselors, and entrepreneurs.

The candidates included business, vocational education and training (BTNET) graduates and apprentices or those who have never attained any formal education.



Musingo releasing the results of modular assessment of graduates' level 1 non-formal training programme phase II & III 2017/2018 October 2017 at the Office of the Prime Minister yesterday. Photo by Maria Wamala

Byakatonda said just like any professional course, DIT recognises prior learning (persons who have learnt on job). He said the course is also less costly as a module goes for sh70,000 and not more than sh150,000.

"A person who attains level I competence for example is able to work under minimal supervision. One who attains level II competence, can work on their own and level III means one can become a supervisor having exhibited exceptional performance," he explained.

He said the duration of the course depends on one's level of competence as some of the courses can last up to two years. And when one is deemed unsuccessful, he or she undergoes more training to enable them acquire the right skills for the job.

In a speech read by Musingo, the education minister and First Lady, Janet Museveni, tasked the directorate with putting in place strategies to increase the number of candidates who register for assessment to encourage Ugandans to have their skills certified.

Getting certified increases one's credibility and they can ably get employment with international companies. The oil companies, for instance, want certified welders and drivers.

"The country has many skilled people whose competences are not certified. I would like to see the directorate put in place an information and assessment system to help in tracking the assessment and placement of candidates in the world of work," Mrs Museveni said.

UBT
reg
May

By Jeron

Registrati
Technical
commenc
UBTEB
an Act
examina
certifica
board c
Novem
A pr
Onestr
year's
late re
The
on A
respe
Eve
rese:
sh7:
biol
St
bio
exi
pa
l
pi
r
E