

Meet future labour market needs – NCHE

The education ministry recently directed institutions of higher learning to adopt the Competence-Based Education and Training (CBET) approach. **Prof Mary Okwakol**, the Executive Director of National Council for Higher Education, spoke to *Daily Monitor's Jane Nafula* on how they are pushing the skilling agenda to suit the future job market needs.



Prof Mary Okwakol, the Executive Director of National Council for Higher Education, says institutions of higher learning must endeavour to innovate and [develop] commercialised innovations.

PHOTO/
JANE NAFULA

As National Council for Higher Education (NCHE), what plans have you put in place to implement the ministry's directive?

The National Council for Higher Education has responded to the directive of the minister by developing standards for the implementation of CBET. These standards have been approved by NCHE and sent to universities and institutions of higher learning.

How will the new learning system contribute to the realisation of the ambitious priorities of Uganda's Vision 2040, such as advancing innovations technology and science?

I believe this will be realised because this approach is student-centred and is intended to impart competencies, skills and attitudes required by the world of work.

What steps have you taken as NCHE to ensure a smooth transition from knowledge based learning to CBET?

We have developed standards and disseminated them in all universities and institutions of higher learning. After the annu-

enable institutions cope with the new learning system?

We have minimum standards. Every [institution] programme is supposed to comply with those standards.

While institutions may add something that will make them unique, the minimum standards must be fulfilled.

What challenges await these institutions as they

strive to adopt CBET?

Funding. That is because CBET is more expensive compared to the previous approach due to the many practical aspects like project work, practical lessons. Therefore, institutions are expected to have more facilities.

Government institutions have approached government for support, while the private ones are expected to approach their promoters for funds and fulfill the requirements of CBET.

Is there any timeframe for institutions to roll out CBET?

Those who are ready can roll

out the curriculum anytime from now. However, we expect all institutions to roll out CBET by 2027-2028 academic year, according to the minister's directive. Institutions will not enrol students for programmes that do not comply with the CBET standards [by that time].

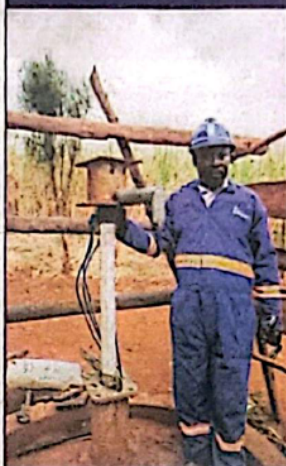
Any parting remarks?

Institutions of higher learning must endeavour to innovate and [develop] commercialised innovations. To do that, they must develop innovation hubs and establish offices responsible for advancing innovations.

Stronger Pumps. Safer Water. Built to Last.

Introducing Poldaw PVC Riser System (U2).

A Proven Solution Now Approved for National Scale by the Ministry of Water and Environment.



Scaling sustainable water solutions for every community.

A smarter upgrade for Uganda's handpumps that:

- Reduces breakdowns
- Improves water quality
- Simplifies maintenance
- Extends pump lifespan

For more Information:



WaterAid

Tested Since

2019

Validated Boreholes

100

Scaling Nationwide



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA
Ministry of Water and Environment