PHOTO BY MIRIAM NAMUTE

GOVT TO OVERHAUL HEALTH TRAINING PROGRAMMES



L-R: State Minister for Primary Education Dr Kaducu, Uganda Health Professions Assessment Boa chairperson Dr Driwale, the First Lady and Minister for Education and Sports, Mrs Janet Museveni, and Executive Secretary of UHPAB, Helen Kataratambi display results from the second series of UHPAB December 2025 semester, at State House Nakasero, Kampala on Friday

By Martin Kitubi

22.8%

Increase in candidates of health training programmes

The education sector has released more health graduates this year than ever before, according to data from the Government.

The number of health graduates are part of the candidates who wrote the December 2025, examination series administered by the Uganda Health Professions Assessment Board (UHPAB).

This cohort becomes the largest ever batch from health training institutions that the country has released to join the health sector, implying that the country is now producing more nurses, midwives, laboratory technicians and technologists than ever before.

The recent *State of Human Resource in the Public Service* report by the public service ministry revealed that primary health care facilities had 66% staffing gaps, which presents enormous opportunities for finalists to be recruited.

2025 PERFORMANCE

The First Lady and Minister for Education and Sports, Mrs Janet Museveni, released the UHPAB results on Friday during a function held at State House Nakasero in Kampala.

A total of 100,272 candidates from 221 health training institutions sat for the December 2025 UHPAB examinations. Of these, 81,230 (81%) were continuing students, while 19,042 (18.9%) were finalists.

Of the 19,042 final semester candidates, 5,377 of them were from diploma programmes, while 13,665, pursued certificate programmes. Of the finalists, 12,989 were female, while 6,053 were male.

Records indicate that of the finalists, 17,558 diploma and certificate students qualified to join the world of work this year compared to 11,035 learners who were released last year.

The function was graced by the Ministers of State for Education, including Dr Joyce Moriku Kaducu (primary education) and Peter Ogwang (sports). Also, in attendance was the ministry Permanent Secretary, Dr Kedrace Turyagyenda and MPs on the Parliamentary committee on education led by its chairperson James Kubeketerya (Bunya East).

The December examination series were the second series for UHPAB following the merger of the Uganda Allied Health Examinations Board and Uganda Nurses and Midwives Examination Board last year. UHPAB conducts two examination series each calendar year, one in June and another in December, for both finalists and continuing students.

FIRST LADY'S REMARKS

Mrs Museveni commended the high performance by candidates, as well as the increase in the number of students pursuing health education. She explained that health programmes at this level are key to promoting employment, entrepreneurship and self-reliance in the sector.

The First Lady noted that the 22.8% increase in candidature is gratifying, saying her ministry is determined to ensure they align skills with the labour market demands so as to address the challenge of unemployment.

Mrs Museveni said it is a blessing that there has been an 11.2% improvement in the performance of certificate candidates and prayed that this translates into improved service delivery in health facilities.

"We are proud to release a new cohort of proficient health workers, who with skilled hands and compassionate hearts, have been equipped to meet the need for quality health care, ministering healing to communities across our nation," she said.

Mrs Museveni appealed to the trainees to consider health training as a calling and not merely as an academic achievement. Through various health care certifications, Mrs Museveni said the trainees have been entrusted with the responsibility of being faithful stewards of the health sector.

SERVICE VERSUS THE JOB

As they go out to the world of work, Mrs Museveni tasked the graduates with remembering that health care is a service they are called to provide and not a mere job to pursue.

To the UHPAB management, she indicated that the new Technical, Vocational Education and Training (TVET) law empowers them to identify the needs of the health labour market for occupational competencies.

This role, she explained, is strengthened by merging the assessment and curriculum design functions, adding that the sector now relies on UHPAB to ensure that the health TVET graduates are market-ready and globally competitive.

"I am, therefore, pleased to note that efforts to improve the curricula have commenced and that you are wo with partners to accomplish this. commend you for laying empha the competence-based curriculu your new five-year strategic plan First Lady said.

UPHOLDING HEALTH STANDARDS

Mrs Museveni tasked health tr institutions with ensuring comp to standards, including numbe match the available training fa and practicum sites.

She said the Allen Kagina-led council, which now serves as the regulator, will advise on the cap each institution during the lic process.

Dr Joyce Moriku Kaducu, th Minister for Primary Education UHPAB on curbing exam malpractices, adding: "The inte this assessment is very crucial no one wants a health worl cheated an examination to v them."

Dr Alfred Driwale, the chairperson, revealed that th has embarked on the pro review the curricula for the 4 training programmes at th The new programmes, he said be competence-based to ali with what has already been secondary school.

Hellen Mukakarisa Kat the UHPAB executive informed that certificate pro continue to attract more trai diploma programmes. She eight certificate programmes 71.8% of candidates com the 37 diploma courses that 28.2%. Of the 13,665 final c for certificate programmes passed while 215 failed.

The data further indicated certificate candidates did n for the final exams. These with those who did not pass mark, were advised to examinations.

Of the 5,377 diploma fina passed, 724 others failed a not show up for examinatio



Commissioner for Health Education and Training Dr Museene

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

Hajat Dr Safina Kisu Musene, the Commissioner Health Education and Training at the ministry, noted that the fresh candidates are free to compete for available slots in both government and private health facilities.

Musene explained that the candidates can also compete for opportunities outside Uganda, adding: "These certificates are internationally recognised. We do not only train the workforce for Uganda, but the entire world and, therefore, they can equally compete for these available slots in the region, continent and abroad."

According to the Uganda National Health Facility Registry managed by the health ministry, there are 6,477 operational public and private facilities spread across the country. Of these, 3,441 are government-owned, 2,260 are purely private, while 975 are private, but not-for-profit.

Recently, government improved the staffing structure for all its health facilities from the national referral hospitals to health centre IIIs, which will become the lowest healthcare facilities following the implementation of the phase-out of health centre IIs.

Under the new staffing structure, Mulago National Referral Hospital will have at least 2,336 staff, 833 at Butabika National Referral Hospital, 941 at Mulago Specialised Women and Neonatal Hospital, 839 at Kiruddu National Referral Hospital, 933 for Kawempe National Referral Hospital while all the 16 regional referral hospitals will have a total of 1,246 staff each. The new staff structure for health facilities shows that general hospitals, also known as district hospitals will each have 349 workers, health centre IVs will have 133 staff, while health centre IIIs will have at least 56 staff each.