

Govt issues new deadline on one-year certificate courses

By Martin Kitubi

The Ministry of Education and Sports has set July this year as the deadline for all education institutions to comply with a government directive prohibiting one-year certificate courses in favour of two-year programmes.

The date will also serve as a deadline to institutions undertaking internal assessment as opposed to national examinations under the Uganda Business and Technical Examination Board (UBTEB).

The directives were issued last year to business, technical, vocational and education training institutions offering post-O'Level certificates.

Competence based assessment

The post-O'level certificate programmes are mainly pursued by students who complete Senior Four but are unwilling or unable to proceed to A'level.

The two-year certificate after O'level is equivalent to an A' level qualification and students who are awarded the qualification are eligible to enroll for a diploma.

These measures were introduced to ensure that the institutions measure up to the competence-based assessment model in order to guarantee that learners leave school with hands-on skills.

While speaking at UBTEB feedback workshop held at Arch Apartments Ntinda on Friday, Aggrey Kibenge, the ministry's



Kibenge and Baryamureeba after the opening of a consultative meeting in Arch Apartments, Ntinda in Kampala on Friday. Photo by Wilfred Sanya

undersecretary, confirmed the directive adding: "Institutions will be closed for failing to comply."

Kibenge who represented Alex Kakooza, the education ministry's permanent secretary, also reiterated the ministry's position that all post-O'level certificate programmes take a teaching duration of two years and be nationally assessed.

Accredited courses

Onesmus Oyesigye, the executive secretary at UBTEB, told *New Vision* that despite

the increase in the number of accredited examination centres in the country to over 500, only 429 centres registered their students for national examinations.

He added that several institutions have not yet presented their courses for alignment which jeopardises government plans to harmonise training and assessment of learners.

The UBTEB chairperson, Prof Venansius Baryamureeba, said all institutions will be inspected and those which have failed to comply will be banned from teaching.