

National > NEWS

Technical schools reduce intake of primary leavers

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KAMPALA. Candidates who will miss Senior One in government and private secondary schools will have the option of joining vocational training institutions across the country.

While releasing the PLE results last week, the executive secretary of Uganda National Examinations Board, Mr Dan Odongo, revealed that a total of 57,198 passed in First Grade, 293,977 in Second Grade, 128,573 in Third Grade, 91,504 in 4th grade while 57,354 were not graded.

Selection

Mr Odongo explained that all secondary schools and Uganda Junior Technical institutes or Community Polytechnics will converge in Kampala on January 24 and 25 at UMA show ground to make post primary selection.

According to Uneb, a candidate is considered to have passed Primary

Leaving Examinations (PLE) if he or she attains grades 1 to 4. This means that 57,354 will be eligible to join junior polytechnics.

The Minister of State for Primary Education, Ms Rosemary Sseninde, said a candidate who did not excel at PLE should seek vocational skills instead of repeating P7 though many parents prefer to have their children repeat.

Ms Sseninde said many children who sit for PLE are sometimes too young to join technical schools and that coupled with the parents' perception of technical schools, the number of primary school leavers joining technical schools is declining.

She revealed that although in 2016 government admitted 12,826 candidates in technical schools across the country with about 5,020 PLE leavers, the 2017 admission of 8,000 students from primary indicates a tremendous decline.