

Uneb adopts new grading system for A-Level exams

The aim. Uneb wants a standardised grading system.

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KAMPALA. Uganda National Examinations Board (Uneb) has adopted a new grading system for the Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education (UACE) examinations. The new system was effected beginning with the 2015 results released yesterday in Kampala.

According to the Uneb's outgoing executive secretary Mathew Bukenya, a new grading system dubbed "Criterion Referencing" has replaced the "Norm Grading System" used in previous years.

"Uneb, in accordance with acceptable practices and global trends, made a decision, with effect from 2015, to base grading on criterion referencing," Mr Bukenya said.

He added: "This implies that the grades are based on predetermined competencies. Grade cut-off points and grade hurdles have therefore been adjusted."

Mr Bukenya said it will not be possible to compare grade levels from 2015 to those of 2014 and those before due to the adjustments.

Mr Daniel Odongo, the incoming Uneb executive secretary, said the new grading



Turkish Light Academy's best students celebrate with their teachers after receiving results yesterday.

PHOTO BY ALEX ESAGALA

system was arrived at after the examinations body conducted research with the various standard grading systems in the United Kingdom, where the Uganda system originated and Tanzania in the region, which has Advanced Level.

The change

"We want to have a standardised grading system where the interpretation of an A should be the same with an A in the UK and elsewhere," Mr Odongo said, adding that a proper statement on the grading system will be made public in the near future.

"We want to reform grading system and our mission is to constantly improve the valid-

ity of our system, so when we suspect that there is a problem then we have to do something," he added.

Explaining the differences between the newly adopted and old grading system, Mr Odongo said a fixed mark will be used to determine whether a candidate scores an A or not.

Previously

In the past, he noted that the grading would vary depending on how the candidates have performed in a certain subject in a particular year.

"For example, we are saying that you can never get an A when you have less than 70 marks in a subject like Mathematics and it should be scored

in both paper One and Two," said Mr Odongo.

The examination body is expected to set a mark for an A (weighing six points) and E (weighing two points) and a subsidiary pass (an O) and then have a formula which will determine the intermediate grades B, C and D. Despite the adjusted grading system, the overall performance of candidates in the UACE 2015 results shows that 97.8 per cent of candidates qualified for the award of the certificate, about the same level last year which stood at 97.4 per cent. A total of 56,656 candidates acquired at least 2 principal passes, a minimum required for university admission.