

Govt changes policy on sciences

Optional. The students will now choose one science subject from Chemistry, Physics and Biology.

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KAMPALA. Thirteen years later, the government is proposing to drop two of the three compulsory science subjects taught at lower secondary level because students have consistently failed them in national examinations.

In 2004, government introduced a science policy to have all students in O-Level study sciences such as Physics, Chemistry, Agriculture, Mathematics and Biology.

The National Curriculum Development Centre (NCDC) specialist in Business Education, Mr John Okumu Emorut, told *Daily Monitor* yesterday that because students have continued to fail science subjects despite government effort, they suggest that a student at least chooses one from the three compulsory science subjects to be examined at Senior Four as opposed to the current policy which requires every student to offer all the science subjects.

The subjects the students will choose from are Chemistry,



Uneb chairperson. Mary Okwakol

“Every year, science subjects are the most failed. Why should you force someone who is not interested? Those interested will decide whether to offer them all.” JOHN OKUMU EMORUT, NATIONAL CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT CENTRE SPECIALIST

Physics and Biology. The other proposed subjects that will be compulsory in the new curriculum include English language, Mathematics and Kiswahili.

They will also be required to pick one subject from the skills based subjects which they have



Uneb Secretary. Dan Odongo,

categorised as ICT, Home Economics, Technical Drawing and Entrepreneurship and another subject from humanities such as History, Religious Education and Literature in English.

He explained that every student in Senior One and Senior Two will be expected to offer 15 subjects and Physical Education is a must. At Senior Three, students will select those compulsory subjects and add one from the skills based subjects and one from the Humanities.

Releasing the 2015 Uganda Certificate of Education examination results, Uganda National Examinations Board (Uneb) chairperson, Prof Mary Okwakol, asked government to think twice

on its science policy because it was not delivering the desired results since science was made compulsory at lower secondary 13 years ago.

Her remarks came after the examining body reported that 90 per cent of confiscated results were in sciences.

“There is need for the Ministry of Education to go beyond the provision of the hardware and look for the reasons why, despite interventions, performance in Mathematics and sciences continue to be below acceptable levels. There appears to be little teaching as a result of lack of teachers; with the few available being shared between several schools. Rural schools appear to be most affected,” Prof Okwakol said.

This year, while releasing the 2016 Uganda Certificate of Education results, Mr Dan Odongo, the Uneb secretary, reported that 55 per cent of the candidates had failed science subjects.

COMPULSORY

New Curriculum. The only compulsory subjects are English language, Mathematics and Kiswahili.

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