



Commissioning. Education minister Janet Museveni and other Uganda National Examinations Board officials led by executive secretary Daniel Odongo (right) tour the Web Offset printer at Kyambogo in Kampala, yesterday. PHOTO BY RACHEL MABALA

Uneb to confine printing staff in hostels

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KAMPALA. Uganda National Examinations Board (Uneb) will confine its workers involved in printing learners' examinations in hostels with no access to computers or phones for two months, the body's executive secretary has said.

Speaking at the commissioning of a \$2m (about Shs7.1b) Web Offset printer at the Uneb offices in Kampala, Mr Daniel Odongo, the Uneb executive secretary said the move is premised on curbing examination malpractices that has dogged the body for long.

The printing equipment was commissioned by Education minister Janet Museveni.

Last year, the examination body registered rampant examination malpractices that resulted into withholding 1,886 results of candidates who sat for the Primary Leaving Examination, 1,893 for Uganda Certificate of Education and

64 for Uganda Advanced Certificate.

The printing facility was funded by the World Bank as part of the reforms in education sector culminating from the government white paper entitled education for national integration and development of 1992.

"The officers who will be printing the examination will have to stay in the provided hostels without anyone going out or anyone entering apart from the executive secretary,"

DANIEL ODONGO, UNEB EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

In 2013, Education ministry signed an agreement with M/S Typotech Imaging System Ltd of Nairobi, Kenya for the manufacture, supply and installation of the equipment and to commission the equipment, train staff and maintain the equipment.

The company completed the installation in 2015. A one month training of staff was conducted in March 2015 and

the company handed over the equipment to Uneb the same year.

Mr Odongo, however, asked government to pay the examination fees for students under the universal education programmes on time to enable them carry out their mandate without ease.

"I would have also mentioned the urgent need for government to pay examination fees for the universal education candidates who would greatly relieve us for the financial stress we go through," Mr Odongo said.

In response, Ms Museveni said she was optimistic that the new printer will help reduce the cases of cheating and pledged to lobby government to clear Uneb arrears.

"I shall also continue to engage the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to see how the funding gap can be reduced by providing for all the learners under universal education programme," Ms Museveni said.

Tomorrow in
Saturday