

Ms Deborah Basekanakyo (right), the head teacher Wanyange Girls SS, Jinja shows parents what her students have managed to do under the new Lower Secondary Cirriculum during an exhibition at the school in 2023. PHOTO/ABUBAKER KIRUNDA.

Why schools delay to submit continuous assessment scores

Assessment. Under the lower secondary curriculum, 80 percent of the students final grade comes from UNEB end of cycle exams while 20 percent is based on continuous assessment and project work done at school.

BY JANE NAFULA

Towards the end of last month, the Uganda National Examinations Board (Uneb) tasked schools that had not yet submitted Continuous Assessment (CA) scores for Senior Three, Term Three, 2025, to physically deliver the scores to Uneb offices in Kyambogo and also present a written explanation as to why they slept on job.

"Let schools that have not yet submitted CA scores from AMIS, burn the excel file on a CD and physically submit the CD to Uneb Continuous Assessment Office located at Kyambogo. This. should be accompanied by a letter from school to executive director, explaining why they were not able to submit the scores," the last call circular to the heads of schools that Uneb shared last month, read in parts.

Some schools had failed to meet the October 15, 2025 deadline, forcing the examinations body to extend the deadline to Saturday, February 28, 2026.

Ms Jeniffer Kalule, the spokesperson of Uneb, says submission of invalid scores by some schools delays the process as they have to be tasked to present valid scores.

"Late submission of CA score is certainly a challenge. The biggest challenge is submission of invalid scores by schools," she explains.

She also notes late submission of scores affects learners given that those whose CA scores are not submitted cannot register for Uganda Certificate of Education (UCE) exams, noting that registration at that level is based on the learners' submission of the scores in S.3 and that a learner with partial CA scores cannot be graded at UCE.

She, however, says the examinations body has put in place measures to ensure late submission of scores is minimised so that students are not affected.

"We have a call center that follows up the schools to ensure they submit the scores. The deadlines have also been extended a number of times to allow submission of scores by the schools," she says.

Mr Samuel Kiwanuka, a teacher of Geography at Uganda Martyrs Secondary School Namugongo, who doubles as coordinator of project works, says his school has not been a culprit of late submission but acknowledged that there are those that are challenged when it comes to CA submission.

"What is challenging other schools is that some of them lack technical personnel, while some have not been trained on this exercise. This exercise must be done by someone who is aggressive, informed and is willing to handle things in a new way. The fact is that the work is too much when you add on our internal assessments, but because we have a committee that manages CA at Namugongo, we haven't experienced any delays," he explains.

How the committee works

Mr Kiwanuka explains that the committee that comprises of selected teachers and IT staff works hand in hand with the individual departments to ensure that continuous assessments are submitted on time.

"After continuous assessment items are done for each class or each subject, they are demanded for by the committee. Again, the committee ensures that each teacher makes an assessment of a given project or a given group of students. So by doing that, we have been able to have our results ready by the end of each term. We normally capture the results during the course of the term and we submit in holidays," he explains.

According to him, lack of internet should be the reason for delayed submission given that the app that schools use to submit scores called the AMIS, the Assessment Management Information System, is an offline app. "You can use it offline and only look for internet when it is time to upload data to the UNEB portal," he advises.

Mr Nicholas Opata, the principal of St Julian High School Gayaza, says in the beginning, some schools struggle to use the system and whenever they could submit the scores, they could be deleted.

"One time, I received a call from Uneb and I was told our marks had disappeared but it was a miscommunication because the scores belonged to a school whose name was almost like ours. The system has improved," Mr Opata says. According to Ms Kalule, the software is constantly updated to accommodate the concerns of teachers.

Mr Kaganizo Mutesasira, a teacher in Kankanju vocational school in Bushenyi, says some schools lack ICT equipment and database, where the learners' continuous assessment scores can temporary be kept before they are submitted to Uneb.

He says lack of proper documentation delays the process of submission and may prompt some schools to forge results.

"We still have a challenge of cheating exams. Every teacher will want to see that students get better grades in their subjects. Strengthening monitoring and supervision of the process is important if schools are to submit credible CA scores," Mr Kaganizo suggests.

The comment comes on the back of a call by the education minister Ms Janet Museveni, for the Uneb to strengthen monitoring of the CA, around the country.

"An area which Uneb has reported about that needs more emphasis is the continuous assessment – how it is conducted and the timely submission of the Continuous Assessment Score. I'm glad to hear Uneb working together with the National Curriculum Development Centre (NCDC), and the Directorate of Education Standards we are going to intensify monitoring of implementation of continuous assessment in Schools," the minister said.

The continuous assessment scores are essential for students to register for UNEB examinations and they are captured by schools and submitted to the national examinations body through the Assessment Management Information System (AMIS)

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