

In English, performance dropped significantly at distinction from 11.5 per cent in the previous year to 4.5 per cent in 2017 whereas Mathemat-

ics, the National Secretary for Federation of Non-State Education Institutions (FEDEI), Mr Patrick Kaboyo, said there is not yet a reason to celebrate the performance because much

for Uneb and the National Curriculum Development Centre to focus on helping candidates to get knowledge which they can apply in everyday life instead of cram work.

time to produce quality work." Uwezo is an initiative that aims to improve competencies in literacy and numeracy among children aged 6 to 16 years in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

# Boys continue to beat girls in PLE performance

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**KAMPALA.** Boys have continued to outperform girls as demonstrated by the results of 2017 Primary Leaving Examinations (PLE) released yesterday by Uganda National Examinations Board (Uneb).

At the release ceremony, the Uneb executive secretary, Mr Dan Odongo, said boys had generally performed better than girls. "Although more girls sat for the examinations, the results indicate boys are performing better than girls," Mr Odongo said.

Girls registered the highest failure

rate, standing at 5.4 per cent compared to 3.8 per cent of boys.

Mr Odongo indicated that 32,120 boys representing 5.1 per cent appeared in first division compared to about 25,078 girls representing 4.0 per cent.

In Division Two, boys performed better than girls by seven percentage points with 23.7 per cent compared to girls' 23 per cent.

However, Prof Mary Okwakol, the Uneb chairperson, observed that more girls have been able to remain up to the end of the cycle.

"The number of girls registered for and sitting the PLE has exceeded the

number of boys," Prof Okwakol said.

First Lady Janet Museveni, who doubles as the Minister for Education, blamed gender disparities between girls and boys on the limited time girls spend at school.

"The performance of girls doesn't improve but depends on the fact that the girls spend a lot of time doing house work,"

Ms Museveni said, adding that parents should ensure both girls and boys have equal opportunities to remain in school.

"We will improve the performance of girls when everybody realises the importance of girls going to school,"

the First Lady said.

The results also indicate that urban-based pupils continue to perform better than their rural counterparts.

The State minister of Education in charge of Higher Education, Mr John Chrysostom Muyingo, said the government is embarking on a number of interventions such as availability of electricity and accommodation to ensure teachers stay and teach pupils based in rural areas.

Mr Odongo's statement identified 10 districts, majorly rural-based, as having registered high failure rates above the national average of 9.1 per cent.