New A-Level curriculum requires preparation, says Janet

BY JANE NAFULA

KAMPALA. Education minister Janet Museveni yesterday said adequate preparation of teachers is critical for the successful implementation of the A-Level curriculum. Her call clearly indicates a critical takeaway from the challenges experienced during the implementation of the lower secondary school curriculum.

"The Ministry of Education and Sports, through the National Curriculum Development Centre (NCDC), has embarked on reforming the Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education (UACE) curriculum," she said. "This will require concerted efforts by the ministry's department responsible for teacher training."

The minister's call came during the formal release of 2025 A-Level exam results at Nakasero State Lodge on Friday. She revealed that the aligned A-Level curriculum had seen excess and unnecessary content removed and the duplication of information across subject areas addressed.

The minister also noted that the teaching approaches have been aligned to the approaches of the lower secondary school curriculum, the Uganda Certificate of Education (UCE), to provide a smooth transition for learners.

"The NCDC will now move steadily ahead to completé the reform of the UACE curriculum, and when this is completed, I expect that the exciting story we heard at UCE will also be told at UACE," she said.

According to the minister, the UCE curriculum implementation had been a significant learning experience, and schools had been equipped to replicate effective practices to mitigate the risks.

The minister was also impressed with this year's performance, but encouraged students to embrace sciences as triggers of economic development.

She disclosed that in 2023, the candidates who sat for the examination were 109,486. The number has gone up significantly from 140,888 in 2024 to 165,175 in the outgoing cohort; an increase of 55,686 (50.9 percent) from 2023.

"This means that more of our learners are transitioning to tertiary levels of our education system," she said. "The executive director's statement indicates that entries for Sciences and Mathematics have been rising... I believe, as I am sure you all do, that STEM subjects are the bedrock for industrial development."

The minister also noted that there was an increase of 21,000 more candidates who qualified for university places compared to the previous year, which presents a ray of hope in A-Level performance.

She assured learners that there are sufficient places in tertiary institutions, both public and private, to absorb those who passed.