

UACE results: To the student who didn't make it, it's not the end

When the Uganda National Examinations Board (Uneb) released the 2025 Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education (UACE) results last Friday, the country once again witnessed a familiar scene.

Schools celebrated their best performers, proud parents shared congratulatory messages, and media houses rushed to highlight the candidates with the highest scores.

For many students, it was a moment of pride and achievement. But for thousands of others, the release of the results came with a very different reality.

Away from the cameras and celebration photos are students who did not meet the expectations of their schools, parents, or even their own hopes.

For them, the days following the release of UACE results can be filled with disappointment, confusion, and anxiety about the future.

In Uganda's highly competitive academic culture, examination results are often treated as the ultimate measure of success. Students who excel are praised and showcased, while those who struggle sometimes feel forgotten or even judged.

Education experts continue to remind the public that examinations are only one measure of ability.

The UACE exam reflects academic performance within a specific curriculum and time frame, but it does not fully capture a student's creativity, practical skills, resilience, or potential to succeed in other areas of life.

For students who did not achieve the grades they hoped for, the journey does not end here.

Some will choose to retake the



examinations as private candidates, giving themselves another opportunity to improve their scores.

Others may pursue diploma programmes in tertiary institutions, which can later open doors to university education.

Technical and vocational training institutions also provide viable alternatives in fields such as information technology, agriculture, hospitality, mechanics, and electrical installation.

In fact, many industries today increasingly value hands on skills and innovation, qualities

that are not always reflected in traditional examination scores.

Parents and guardians play a crucial role during this period. Instead of responding with disappointment, families are encouraged to provide guidance and emotional support.

Encouragement can help students regain confidence and explore alternative paths that match their strengths.

The media also has an opportunity to reshape the national conversation around examination results.

While celebrating academic

excellence is important, there is equal value in highlighting stories of individuals who succeed through different educational journeys.

As Uganda reflects on the latest UACE results, perhaps the most important question is not only who passed with the highest grades, but how society can ensure that every student still has a chance to build a meaningful future.

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