

FIRST LADY DIRECTS ON TVET CURRICULUM REVIEW

PHOTO BY NANCY NANYONGA

By John Masaba

The First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports, Mrs Janet Museveni, has highlighted the urgent need to review and update the national Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) curriculum to align it with evolving industry needs.

According to Mrs Museveni, the Government will allocate funds to commence the exercise in the 2026/2027 financial year, which begins in July.

The revelation was contained in a speech delivered on her behalf by the minister of state for higher education, Dr Chrysestom Muyingo, during the release of the November/December 2025 national TVET examination results. This was at the Uganda Vocational and Technical Assessment Board (UVTAB) headquarters in Kyambogo, Kampala, yesterday.

"I am happy to note that the board is already engaging with critical stakeholders from industry and professional fields to foster a skills ecosystem that promotes life-long learning, adaptability, resilience, and problem-solving. In the coming Financial Year 2026/2027, the Government will continue to support the Board and has accordingly allocated funds to UVTAB to specifically review and develop TVET curricula. I call upon the industrial players and all other stakeholders to collaborate with the entire TVET system. Your partnership is vital in shaping a responsive, dynamic, and high-quality TVET," the First Lady said.

Explaining the development, the UVTAB executive secretary, Onesmus Oyesigye, said the review will focus on transforming the current curriculum into a competence-based framework that equips learners with practical, industry-relevant skills.

He noted that the review is also aimed at addressing skills gaps in key sectors. "There are areas where government is investing heavily, such as irrigation and mineral extraction, but there is a shortage of skilled technicians," he said.

Oyesigye added that the curriculum overhaul is necessary to keep pace with technological advancements, including artificial intelligence, which have rendered parts of the existing curriculum obsolete.

"We want to move away from manual methods to more



From left: Turyagyenda, Kaducu, Muyingo, Dorothy Okello, the board chairperson UVTAB and Oyesigye during the release of the November/December 2025 TVET examination results in Kyambogo, Kampala yesterday

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Dr Kedrace Turyagyenda, the permanent secretary at the education ministry, said government investment in TVET is driven by the need to transform Uganda from a peasantry to a modern economy.

"Transformation comes from education," she said.

She commended the board for maintaining the integrity of the examinations and thanked industry players for providing graduates with opportunities to gain practical experience.

"Skills are not acquired by hearing or seeing, but through practice. And practice takes place in the workplace," she said.

Joyce Moriku Kaducu, the minister of state for primary education, thanked President Yoweri Museveni for championing TVET.

"Under President Museveni, Uganda has seen exponential investment in TVET, enabling young people to access skills," she said.

"This vision that everyone must have a skill has transformed the country. TVET is increasingly being recognised as a viable path to career development. These skills are improving livelihoods and contributing to economic growth."

Kaducu also hailed the growing collaboration between industry and training institutions, noting that it is helping to bridge the skills gap.

modern, technology-driven approaches," he said.

RISING ENROLLMENT

During the event, Mrs Museveni welcomed the growing number of Ugandans enrolling in TVET institutions, noting a steady rise in female participation, from 35.7% in 2024 to 41% today.

She reiterated government's commitment to supporting inclusivity through targeted sponsorship programmes for female trainees and persons with special needs.

"I encourage all stakeholders to continue sensitising the public on the importance of TVET. This will help build a skilled, inclusive and sustainable workforce to drive Uganda's socio-economic transformation," she said.

She commended UVTAB

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for effectively executing its mandate, noting that its efforts are contributing to the growth of the TVET sector.

A total of 158,940 candidates, both continuing and final-year trainees, registered for the November/December 2025 assessment series. Of these, 43,872 candidates were

enrolled for end-of-course programmes.

The results released cover 27,460 candidates, including 26,912 who sat for national certificate programmes and 548 for national diploma courses.

Mrs Museveni reaffirmed government's commitment

TVET accessible and equitable. She also called on industry players and other stakeholders to strengthen collaboration with the TVET system.

"Your partnership is vital in shaping a responsive, dynamic and high-quality TVET system," she said.

Mrs Museveni noted that UVTAB is already engaging stakeholders from industry and professional fields to build a robust skills ecosystem that promotes lifelong learning, adaptability and innovation.

She congratulated candidates who successfully completed their training and urged them to apply their skills in the workforce.

"I congratulate the chairperson and board members on a job well done. I also commend the executive secretary and staff of UVTAB for their commitment to quality TVET assessment," she said.

GOOD PERFORMANCE

While presenting the results, Oyesigye announced that 95% of students passed their programmes.

In total, 20 courses were assessed at both national certificate and diploma levels.

Oyesigye noted that the results demonstrate a strong grasp of both theoretical and practical components among learners.

For national certificate (business programmes), 92% of candidates attained full competencies, with a significant number achieving distinction and credit grades.

Performance in technical programmes under the national craft certificate was even stronger, with 96% of candidates attaining full competencies.

"This means that most of the candidates passed at credit level and above, which is a strong indicator of quality skills acquisition," he said.

The board also highlighted the performance of candidates with special needs as highly commendable, with 93% successfully attaining full competencies.

However, Oyesigye noted challenges in mathematics-related programmes, where some students continue to perform poorly.

Oyesigye revealed that the board plans to conduct an inquiry to establish the causes of the underperformance.

He also pointed to analytical deficiencies among students, noting that scenario-based questions were poorly handled, an indication of limited analytical skills.



First Lady

to TVET as a cornerstone of Uganda's development agenda, citing increased funding for trainee sponsorship since the 2025/2026 academic year.

TRAINING FACILITIES

The minister also noted that government plans to fund expansion of training facilities, procurement of modern equipment and development of innovative, industry-aligned curricula.

The investment, she noted, is aligned with the National Development Plan IV (NDP IV), Vision 2040 and government's ten-fold growth strategy, all of which emphasise the role of a skilled workforce in driving key sectors such as manufacturing, agriculture and information and communication technology.

On inclusive education, Mrs Museveni praised UVTAB for creating an assessment environment that accommodates persons with special needs, reiterating government's goal of making