



UGANDA NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS BOARD

**REMARKS BY THE
CHAIRPERSON, PROFESSOR CELESTINO OBUA
ON THE OCCASION OF THE RELEASE OF THE 2025 UCE RESULTS**

Friday, 13th February, 2026

The First Lady & Hon Minister of Education and Sports

Honourable Ministers of State for Education

The Chairperson and members of the Parliamentary Committee on
Education and Sports

The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education and Sports

Members of the Uganda National Examinations Board present

The Executive Director, Uganda National Examinations Board

Senior Members of Staff of the Ministry and UNEB

Members of the Press

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted, Mamma, to be presenting to you the results of the 2025 UCE examination.

The year 2025 was also a very busy year. The Competency Based Assessment (CBA) requires that the Items generated are pretested and their psychometric properties analyzed before they can be used in the examination. This was not a requirement in the old curriculum.

Whereas in 2024 UNEB was treading on new ground, the 2025 terrain was more familiar and our capacity greatly improved. I thank the Executive Director and Staff for the hard work that has enabled the release of the results of the second cohort of candidates under the Competence Based Curriculum (CBC).

Mamma, during the release of the 2024 examination, I stated that the Competency Based Curriculum was a good one. This was from information gleaned from interactions with some stakeholders. Last year the Board undertook a study to get empirical information on the benefits of the CBC from the perspectives of the school administrators, teachers and the learners themselves. The need for this study was re-enforced by your wish to get an answer to the legitimate question, how did the learners under the CBC differ from those under the old content-based curriculum. The results confirm this is a very good curriculum, destined to produce the kind of Ugandans that the country needs to propel its socio-economic growth to the middle income status that we envisage. The results of the study indicate that learners research and can construct knowledge; are creative, innovative and communicate better. Details are in the summary that will be presented by the Executive Director.

The study reveals some gaps that may impact the teaching-learning process. These include

- Inadequate libraries with internet facilities that the learners need to aid their research work.
- Large class sizes – both teachers and learners who participated in the study point out that this makes it difficult for teachers to attend to learners who may need help.
- Expenses associated with project work.
- Inadequate time for learners to do their research – they appear to suggest that classes should end earlier. The possibility of this could be explored.
- Integrity of CA scores – the teachers in this study expressed worry that some school are submitting scores that are not derived from the actual work of learners in the course of their learning.

Mamma, the integrity of scores is something that the Board takes very seriously. Provisions have, therefore, been made to institute a rigorous monitoring and evaluation exercise in schools throughout the country to ensure that schools are adhering to the guidelines set by the Board, and that the scores are reliable.

The other CA issue the Board will address is the late or non-submission of the CA scores. Many schools submit CA scores months past the deadline, putting the affected learners at risk of not being graded. Schools cite inadequacy of internet facilities and/or lack of expertise. The Board will apply appropriate sanctions to such schools.

Mamma, aware of the central role the teachers play, the Board included them among the stakeholders to be engaged, along with Chief Administrative Officers and District Education Officers. The Board, therefore, expects them to ensure that the CA processes are monitored and scores submitted.

I congratulate the candidates who have qualified for the award of the UCE Certificate. For those who will want to try again, the Board has taken the decision that their CA and Project scores submitted for Senior 3 will be used so that they do not have to get back to Senior 3 as had been feared by some stakeholders.

I thank the teachers who have made tremendous efforts to adapt their pedagogic practices to the CBC. Mamma, even with the little specialized training they have received so far, the majority of teachers have done extremely well.

I thank the parents and guardians for supporting the learners.

I am grateful, Mamma, for delegating Honourable Dr. J. C. Musingo, Minister of State for Higher Education to officiate at the swearing in of members of the 12th Governing Board for UNEB. The occasion went smoothly last Monday, 9th February, 2026. This ensured that all the functions of the Board have not been interrupted.

Mamma, I now invite the Executive Director to present the Release Statement of the 2025 UCE examination.

Thank you for listening to me.

Professor Celestino Obua

CHAIRPERSON

UGANDA NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS BOARD