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## Pre-entry exams will not improve teachers

About a week ago, government announced a move to introduce pre-entry examinations for persons intending to join teacher training institutions. The aim is to improve the quality of teachers in the market. That is the same reason the Law schools advanced before they introduced pre-entry exams. Pre-entry exam is now a requirement for any student intending to study at Makerere and Uganda Christian University. The exam tests for aptitude, critical thinking and analytical skills. Truly, that exam has the possibility of producing good law students. However, besides being considered an elimination tool, pre-entry is also a sign of lack of confidence in Uganda National Examination Board (Uneb), as a competent examination body. With time, many other higher training institutions are likely to adopt this step and subject students to some sort of pre-entry exam before admitting them. But the process is also open to abuse.

For instance, the process can be turned into a scheme for some institutions to fleece parents and make big sums of money. In some institutions, pre-entry exams attract up to 5,000 applications where each applicant is charged a non-refundable fee of Shs100,000. This even when the intake remains as low as 5 per cent of the total number of the applicants.

So this problem of poor quality teachers can't be addressed through pre-entry exams, but by improving primary and secondary education syllabus emphasising critical thinking and analytical skills to produce better thinkers.

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