

By Cecilia Okoth

Ugandans who have taken Business, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (BTJET) courses will immediately attain international certification upon graduation to enable them qualify for global jobs.

This, according to Onesmus Oyesigye, the executive director of Uganda Business and Technical Examinations Board (UBTEB), will allow graduates work successfully, especially in the Middle East, where good records of their technicians have been registered.

Currently, employers, especially those in the engineering field, require job seekers to get certified by international bodies before being employed. This is both tiresome and costly.

However, Oyesigye said the hustle of moving around to certify documents will be no more.

"We are in the process of getting international certification to guarantee employment for graduates globally and hope to complete this exercise next month," he said.

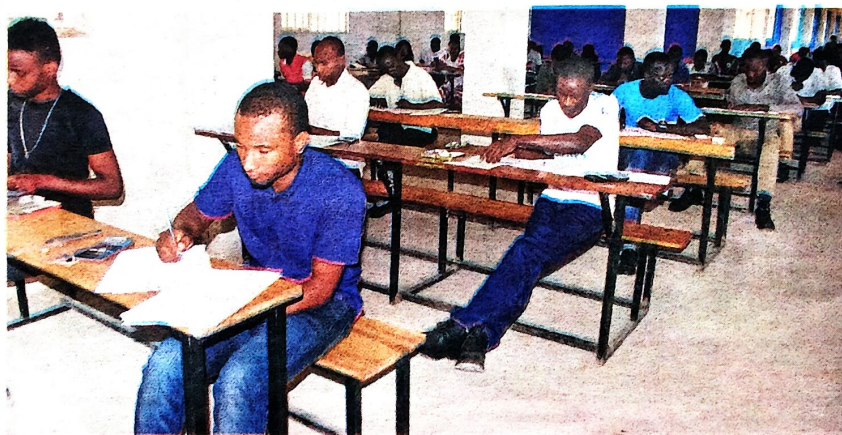
As part of the process, Oyesigye said the board has revised its standards to match those of international certified companies.

"Our standards will be anchored, alongside international standards, such as the World Certification Institute, who will in turn be able to review what we have come up with and advise accordingly," he said.

This, he said, is with support from the Department for International Development (DFID) Fund.

Explaining their move to certify all their graduates, Oyesigye said it is a new phenomenon that the vocational field has to adopt to maintain the highly sought-after competence

Vocational graduates to get certification for global jobs



Students sitting for UBTEB exams at Buganda Royal Institute yesterday. Photo by Mary Kansiime

The students will sit for diploma and certificate courses including civil, mechanical, building and civil engineering; fisheries, meteorology, agriculture, wildlife as well as land and surveying. The exams will run until June 17.

Guarding against cheating

New measures have been employed to ensure that candidates sitting exams do not engage in cheating.

"Semester results of those caught cheating in any form will be cancelled and the suspect will be made to begin the course afresh. However, should the same party be caught cheating twice, they will be disqualified from attending any BTJET institute," Oyesigye said.

Anthony Wamala, the principal of Buganda Royal Institute of Business and Technical Education, said the punitive measures will ensure that students are competent on their jobs.

Wamala commended the board's flexibility that allows students, especially the disadvantaged, clear tuition fees a week before exams.

Leonard Walusimbi, the academic registrar, said due to demand, the institute introduced two new courses — national diploma in information technology and fashion and design — which will be assessed.

levels.

He made the revelation while inspecting ongoing national exams at Buganda Royal Institute of Business and Technical Education in Mengo, Kampala yesterday.

The exams kicked off countrywide on Monday with a significantly higher number of students compared to last year.

BETWEEN THE LINES

■ The executive director of UBTEB, Onesmus Oyesigye, said the board is in the process of getting international certification to guarantee employment for graduates globally.

Increased numbers

A total of 24,161 students are expected to sit for the May/June exams this year, up from 23,560 candidates last year, representing a 9.2% increase.

The growth in the number of students opting for business and technical courses has also led to the expansion of examinations centres from 173 in 2018 to 202 this year.