

New body to regulate vocational institutions

By Elizabeth Basemera and David Lumu

Cabinet has approved a new body that will regulate vocational and technical institutions, ending the ambiguous mandate that has for long clogged the regulatory framework of vocational studies in the country.

Under the approved Technical, Vocational Education and Training (TVET) policy, Cabinet has paved the way for the establishment of the TVET Council, which will be mandated with the regulatory framework for technical and vocational education in the country.

According to a statement issued yesterday by Col Shaban Bantariza, the deputy government spokesperson, the TVET policy also establishes an employer-led system, which the Government believes will improve the standards of vocational and technical training in the country.

"Cabinet approved the TVET policy, which focuses on the establishment of an employer-led TVET system, a TVET Council and the development and implementation of standards for trainers, institutional leadership and a TVET qualification framework that is harmonised with the regional framework," he said.

BETWEEN THE LINES: About the policy

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Currently, technical and vocational training is jointly regulated by Business, Technical, Vocational Education and Training (BTVET) institutions under the BTVET Act of 2008 on one hand and the Uganda National Council for Higher Education (NCHE), under the Universities and other Tertiary Institutions Act, 2001, on the other.

Mainstreaming quality, improving access to vocational and technical education, ensuring sustainable financing of vocational education and the recruitment of adequate vocational trainers are the other roles that the newly approved policy has placed on the TVET council.

UBTEB welcomes move

Onesmus Oyesigye, the Executive Secretary of Uganda Business and Technical Examinations Board (UBTEB), said the establishment of the TVET Council was not only a timely initiative by Government, but also an innovation that the sector players had been yearning for.

"It is a landmark development. For some time, we have pushed for this regulatory framework to cater for vocational and technical levels. Therefore, the TVET Council will regulate, develop standards and set qualifications. This development helps us to streamline the role of the NCHE and that of the TVET Council. Let the NCHE regulate higher tertiary institutions and the TVET Council regulate vocational lower level and technical diploma level," he said.

Mining and Minerals Bill

Meanwhile, on Monday, Cabinet also approved the Mining and Minerals Bill, 2019, which has been largely revised to cater for the licensing and mineral development framework in the country.

Bantariza yesterday said one of the main reasons behind the proposed Mineral Bill was the need to organise and legislate artisanal and small-scale mining in Uganda and promote and protect health, safety and environment in the mineral sector.

During the Cabinet session, ministers also approved the accession of Uganda to the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI).

By joining the institute, Bantariza said, Uganda will closely monitor the Greenhouse gas emission trends with a goal of reducing the emissions as outlined under the Paris Agreement on climate change.

Increased access to sustainable services, such as clean affordable energy, sustainable public transport, improved sanitation and sustainable waste management, are the other benefits that

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