



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

SPEECH BY HON. JANET K. MUSEVENI

FIRST LADY AND MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SPORTS

**AT THE RELEASE OF RESULTS FOR THE NOV/DEC 2019 TECHNICAL
NATIONAL CERTIFICATE AND BUSINESS EDUCATION PROGRAMME
EXAMINATIONS OF THE UGANDA BUSINESS AND TECHNICAL
EXAMINATIONS BOARD (UBTEB),**

UBTEB SECRETARIAT, KAMPALA

WEDNESDAY, 17TH JUNE, 2020

**The Hon. Ministers of State for Education and Sports,
Members of the Parliamentary Committee on Education and Sports,
The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education and Sports,
Directors, Commissioners, and officers from MoES,
The Chairperson and Members of the Board of UBTEB,
Representatives of the Training Institutions,
Representatives of the world of work,
The Executive Secretary and staff of UBTEB,
Members of the Press,
Ladies and Gentlemen.**

It is my pleasure to officiate at the release of the 15th Series of the Uganda Business and Technical Examinations 2019 End of Program Examination Results for National Technical Certificate and Business Education programs. I commend the Board and staff of UBTEB for the timely conduct and processing of these examination results because this timely release gives our trainees the opportunity to access the job market soon after completing their courses. Congratulations UBTEB for a job well done.

UBTEB's awards to technicians and artisans in the areas of engineering, ICT, Agriculture, Meteorology, Lands and survey, Fisheries management, Tourism, Wildlife, Leisure and hospitality, among others, is accountability for the resources government spends to train the much needed technical level workforce for the critical sectors of our economy. Therefore, this batch of successful trainees being released to the world of work today is very critical to our economy and I would like to thank and also congratulate the training institutions that prepared the candidates.

I note with pleasure the improvement in the completion rate of candidates pursuing National Technical Certificate from 72% in 2018 to 79% in 2019; and Business Education Programmes from 72% in 2018 to 77% in 2019, respectively. This is evidence that young people are now appreciating vocational training and the importance of acquiring skills up to certification. From the reports of the Executive secretary, I note that the enrollment also increased.

I applaud all the TVET advocates for this improvement in the numbers joining vocational education, and I urge you all to continue to do more career guidance so that more young people can be quipped with skills for work and survival.

It is also specially encouraging to note that the number of females joining Vocational Education at National Certificate level has been increasing over the years. They now need to be encouraged to improve on their performance in National Certificate in Agriculture, National Certificate in painting & Decoration, and National Certificate in Welding & Metal Fabrication. This is evidence that the girl child can equally be equipped to do any vocational trade, and they should be encouraged without limitation.

We note that over 70% of the candidates who registered for these examinations have successfully completed their programs and are well equipped and are motivated with the skills and competences for the world of work. I am happy that competence based education and training is now steadily taking root and the concept of hands-on-training has been widely acknowledged.

I appreciate the support of the industries and the private firms that have engaged the trainees and continue to accommodate and train them during their internship, and it is my prayer that the skills, knowledge, attitude, and

values of workplace will enrich the job market and self-employment. We cannot emphasize enough of how important quality internship is to the trainees and to the entire workforce development system.

I wish to reiterate our commitment to continue this partnership and even strengthen it more for the benefit of our country since the linkages with the world of work are in line with the Skilling Uganda Strategy and enables the production of the graduates that possess handy skills needed by the world of work.

I want to challenge the training institutions to strengthen partnership with the industries and ensure that internship is well planned, coordinated, and fulfills its intended purpose of bridging the gap between school and the world of work.

I am also happy to note that UBTEB involves experts from the world of work in the examinations processes. This partnership enables acceptability of the graduates because the employers are part of the assessment and therefore agree with the standards the graduates have attained.

As we implement the TVET reforms, I wish to emphasize the importance of retooling instructors and ensuring that they acquire the requisite skills to train the technicians and artisans who will fit our job market. Efforts to bring together the instructors and experts from the world of work should be enhanced for purposes of experience sharing as well as skills transfer.

As a Sector, we note the concerns raised in the media by stakeholders especially parents and continuing trainees about the increasing examination fees. While the Board gives us assurance that the examination fees have

remained the same since 2012, parents and trainees have reported abnormal increase in examination fees especially charged in private Training Institutions.

I have tasked the Permanent Secretary and his technical team to collaborate with the heads of examination centres and address this concern so that we don't deprive trainees from timely completion of their training.

Following the recent hit of the COVID-19 pandemic world over, Uganda was not an exception. This eventually led to a Lockdown of most operations, and limited human movement which affected BTVET training in all training institutions. As we widely consult in our planning for re-opening, I appeal to all stakeholders to abide by all precautionary measures put in place by the Ministry of health and the guidance from H.E the president to fight against this deadly pandemic. Please ensure that our precious life stays safe. The Ministry of Education and Sports will continue the provision of an enabling platform for e-learning in furtherance of the continuous learning.

Finally, I congratulate all the candidates who have successfully completed their courses and I encourage all those candidates that did not obtain full competencies to strive to complete their studies when given the next opportunity.

It is now my pleasure to officially release the results for the November/December 2019 National Technical Certificate and Business Education end of programme examinations results to the public.

Thank you, and God bless you.

JANET KATAAHA MUSEVENI
FIRST LADY AND MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SPORTS