



## UGANDA NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS BOARD

### REMARKS BY THE CHAIRPERSON, PROFESSOR MARY OKWAKOL ON THE OCCASION OF THE RELEASE OF THE 2022 PLE RESULTS

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The First Lady & Hon Minister of Education and Sports

Honourable Ministers of State for Education

The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education and Sports

The Executive Director, Uganda National Examinations Board

Senior Members of Staff of the Ministry and UNEB

Members of the Press

Ladies and Gentlemen

The Uganda National Examinations (UNEB) is pleased to present to you, Honourable Minister, the results of the 2022 Primary Leaving Examination (PLE) which was conducted on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2022.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic situation appeared to have eased compared to what obtained in 2021, the Board faced another challenge occasioned by the outbreak of Ebola in some parts of the country during 2022 - most prominently in Kassanda and Mubende districts, and Kampala City. The inevitable restrictions placed on movements of persons impacted on the movements of examination officials in the affected areas. The Board worked closely with the Police, Ministry of Health, the district and KCCA leaders, and health officials on the ground to ensure smooth conduct of the examination.

The Board wishes to express sincere appreciation to UNICEF which provided 40 minibuses which were used to transport candidates and examination officials to the examination centres. We are grateful to God that no COVID-19 or Ebola case or fatality was reported at any examination centre countrywide.

The Board also had to deal with a unique situation in Kakumiro District where a Director of a private school neglected to transport candidates from his school to the examination centre. The candidates missed the first paper - Mathematics. After wide consultations the Board took the exceptional step to administer another examination paper to the 23 affected pupils. I wish to emphasize that this was a unique situation which has not created a precedent to be exploited later.

Honourable Minister, the number of candidates registered under the Universal Primary Education programme has also gone up significantly, by 70,683 (13.8%). It should be noted however, that the funding given to UNEB for the UPE candidates has remained static for the last five years. This impacts negatively on the budget and the Board's ability to efficiently deliver on its mandate.

The number of Special Needs candidates requiring physical assistance went up quite drastically, according to the records we have. The Board will require additional funding to provide for these as each one of them requires a specialist in sign language, or a transcriber or an amanuensis.

Details on candidate performance are contained in the release Statement which the Executive Director will present. We are pleased to inform the country that there was better quality performance by the candidates, in terms of grades.

The Board is grateful to the Security agencies which have worked with UNEB to secure the examination. Many of those who tried their hands at examination malpractice through electronic means were quickly identified and apprehended. The Board has also noticed a better appreciation by Judicial officers of the negative impact of examination malpractice on our education system. A number of the suspects have been remanded to prison while others have been granted bail. It is our hope that if found guilty, they will be given the sentences prescribed in the UNEB Act, 2021. With regard to examination malpractice, the Act provided for five years' imprisonment.

The Board has identified the distribution of examination papers from storage stations to examination centres as the most vulnerable stage for malpractice. This will require more robust engagement with the district examination officials in assuring the quality of distributors employed. The Board will seek more assistance from the security agencies on this.

Honourable Minister, we appreciate you for your quick action in appointing the 11<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors for UNEB. This action ensured that there was no gap in the governance of the Board. The membership of the Board is now structured in accordance with the provisions of Section 6 of the UNEB Act, 2021. After their inauguration on 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2022, members attended an intensive two-day Induction Retreat on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2023. I am glad to report, Hon Minister, that the Board is now fully functional.

On behalf of the Board, I wish to record our appreciation to the Executive Director and the staff of the UNEB Secretariat for their dedication to ensuring integrity and security in the management of the examination.

I congratulate the candidates who have performed well and wish them the best in future.

Honourable Minister, permit me to request the Executive Director to present the Statement of Release of the 2022 Primary Leaving Examination.

Professor Mary J N Okwakol  
**CHAIRPERSON**