



UGANDA NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS BOARD

**REMARKS BY THE
CHAIRPERSON, PROFESSOR CELESTINO OBUA
ON THE OCCASION OF THE
RELEASE OF THE 2024 UCE RESULTS**

Tuesday, 11th February, 2025

The First Lady & Hon Minister of Education and Sports

Honourable Ministers of State for Education

The Chairperson and members of the Parliamentary Committee on
Education and Sports

The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education and Sports

Members of the Uganda National Examinations Board present

The Executive Director, Uganda National Examinations Board

Senior Members of Staff of the Ministry and UNEB

Members of the Press

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted, Mama, to be presenting to you the results of two sets of UCE examinations; the Transitional examination and the first examination conducted under the new competency-based curriculum.

The year 2024 was, therefore, a very busy year. The Transitional examination was based on the now defunct UCE curriculum and did not present any unique problems, apart from competing for time. However, the competency-based curriculum has been a completely new experience, and the Board was treading on new ground with each step taken. We had to contend with skepticism from some sections of the public, wondering whether UNEB would deliver the results.

Mama, this is understandable since, as a country, we are, for the first time, all going through this fundamental paradigm shift in our education system. Any new change, no matter how positive, will always have its doubters, skeptics, pessimists and even conspiracy theorists – and we had them as we went along in development of the instruments and tools that eventually has culminated in the administration of the examination and the release of the results that you are about to do.

Mama, as a result of our experience gained through interaction with the teachers, the learners and some parents, we can say with complete confidence that this is a good curriculum. The products of the curriculum have more confidence, can communicate better, have developed the skills to do research and projects in various areas and have learnt how to learn.

Just like the public had wondered how these learners would transit to the next level, we as a Board had also silently agonised about the fate of the learners who would transition to UACE to a curriculum that was still rooted in the same old format that the learners had no longer interacted with. The Board is glad Mama, that you gave the necessary guidance to the National Curriculum Development Centre (NCDC) and substantial changes have been made to the UACE curriculum with which these learners will now interact when they transition to that level in a few weeks from now.

Mama, the reporting of the achievement levels has changed from the stanine system of **1** to **9** (Distinctions, Credits, Pass and Fail) used in the previous content-based curriculum to letter grades, **A, B, C, D** and **E**. The details of these will be given by the Executive Director in the Statement of Release of the Results. The Transcript (used to be Result Slip) and certificate will also change in content presentation.

In arriving at the decision to adopt the letter grades format, the Board considered several options with various amounts of content. The Board's decision was guided by the following considerations:

- (i) the report/transcript/certificate issued must be **simple** for all stakeholders to easily understand.
- (ii) the descriptors – explanations of the meaning of the grades – should be positive on what the holder of the certificate can do.

- (iii) the document has to indicate that the final grade for each subject is derived from the Continuous Assessment and End-of-Cycle scores.
- (iv) it must be possible to use the results for other purposes such as for selection/placement.
- (v) it must be cost effective to produce the transcripts/certificates.

The Board is very grateful to the technical teams from NCDC and UNEB who worked hard to actualise the Board's guidance. We are also grateful to all the other professionals from the Directorate of Education Standards (DES) who, together with other selected teachers, worked tirelessly with UNEB to develop the tools and guidelines for training and participated in the training across the country. Their work was of great help to the teachers in implementing the curriculum. The ICT team at UNEB deserves special mention. Mama, all the programmes needed for the management of data, from receiving of CA scores to final processing of the results, were developed in-house.

Mama, while all the many assessment activities were taking place, UNEB was also over the last two years undergoing a lot of changes in its processes, procedures and quality management systems. In this, UNEB was committing itself to providing globally competitive quality products and services for educational assessment and certification. UNEB systems, processes and procedures were subjected to rigorous quality audits against the International Organisation for Standards, ISO 9001:2015. Mama, I am now glad to report that UNEB has been awarded the ISO 9001:2015 Certificate, confirming that UNEB quality systems, processes and procedures are at International standards. Mama, this is a prestigious award which guarantees UNEB global recognition. The Board is immensely proud of this. I congratulate you Mama for your guidance, the Executive Director, the Management and all staff on this achievement. It was hard work.

I congratulate the candidates who qualified for the UCE certificate under both the transitional and the competency-based examinations. I thank the teachers who guided them and the scorers who marked the scripts.

The Board is very grateful to all institutions that hosted the marking/scoring exercise.

Mama, you have a special place in our hearts because you greatly appreciate the efforts the Board makes in supporting the mandate of the Ministry of Education and Sports.

Mama, I now invite the Executive Director to present the Release Statements of the two sets of the 2024 UCE examination.

Thank you for listening to me.

Professor Celestino Obua
CHAIRPERSON
UGANDA NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS BOARD