

TVET ENROLMENT INCREASES BY 320%

By John Masaba

A record 137,546 candidates have registered for the November–December national Technical and Vocational Education and Training assessments, making a 320% surge in numbers compared to last year.

According to the Uganda Vocational and Technical Examinations Board (UVTAB), this number has risen from 32,726 candidates in 2024, signalling what officials describe as the strongest shift yet towards the TVET pathway.

UVTAB executive secretary Onesmus Oyesigye said the increase mirrors growing public confidence in vocational training.

“We are pleased to report a record number of candidates enrolled on various TVET programmes this year,” Oyesigye said, adding that the nationwide assessment series began recently with briefing sessions and will run until December 18 across 743 centres.

Of the registered candidates, 80,654 are male and 56,892 female.

The board registered 22,212 candidates for modular and full-occupation assessments at Levels I and II, including the worker’s pass.

Oyesigye added that UVTAB has deployed 920 scouts to enforce the TVET Act No.3 of 2025, which prescribes stiff



PHOTO BY MIRRIAM NAJJINGO

Students of Nakawa Vocational Training College doing practicals. A record 137,546 candidates have registered for the November–December national Technical and Vocational Education and Training assessments this year

penalties for malpractice.

To ensure quality, more than 2,500 assessors for formal TVET and over 1,000 for informal TVET are carrying out on-site practical evaluations. Police is supporting the delivery of assessment materials to storage facilities nationwide.

Oyesigye urged heads of centres to set up Assessment Task Forces and work closely with UVTAB field officers. He warned candidates and the

public against malpractice, saying violations attract severe consequences.

SPECIAL NEEDS SUPPORT

The board also registered 338 candidates with special needs, including those with visual and hearing impairments, chronic illnesses, intellectual disabilities and physical challenges. Over 150 specialised support staff, among them sign-language interpreters, guides and transcribers, will assist them.

A spot check indicated a smooth start to the exams.

At Nakawa Vocational Training College, the deputy principal, Michael Rujumba said the morning paper was applied mathematics, followed by life skills in the afternoon.

“Everything was on time. Materials were delivered early and candidates were ready,” he said.

Rujumba said 206 candidates sat applied mathematics on day one, while 390 certificate-

level students will sit the entire assessment series. Diploma assessments begin on December 1.

UVTAB principal communication officer Narasi Kambaho praised stakeholders for ensuring a smooth start. He said the assessments include both practical and written components, conducted under the Assessment Regulations.

Kambaho said UVTAB has deployed competent assessment managers and

BROAD OVERHAUL

These exams are the third since the TVET Act, 2023, which merged the Uganda Business and Technical Examinations Board (UBTEB) and the Directorate of Industrial Training (DIT) into UVTAB.

Under the new structure, UVTAB manages the national curriculum, assessments and examinations across all TVET disciplines, ensuring consistency and quality.

Previously, UBTEB oversaw formal assessments that allowed academic progression, while DIT handled informal practical skills such as baking.

The merger, implemented in March, was to streamline skills development system in vocational centres.

assessors and is working with security agencies to ensure successful delivery.

“The board urges candidates and heads of centres to maintain integrity and create a conducive environment. We wish all candidates the very best,” he said.