PLE results are out: What next?

The minister of Education and Sports, Janet K Museveni, last Friday released the Primary Leaving Examinations (PLE) results for 2025. She will be releasing the rest of the results for Senior Four and Senior Six in the coming couple of weeks.

Interesting about this year's PLE is that many of Kampala's top elite schools did not register as many pupils with Aggregate 4 as they expected, but 'village' schools got more.

The issue:

PLE results.

Our view:

Parents have a role to play. Instead of stigmatising children who do not pass or get the desired scores, they should encourage them to discover their talents, offer mentorship, and provide access to alternative training. Whether through vocational training, entrepreneurship, or creative pursuits, there is always a path to move forward. PLE is a vital step but it is not the end.

Anxious parents wondered why schools where they pay millions of shillings in tuition fees could not get their children Aggregate 4, while those where parents pay in kind such as food, firewood or labour had their children get Aggregate 4.

Teachers and administrators from the elite schools are being asked questions they too cannot answer.

What is clear is that failing PLE is not the end of the road.

In our society, academic success is often seen as the only path to a bright future.

Parents, teachers, and peers place enormous pressure on children to excel in examinations. While education is important, it is equally vital to remember that life offers multiple pathways to success beyond the classroom.

For those who did not achieve the results they hoped for, there are always other chances, as well as alternative opportunities. Vocational training offers practical skills in carpentry, tailoring, mechanics, ICT, and hospitality, among others. These fields are in high demand in Uganda and across East Africa. Entrepreneurship, too, is a viable option.

Inability to score the academic grades should be a stepping stone, not a stumbling block. It teaches resilience, self-reflection, and determination. Some of the world's most successful individuals faced early academic setbacks. What matters is how one responds: by learning from mistakes, seeking guidance, and exploring new avenues.

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