

UNEB WARNS SCHOOLS AGAINST HIKING REGISTRATION FEES

The Uganda National Examinations Board (UNEB) executive director, Dan Odongo, has issued a stern warning to schools that inflate and charge illegal fees in the name of registration for national exams.

Odongo said examination fees for candidates under government education programmes would continue to be paid by the state.

"For private candidates and schools outside the government sponsorship arrangement, the registration fees remain unchanged. PLE [Primary Leaving Examinations] candidates will pay sh34,000, UCE [Uganda Certificate of Education] candidates sh164,000, and UACE [Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education] candidates sh186,000," Odongo said.

He said schools that charge illegal fees risk facing the full wrath of the law.

"According to the UNEB Act, Section 33, it is an offence to charge fees that have not been prescribed by UNEB," Odongo told journalists at the Uganda Media Centre in Kampala on Friday.

He said offenders risk prosecution, fines of up to sh40m, imprisonment of up to 10 years, withdrawal of examination centre status, and refunding illegally collected money.

Odongo equally warned against the misappropriation of examination registration fees collected from candidates by school administrators.

"Quite often, we find out towards the examination that students from a particular school were not registered although they had paid fees," he said.

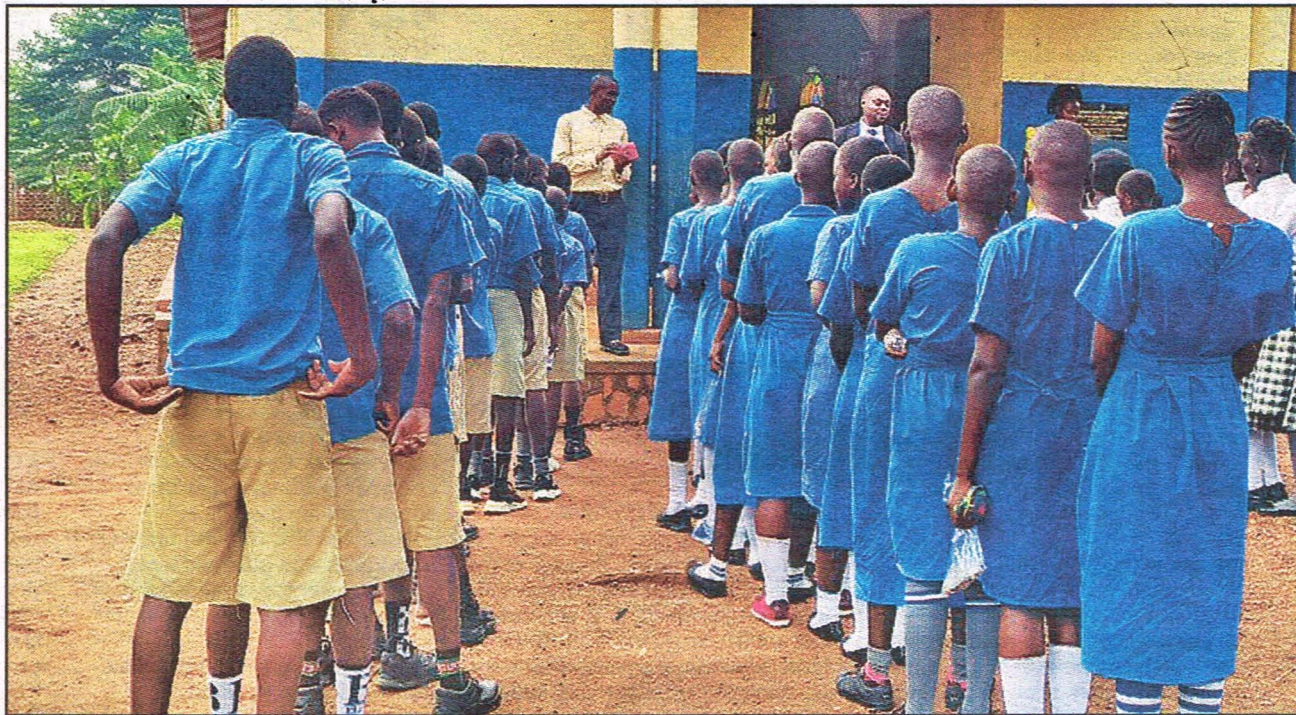
Odongo added that such offences also attract severe penalties under the UNEB Act.

UNEB further directed all examination centres to publicly display candidate registers by mid-August to allow learners and parents to verify registration details, including names, gender, photographs and subjects.

Odongo added that parents and candidates will also be able to verify registration status through the UNEB SMS platform by sending candidate index numbers to code 6600.

UNEB also announced the ban on the use of erasable pens during UNEB examinations, citing risks of fading ink and examination malpractice.

"So, the board announces that the use of these erasable pens is banned," he said.



Primary Seven candidates being checked before accessing the examination halls to write their Primary Leaving Examinations. Registration fees for such candidates remain unchanged: they will pay sh34,000

DEADLINE EXTENDED

UNEB has extended registration for the three examination sets it supervises by one month to enable more candidates to complete the process.

The examination body extended registration for PLE, UCE and UACE examinations from May 31 to June 30, 2026.

Odongo said out of the projected 880,000 PLE candidates expected to sit examinations this year, 673,992 had already been registered by Friday morning, representing about 77% of the target.

UNEB statistics showed that registration progress had already surpassed expectations in several categories.

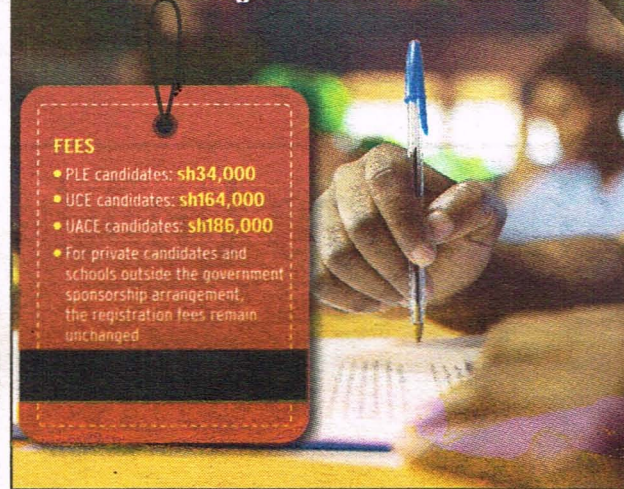
For UCE, UNEB expects about 500,000 candidates and by Friday, 299,483 had already registered. At the UACE level, 109,718 candidates had registered out of the anticipated 180,000.

"To us, this is very good progress," Odongo said.

Odongo, outlined several important registration requirements, especially for candidates under the competency-based curriculum at the Uganda Certificate of Education (UCE) level.

He said UCE candidates must register for a minimum

Official UNEB registration fees - 2026



of eight subjects and a maximum of nine subjects.

In addition, continuous assessment scores and project scores from Senior Three and Senior Four are mandatory for certification.

"Any candidate who does not have continuous assessment scores for Senior Three, even when they sit the examination, will not be eligible for certification," Odongo warned.

He further cautioned schools against altering names or subject combinations after continuous assessment scores have already been submitted to UNEB.

"This is extremely important

because failure to do that will cause a lot of distortion in their results and certification," he said.

UACE GUIDELINES

On UACE registration,

Odongo said the 2026 candidates are the first cohort of learners who sat for the competency-based

UCE curriculum in 2024.

He explained that UNEB had aligned the UACE curriculum and assessment methods to match the competency-based approach introduced at the lower secondary level.

"The assessment has also been aligned to rhyme with the UCE, in that the questions or the tasks that candidates are going to have are based on scenarios," Odongo explained.

He also clarified that UACE repeaters who sat examinations in 2025 or earlier would not be required to sit any transitional examination because the content framework under the aligned curriculum remains largely unchanged.

"There may be those who wish to repeat the UACE examination. They did it in 2025, but the results are not what they wished to have. And so, they can repeat," he said.

The UNEB boss also addressed candidates holding foreign academic qualifications. He said such candidates must first have their results equated by UNEB before being

allowed to register for examinations in Uganda.

"Candidates who have

LATE REGISTRATION

The Uganda National Examinations Board (UNEB) executive director, Dan Odongo, explained that after June 30, UNEB will open a late registration window running until the end of July, but candidates registering during that period will be required to pay a surcharge.

"During that period, there will be a surcharge levied on those who will not have abided by the deadline," Odongo said.

According to UNEB, late registration for Uganda Certificate of Education and Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education candidates will attract a surcharge of 50% of the registration fee, while Primary Leaving Examination candidates will pay a 100% surcharge.

Nevertheless, Odongo appealed to schools and parents to avoid unnecessary penalties by utilising the extended registration period.

"We would like to encourage all centres to ensure that we take advantage of this extension that the board has given, so as not to bother parents paying this late charge," he said.

foreign results must first of all make sure their results are equated by UNEB before they can be allowed," Odongo said.

The same requirement applies to adult candidates and individuals who legally changed their names through court processes.

On amendments to registration data, UNEB said schools will be allowed to make corrections free of charge up to June 30. However, any amendment submitted after the deadline will attract a fee of sh50,000 per change.

"You want to amend a name, you pay sh50,000. You remove a subject and substitute it with another one, that one will cost you also sh50,000," Odongo said.



UNEB executive director, Dan Odongo