



REPUBLIC OF KENYA



KNEC

PRESS STATEMENT ON RELEASE OF THE 2016 KCPE EXAMINATION RESULTS BY THE CABINET SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, DR. FRED MATIANG'I

- My two Cabinet Colleagues, **Hon. Maj. Gen. Joseph Ole Nkaisery - Cabinet Secretary, Interior and Coordination of National Government, Hon. Joe Mucheru Ministry of ICT,**
- The Principal Secretary, State Department of Basic Education, MoE, **Dr. Belio Kipsang;**
- The Chairperson, KNEC, **Prof. George Magoha;**
- The CEO, KNEC, **Ms. Mercy Karogo;**
- The CEO KICD, who is our host, Dr Julius Jwan
- KNEC Council members present;
- The Director General, State Department of Basic Education, MoE, **Mrs. Leah Rotich;**
- CEOs of various Parastatals present as well as senior officers from the Ministry of Education;
- Representatives of Teachers: KNUT and KUPPET, the Kenya Private Schools Association, the Kenya National Parents and Teachers Associations and the Heads of Associations for primary and secondary schools present;
- Members of the Media Fraternity;
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

GOOD MORNING,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to the release of the 2016 KCPE Examination results. I am proud that we are releasing the results exactly a month after candidates sat the examinations, the first time that the Government is doing so since the introduction of the KCPE



Examination in 1985. Indeed this speaks to the tireless efforts that all agencies of government put into this process, as I will be outlining presently.

For starters, I wish to highlight some issues that relate to the examinations, and indeed the basic education subsector, before I can officially release the 2016 KCPE Education results.

1.0 CHANGING EXAMINATIONS ENVIRONMENT IN KENYA

As you may remember, during the release of the 2015 KCPE Examination, I promised Kenyans that I will never stand before them again to give excuses over the perennial problem of examination leakages in our country. I made this promise in line with a directive by His Excellency the President Uhuru Kenyatta that we adopt strategies to deal with the malaise of examinations cheating that caused the cancellation of results of 2,709 KCPE candidates last year alone.

To ensure that the 2016 examinations were credible, the Ministry of Education instituted various reforms to address the challenges experienced during the administration of the 2015 tests. These included adopting a multi-sectoral examination administration approach, the creation of an exclusive examination season in Third Term and the appointment of school head teachers as centre managers.

I am proud to announce that the measures introduced by the Ministry of Education and other critical agencies worked incredibly well. Indeed for the first time in many years, the national examinations were not leaked.



The administration of the examinations was the smoothest in recent memory.

All this astounding success would not have been achieved by one man or woman. It took a combined effort of many spirited men and women. I therefore would like to take this opportunity to very sincerely thank the Board and Chief Executive Officer of the Kenya National Examinations Council (KNEC) for excellent planning and coordination, the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) for its careful selection, deployment and management of all supervisors and invigilators; and most significantly, the head teachers for their unrivalled assiduousness and commitment to the credibility of the whole examination process.

I cannot thank enough the overall coordination team of Dr Belio Kipsang, PS in charge of Basic Education, Nancy Macharia, CEO of TSC, Prof George Magoha, chairman KNEC Board and acting CEO Mercy Karogo and Dr Julius Jwan, CEO of KICD. It is impossible to quantify the invaluable contribution of these incredible and meticulous professionals to the delivery of successful examinations in 2016.

2.0 LESSONS FROM 2016 KCPE EXAMINATIONS

Many useful lessons can be drawn from the successful administration of the 2016 national examinations. The most significant, however, is that with effective collaboration and coordination amongst relevant agencies of government, virtually any national task and objectives of government can be met. Going forward, therefore, the Ministry of Education will endeavor to ensure effective cooperation and collaboration with all



relevant actors to fully reform and strengthen the education system. I reiterate my constant demand on all our education officers to work hand in glove with colleagues from all other agencies in the sector and specifically with colleagues from the Ministry of Interior in the discharge of our field duties.

The second lesson we have learnt is that the Government has all the machinery and capacity to run a clean, transparent and credible national examination. All we need is careful planning and a committed staff who operate with high levels of integrity.

3.0 PAYMENT OF EXAMINATIONS FEES BY GOVERNMENT

The Government is committed to ensuring that every child gets access to education at all levels. As of now, children enrolled in public schools are accessing free primary and free day secondary education that includes payment of KCPE and KCSE examinations fees by the Government. The Government will from 2017 extend the payment of examinations fees to all KCPE and KCSE candidates in private schools. This is a commendable move by Government that is testimony of its determination to improve access to education for all children.

4.0 SCHOOL FEES GUIDELINES FOR 2017

As I have noted, it is the Government's desire to make education affordable and accessible to all Kenyan children. For this reason, the Ministry of Education wishes to announce that fees charged in all public schools in 2017 will remain the same as it was this year. Principals whose schools will not follow the guidelines will not be tolerated.



5.0 CURRICULUM REFORMS

The desired and credible KCPE results are now here and we can start focusing on (and scrutinising) them. The world over, education reforms and reviews of evaluation are viewed as critical aspects of assessing learning. Most countries are turning to adoption of continuous assessments over summative evaluation. We in Kenya are planning to go this direction in due course. We have proposed, in the planned changes to the education curriculum, to gradually invest in the change that focuses on continuous evaluation. In part, this will require reforming of our current teacher training framework, a retraining of some of the critical actors in the evaluation chain and a relook at the whole process of the spectrum of assessment. We will present the proposed new curriculum to education stakeholders at a National Curriculum Conference to be held on **December 8th 2016** after which we can plan how to implement it. But while we gradually transform assessment, we have to take the result of each examination administered seriously and seek to analyse the lessons we draw from them. Release of the examinations should not be a ritual but a moment for the careful reflection by all parties involved in the education process.



6.0 UNETHICAL PRACTICES BY SOME SCHOOLS

On a gloomy note, I wish to state that the Ministry is aware of some private schools that operate multiple examination centres with an aim of engaging in unethical practices meant to enable them to record favourable rankings in national examinations. This is a ridiculous examination malpractice since the proprietors of these schools are clearly using innocent pupils in an unscrupulous marketing exercise of their businesses.

As it were, these schools register weaker pupils at sister “satellite” examination centres so as not to bring down the mean scores of their main “marketing” schools. We have discovered that the majority of these schools that offload “weaker” pupils usually have a small candidature of between 20 and 30 of their best candidates. These abnormal centres are the ones that top charts whenever ranking for schools is done. Indeed some of these schools will today be captured celebrating in our TV channels.

Fortunately, these schools now have nowhere to hide. We will name and shame them. I wish to announce that the Ministry has resolved to stamp out this unethical practice once and for all. For a start, KNEC will not register these schools as centres for national examinations starting 2017.



7.0 THE 2016 KCPE EXAMINATION RESULTS

I now wish to turn my attention to the reason why we are all gathered here today, which is the release of the **2016 KCPE Examination results**.

7.1 The 2016 KCPE Candidature

A total of 942,021 candidates sat the 2016 KCPE examination. Of these, **49.7%** were **girls** and **50.3%** **boys**. This gender composition has comparatively remained the same over the last three years. The analysis of candidature trends by gender in the **last three years** indicates that the percentage increase in the number of girls has consistently been higher than that of boys over this period.

In terms of counties, I wish to note with satisfaction that nearly half (23) of the regions registered more girls than boys in the KCPE Examination. These counties, which I must highly commend, are: **Mombasa, Nyandarua, Kiambu, Machakos, Kitui, Embu, Meru, Makueni, Nairobi, Trans Nzoia, Uasin Gishu, Nakuru, Kericho, Nandi, Elgeyo Marakwet, Busia, Bungoma, Kakamega, Vihiga, Kisii and Kisumu, Nyamira.**

7.2 Candidates with Special Needs

The Government recognises the rights of learners with disabilities as enshrined in the Kenyan Constitution (2010). This year, **1,950 candidates** with special needs sat the KCPE examination with the highest candidate scoring 421 marks out of the possible 500 marks.



Early this year, His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta directed the Ministry to prepare and administer Special National Examination papers for candidates with special needs. In order to implement this directive, interventions were put in place in the 2016 national examinations for candidates with special needs.

The interventions included:

- Giving special needs candidates an extra forty five (45) minutes instead of the thirty (30) minutes normally provided in the examinations;
- Development of adapted papers for candidates with special needs in the 2016 KCPE examination;
- Recruitment and training of more examiners for the special needs examination papers;
- Provision of adapted examination materials for candidates with special needs.

I wish to note that the Ministry is determined to continue doing all it takes to ensure that special needs children access quality education.

7.3 Field Administration of the 2016 KCPE Examination

Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to note with gratification that the examination was administered successfully throughout the country between the **1st and 3rd of November 2016**. This success would not have been possible without the effort of the **168,800 contracted professionals** who invigilated and supervised the administration of the examination and the **5,047 examiners** who were involved in the marking



of the **English Composition, Kiswahili Insha** and **Kenya Sign Language Composition.**

7.4 Performance of Candidates

I wish to mention that the performance of candidates in this year's examination was slightly lower than that of 2015. Girls performed better than boys in language subjects - English, Kiswahili and Kenya Sign Language - while boys performed better than girls in Mathematics, Science and Social Studies & Religion. The number of candidates with more than 400 marks decreased by 31 per cent to 5,190 compared to 7,560 last year. The top candidate this year scored 436 marks out of the maximum possible 500 marks, meaning the candidate would not have been placed among the top ninety (90) candidates in last year's KCPE examinations.

During the 2016 KCPE examination, candidates attained aggregate scores as follows:

RANGE OF MARKS	NUMBER OF CANDIDATES	% OF TOTAL CANDIDATES
Above 400	5,143	0.54%
301 – 400	207,141	21.75%
201 – 300	501,552	52.66%
101 – 200	221,438	23.25%
100 and below	6,747	0.71%



7.5 Examination Leakage

As stated earlier, I promised during the release of the 2015 KCPE examination results that I will not apologise again to Kenyans over leakage in national examinations. I wish to categorically state that there was no examination leakage in the 2016 KCPE examinations.

7.6 Examination Irregularities

Various security measures were put in place during the administration and management of the 2016 KCPE Examination to help stamp out cheating. I wish to report that all the attempted cases of examination malpractices, totaling to only 21, were detected and dealt with appropriately before they could happen.

I wish to inform the country that, for the first time in the history of the KCPE Examination, there was no cancellation of results for any candidate.

I also wish to appreciate my colleagues, **Hon. Joseph Ole Nkaisery - Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government; Hon. Joe Mucheru – Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Information and Communication Technology** and our **Security**



Agencies for the support they gave to the Ministry during the administration and management of the 2016 KCPE examination.

8.0 RANKING OF SCHOOLS AND CANDIDATES

As you are aware, Parliament recently passed a law requiring the Ministry of Education to rank schools and candidates when releasing national examinations. Tied to the law was a requirement that we conduct research, consult widely and come up with regulations that provide a basis for the ranking. Unfortunately, due to the short period between the time the law was enacted and when the KCPE Examination was administered, the Ministry was not able to prepare for its implementation. I, therefore, wish to inform the country that the Ministry has not provided any ranking for the 2016 KCPE Examination candidates and centres. The Ministry will, however, put in place a water-tight mechanism to help implement the law.

9.0 FORM ONE SELECTION

As I release the 2016 KCPE examination results today, I assure all parents and guardians that appropriate arrangements are in place to admit the 2016 KCPE Examination candidates into public secondary schools based on merit, quotas, equity, affirmative action and candidate choices. The selection will also ensure that children from disadvantaged backgrounds continue with their education. I also wish to assure the public that all candidates who scored 400 marks and above will be admitted to national schools irrespective of their gender, region or centre. The Form One selection exercise will commence on **December 9th, 2016**.



9.0 ACCESSING OF THE 2016 KCPE EXAMINATION RESULTS

Before releasing the **2016 KCPE** examination results, I wish to inform all candidates and their parents or guardians that the KCPE Examination results will be collected by their respective schools from the Sub County Director of Education offices. Candidates should therefore collect their results from their respective examination centres. Individual candidate results can also be accessed by sending a **candidate's index number** through a **Short Message Service (SMS)** to **22252** immediately after this event.

Head teachers will be required to download and print the on-line results slips for candidates in their schools and authenticate them before they are released to parents, guardians or candidates.

It is now my pleasure to declare the **2016 KCPE examination results** released and wish all **candidates success** in their **future endeavors** and at the same time **wish each and every Kenyan a MERRY CHRISTMAS** and a **PROSPEROUS YEAR 2017**

**DR. FRED O. MATIANGI,
CABINET SECRETARY
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
THURSDAY, 1ST DECEMBER 2016**

