

TEACHERS SERVICE COMMISSION



REMARKS BY:

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1ST TEACHERS CONFERENCE

ON 21ST JUNE 2019

AT

THE KENYA SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT, KABETE

THEME

THE TEACHER AS A RESOURCE: QUALITY AND UTILIZATION

SALUTATIONS

- **The Cabinet Secretary for Education, Professor George Magoha**
- **Chairpersons of Constitutional Commissions and Independent Offices (CC & IOs),**
- **TSC Commissioners,**
- **The Principal Secretaries, Ministry of Education,**
- **Members of the Education Committees of the Senate and National Assembly,**
- **Members of the Council of Governors,**
- **Chief Executive Officers of Constitutional Commissions and various education agencies,**
- **Representatives of the World Bank, the Department for International Development (DFID), the British Council, Unicef, Unesco, Plan International and World Vision,**
- **Representatives of the International Institute for Capacity-Building in Africa (IICBA),**
- **Faculty of education lecturers from various Universities (KU, MKU, Riara, UoN)**
- **Representatives from the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted)**

- **Representatives of teachers' unions,**
- **Representatives of head teachers' associations,**
- **Representatives of religious organizations,**
- **Members of the Civil Society,**
- **Representatives of the Kenya Society For The Blind,**
- **TSC and Ministry of Education officers,**
- **Conference keynote speakers, discussants and moderators,**
- **Invited guests,**
- **Ladies and gentlemen,**

PREAMBLE

I wish to welcome you all to this inaugural Teachers' Conference organized by the Teachers Service Commission. The conference brings together over 700 delegates drawn from Kenya and beyond, who will for the next two days interact, engage and share their knowledge and experiences on matters of education.

Amongst us are representatives from Nigeria and Zambia, partners and stakeholders from the education sector in Kenya. To all of you I say **"karibuni sana"**. We are indeed greatly honored to have you here with us.

The Commission is excited to host this inaugural Teachers Conference in which we will discuss matters that influence the teaching and learning in our country. This is indeed a momentous occasion for all of us to share and discuss existing and emerging issues affecting the teaching service in this country. We will also explore and propose strategies and measures to address any gaps that will be identified.

Ultimately it is anticipated that the recommendations generated from the conference will inform policy and positively influence provision of quality teaching at local, national, regional and global levels.

CONFERENCE THEME

Ladies and Gentlemen, we have chosen the theme for this conference to be **“The Teacher as a Resource - Quality and Utilization.”**

Educational resources

A resource, ladies and gentlemen, is anything which can be used to achieve the goals and objectives of an organization. Teaching and learning resources constitute all those human and material inputs used directly or indirectly for the purpose of educational training to facilitate or encourage the acquisition of knowledge, competence, skill, attitudes and habits.

In the teaching and learning context, resources may be classified into five categories (Adobe, 2000). They are:-

- i) **People:** teachers and students
- ii) **Materials:** textbooks, charts and skeletons
- iii) **Tools and equipment:** chalkboard and slide projectors
- iv) **Settings:** school buildings, library and general environment
- v) **Activities:** games and field trips.

The teacher is the most important variable in the teaching and learning process. Indeed, teachers are the most important educational resource and a critical determinant of the quality of education. They are not only a

resource themselves, but they cause the appropriate interaction of all other resources in the learning process.

The extent of acquisition of knowledge, skills and attitudes depends on the quality of teaching/learning activities that teachers provide for learners to interact with and the quality of the interactions.

Technology

Globalization and technology has tremendously increased the speed of change in the world today. In the next few years, we are likely to experience unprecedented changes in the way teaching and learning will happen. Classrooms may be less important with more students around

the globe attending same class at the same time. The role of the teacher as we know it is likely to change fundamentally.

That technology is a tool to make better just about everything cannot be gainsaid, and in the words of one **Nancy Kassebaum**, Former US Senator, **“There can be infinite uses of the computer and the new age technology, but if teachers are not able to bring it into the classroom and make it work, then it fails.”**

Moral character

In addition to being responsible for student learning, quality teachers are expected to provide safe and nurturing environments, serve as good role

models for learners, and to engage parents and the community in the business of their school.

They are also expected to be of the highest moral character, and to represent the highest standards of social propriety.

OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE

The conference seeks to explore pertinent and contemporary issues in teacher training and development. It also sets out to strengthen inclusive and innovative pedagogy and expound on the role of technology in teaching.

Specifically, the conference seeks to:-

- i. Explore strategies to increase the capacity of teachers in providing the best learning experience to learners.
- ii. Explore innovative opportunities for teacher professional development; it is expected that the new approaches and recommendations will greatly inform best practices.
- iii. Provide opportunities to network and share knowledge with colleagues and experts in the teaching field; and
- iv. Provide opportunity for education stakeholders to address new trends, challenges and emerging issues in teacher management.

Ladies and gentlemen; to set the pace of the Conference we have three key note speakers who bring with them a wealth of knowledge and experience on the education sector. They will each present a paper on the three thematic areas of;

- a) Teacher training and development in the 21st Century
- b) Principles and Practices of Effective Teaching and Learning in the 21st Century
- c) Quality Assurance for Effective Teaching and Learning.

Their presentations will be made through plenary sessions. Thereafter, a panel of discussants will lead discussions on the thematic areas.

Ladies and gentlemen; allow me to recognize the presence of;

- ✓ **Professor Olive Mugenda**, a renown academician, researcher, author and long serving Vice Chancellor of Kenyatta University. Currently she is a Commissioner with the Judicial Service Commission.
- ✓ Also with us is **Prof Steve Nwokeocha** from Nigeria. He is Executive Director, Africa Federation Of Teaching Regulatory Authorities (AFTRA).

✓ We are also honored to have **Prof Michael Munkumba** from The Eastern and Southern African Management Institute ESAMI in Arusha.

A total of fifty papers prepared by practicing teachers will be presented. Onto the three thematic areas, papers that focus on the following broad themes will be presented:

- i. Information Communication Technology (ICT) in learning.
- ii. Development of Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) instructional methodologies.
- iii. Individualized Education Programmes (IEP) within the

instructional matrix of Special Need Education (SNE).

- iv. Competence Based Curriculum (CBC).
- v. Quality management of education and learning institutions.

The papers will be presented in three breakaway rooms as guided in the program. Through the presentations, participants will share their innovations, new finding and experiences that have worked well for them.

Conference Outcomes

It is anticipated that the outcome of this two-day conference, will inform future policy development and setting of standards for educators and educational institutions. This should also be a benchmark that should

inspire professionals to identify strategies and ways on how to grow professionally and advance their careers in a positive direction.

The conference will provide networking opportunities with others in the field. Getting new and innovative ideas, self-reflection, re-thinking of previous methods, and improving communication skills are just a few of the ways professionals will gain during this conference.

CONCLUSION

Ladies and gentlemen, I wish to recognize and appreciate most sincerely the support of all our stakeholders and partners which enabled us to plan and organize this conference. Your ideas, experiences and

great encouragement led to the successful preparation of the conference that we begin today.

The Commission is enthusiastic about professional collaboration amongst educators in Africa and the rest of the world. Indeed, we intend to make this conference an annual activity.

I urge all participants, whether corporate or private, to adopt the resolutions that will emerge out of this conference when we go back to our institutions.

Finally, I encourage all delegates to participate actively in the interesting discussions over the next two days.

I wish you well as you go through the conference. And to our international guests, I wish you a very pleasant stay in Kenya. Once again welcome all and have a successful and fruitful Teachers Conference.

Thank you.