

240,000 Teachers Call the Shots in KCPE, KCSE Exams



Education Cabinet Secretary Prof. Magoha and TSC Chief Executive Dr. Macharia during the launch of the 2021 KCPE and KCSE examinations season at the Kenya School of Government on February 18, 2022

The Teachers Service Commission (TSC) has deployed a total of 242,406 teachers to administer the 2021 primary and secondary national examinations.

The teachers, who will serve as invigilators, supervisors, centre managers and examiners in the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) and Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) examinations, were handed over to the Kenya National Examinations Council (KNEC) after vetting.

TSC Chief Executive Dr Nancy Macharia assured a multi-agency forum last month that the teachers will conduct the examinations fairly and transparently.

"I wish to assure the country that all the teachers are fully prepared to play their part to ensure that everything comes together as planned in the entire national examinations period. Only the best teachers, those who do not have any known disciplinary issues, have been identified as part of the Commission's determination to guarantee integrity in examination administration," she said.

The Commission has also recalled all regional, county and sub-county officers from leave to ensure there is adequate resources and efficiency during the period. Teachers on maternity leave were however exempted from the exercise.

The 2021 KCPE was administered between March 7 and 9, 2022.

The KCSE national examination commenced on February 28 and will end on April 1, 2022.

The Kenya National Examinations Council has registered a total of 1,225,507 candidates in 28,316 KCPE examination centres as compared to 1,191,752 candidates in 28,467 centres in 2020. In the KCSE examination, 831,015 candidates were registered in 10,413 centres compared to 752,981 in 10,437 centres in 2020.

"I wish to assure the country that all the teachers are fully prepared to play their part to ensure that everything comes together as planned in the entire national examinations period."

Dr Nancy Macharia

How I Earned the Nickname 'Mr Chopper Man'

October 31, 2019 will forever remain significant to me. I was nicknamed "Mr Chopper Man" at 11.57am on that day. Being the head teacher of Oyarata Primary School in Loitokitok Sub County, Kajiado County, I was tasked with collecting and returning KCPE examination scripts.

However, the container for storing the examinations materials was about 70km away at Loitokitok Education office and my school is at the furthest end of Loitokitok bordering Tsavo West



Continued on last page

How well have you Prepared your Candidates for the National Examinations?



In our school, learners are given extra assignments to discuss in groups and then give reports in the form of presentations. We also give our students topical questions to research on. Additionally, we carry out songs and mnemonics (a learning technique that aids information retention and retrieval) especially in science and social studies.

Patricia Kamande
Kenyatta University Primary School
Nairobi County



This has been the busiest and shortest term. Having only 10 weeks to prepare candidates for a national examinations amidst tight COVID-19 regulations and tense political climate is not a walk in the park. I have had to be committed and sacrifice a lot in order to clear the syllabus within the first three weeks of the last term. We have created time outside the timetable and included parents in our revision strategies. We hope to maintain this relationship throughout the year.

John Odida
Head teacher, Ngulu Kanyango
Primary School, Homa Bay



In my school, we have worked hard to ensure the syllabus was completed in the shortest time possible as we prepare Class 8 candidates for the 2021 and 2022 KCPE examinations. We are also preparing to present Grade 6 students for their national assessment. We are constantly engaging our stakeholders so that we achieve results.

Jacob Sifuna
Deputy Head Teacher, St Gerald
Shitaho Primary School
Kakamega County



We have adopted team-teaching and marking and introduced academic mentorship groups for candidates. We have covered the syllabus and are currently revising, and every subject teacher is involved. We wore life jackets long ago ready for the 2021 and 2022 KCSE examinations.

Ann Manyasi
Langa Langa Secondary School
Nakuru County



We have a very tight revision programme for the Form 4 candidates as we head down the home stretch. The 2021 and 2022 candidates are undergoing supervised reading of notes, frequent revision tests as well as practicals in science subjects.

Joyce Murage
Kenyatta High School (Mahiga)
Nyeri County

KNEC: It's all Systems go as 2021 KCPE, KCSE Begin

The national government has laid out watertight measures to safeguard integrity and minimise hiccups during the national examinations.

In a circular to field officers, the Kenya National Examination Council (KNEC) said examination materials have been prepared and officers who will supervise management of the examinations at centres and containers identified. This includes 242,406 teachers chosen by the Teachers Service Commission for deployment as centre managers, supervisors and invigilators.

"The centre managers are required to maintain a list of authorised staff by the Sub-County Directors of Education (SCDE) to be present at the examination centre. All unauthorised staff must keep off the examination centres," the circular reads.

1,225,507

Number of 2021 KCPE candidates

The Council said the exercise will be conducted under tight security with two police officers stationed at each examination centre to escort centre managers and avert any disruptions. KNEC added that it has put in place quality assurance measures to safeguard the integrity of the examinations, urging field officers to desist from any form of malpractice.



2021 KCPE candidates at an examination room at Moi Nyeri Complex Primary School

In addition, the Council has also set up a call centre to address queries. "KNEC will also undertake quality assurance checks to ensure that all bonafide candidates' scores are accounted for and that each candidate is awarded their deserved scores. KNEC is committed to ensuring fairness and objectivity so that no candidate gains undue advantage over others," the circular reads.

The examination agency has automated recruitment of field officers, supervisors and centre managers via the Contracted Professionals System (CP2) to promote efficiency and management. In the circular, KNEC directed school heads to ensure accurate submission of data and deter field officers from drug abuse.

Know Your Regional Director and County Directors for Mandera



Ibrahim Hish Adan
Regional Director
North Eastern



Ibrahim Yakub
Deputy County Director/
Sub County Director
Mandera East



Dr Willam Yator Kibowen
County Director
Mandera



Fatuma Jimale
Sub County Director
Arabia



Abdirashid Haji
Sub County Director
Mandera Central



Hassan Ali
Sub County
Director Lafey



Mohamed Tullo Ali
Sub County Director
Mandera West



Alinoor Issack Hassan
Sub County Director
Kiliwehri



Abdiraham Yarrow
Sub County Director
Mandera North



Issack Osman
Sub County Director
Kutulo



Hillow Yarrow
Sub County Director
Banisa

Story of the Heroic Kajiado Teacher: 'Mr Chopper Man'

From page 1



Teacher Ngugi John (Mr Chopper Man) with his colleagues on October 31, 2019 when they were airlifted to deliver KCPE scripts owing to heavy rains

National Park. The terrain is rough and when it rains, the roads become impassable. Phone connectivity is also poor. On the morning of October 31, 2019 while our driver and another head teacher from Nolsit Primary School were returning to our respective schools after collecting examination papers in Loitokitok, our vehicle was caught in floodwaters caused by heavy rains that morning.

Our driver had tried to drive through the waters but the vehicle skid and landed in a ditch. At that moment it dawned on us that the possibility of delivering the examination papers on time was impossible.

We sought assistance from another driver, but his car also got stuck in the same ditch. We were about 18 kilometres from the examination centre, I called the Sub-County Director of Education and informed him about our situation. I took a video and pictures of where we were and sent to him as proof.

Do you have an interesting article to share with your fellow teachers? We welcome opinions and stories on topical issues affecting teachers and the education sector in general.

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He then advised us to make sure the examination papers were not tampered with as he escalated the matter to the Kenya National Examinations Council.

We managed to escape from the trapped car and walked four kilometres to Belgrove Lemongo Primary School where we were told a helicopter would airlift us. As we waited for the helicopter for about 30 minutes, our hearts were filled with anxiety and excitement.

The Kajiado South SCDE and Deputy County Commissioner arrived at the school to make sure we were airlifted. At around 11:00 am, a helicopter landed at the school grounds. The pilot briefed us on safety protocols before we set off for our first flight. The aerial view of farms and the expansive savannah was breath-taking. It was a wonderful experience because I was a "co-pilot", enjoying every moment as I eagerly waited to narrate the experience to my children when I got home.

Aboard the helicopter were Nolsit Primary School headteacher, Kerio Olomayani, security officers and an invigilator from Olmapinu Primary School. We cruised at 120 nautical miles per hour at an altitude of 1,000 feet above sea level.

We arrived at my school to a jubilant reception at 11:57am. The candidates were ecstatic because they had never seen a helicopter at close range before, making it hard to calm them down. They were also worried about the fate of their examination papers. However, when I stepped out of the helicopter with the papers in my hand, they cheered. Onlookers milled around the school gate to get a glimpse of the helicopter.

They were also worried about the fate of their examination papers. However, when I stepped out of the helicopter with the papers in my hand, they cheered.

After the examination ended, we were flown back to Loitokitok to return the scripts. From that day on, the nickname "Chopper Man" was coined after photos were circulated on social media. My colleagues also refer to me by that name.

By Ngugi John Ole Mundia
Headteacher, Oyarata Primary School
Loitokitok Sub County, Kajiado County