

## 60,000 Teachers Gear up for Training on New Curriculum



A CBC training session in progress

The Teachers Service Commission (TSC) has lined up 60,000 teachers for training on the Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC) and Competency-Based Assessment (CBA) ahead of learners set to join junior secondary school next year.

Chief Executive Nancy Macharia said the training targets teachers handling learners in grades 7 to 9 in private, public regular and special needs schools.

Dr Macharia said the first level of training will focus on languages, pure sciences, applied sciences, mathematics, humanities and technical subjects.

Field officers were directed to select six teachers per school from the six subject areas for the exercise that will run from April 25 to May 13, 2022. The teachers will be grouped as per their departments.

Those teaching pure sciences will be equipped with competencies to teach integrated science, which comprises biology, chemistry, physics and health education. Training on applied sciences will emphasise on agriculture, home science and computer studies.

Under languages, teachers will be retooled to teach English, Kiswahili, Kenya Sign Language, foreign and indigenous languages.

At the same time, training in humanities will focus on social studies, religious studies and life skills. For technical and creative arts, teachers will acquire additional skills in business studies, music, sports and physical education.

Dr Macharia added that the training for sub-county directors, curriculum support officers and tutors from teacher training colleges will run from May 2 to May 6 while that of teachers will be held on May 9 to May 13 at various venues in the counties.

With the pioneer students set to join junior secondary next year at Grade 7 after sitting their summative assessment in December, Dr Macharia said the TSC will ensure teachers are up to the task to meet the demands of the new curriculum.

"The TSC has continued to prepare all teachers for the phased implementation of the CBC," she said.

So far, she said, "we consistently ensured that relevant teachers were trained for all levels including the Grade Six, which will be covered starting next month."

In the last three years, about 229,292 teachers have gone through CBC training and an additional 191,515 will be trained over the next three years.

## All Set for KESSHA Annual Delegates Conference

Over 9,000 principals of public secondary schools will convene in Mombasa this month for their annual delegates conference.

The Kenya Secondary Schools Heads Association (KESSHA) delegates will meet at Sheikh Zayed Hall to chart a path to sustainable ways of improving quality education. Themed 'Re-Examining our future together; a new era of education in Kenya' amid implementation of major reforms, the 45th conference will run from April 18 – 22, 2022.

The delegates will take stock of implementation of the CBC that seeks to spur teacher competency and innovativeness.

**229,292 teachers have gone through CBC training so far. An additional 191,515 will be trained over the next 3 years.**

## Prof Magoha Lauds Teachers over Role in National Exams

Education Cabinet Secretary George Magoha has praised teachers for adequately preparing form four candidates for the 2021 KCSE.

Prof Magoha said the teachers executed their duties with professionalism during the examinations.

A total of 70,486 teachers served as centre managers, supervisors, invigilators and examiners for the 2021 Kenya Certificate of Secondary Examinations (KCSE), which came to an end on 1st April, 2021. A total of 831,025 candidates sat the examinations.

"I must thank all our gallant teachers who not only prepared the candidates for the examinations but also took part in the administration of the KCSE," Prof Magoha said in a press statement issued at the end of the examination.

"More than 99% of contracted staff and school teachers displayed high levels of professionalism during the administration of the examinations," he said.

The Cabinet Secretary also thanked the multi-agency monitoring team for overseeing a successful national exam administration.

"On behalf of the entire Multi-Agency Monitoring Team in charge of the administration of national examinations, I wish to thank all those professionals who in one way or the other have contributed to the successful conclusion of the exercise," he said.

Prof Magoha also noted that the completion of the national exams was a combined effort of different government agencies, including the Teachers Service Commission.

## TSC Hails Staff Contribution to Success of KCPE, KCSE

The Teachers Service Commission (TSC) has commended teachers for their work after the 2021 Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) examination results recorded a marked improvement in performance.

Chief Executive Nancy Macharia said the teachers weathered the pressures of a short academic calendar to ensure the candidates were adequately prepared to sit the examination. Speaking during the release of the KCPE results on March 28, 2022, Dr Macharia further applauded the 130,667 teachers who served as centre managers, supervisors, invigilators and examiners for their professionalism in ensuring the credibility of the examination.

"I congratulate all teachers and encourage you to keep up with the good spirit as per the Code of Regulations for Teachers," she said.

"As a Commission, we will recognise and reward those who excelled in the process in line with the Performance Recognition, Reward and Sanctions Policy."

Despite grappling with a shortage of workforce, Dr Macharia said, teachers were ready to receive the 1.2 million candidates who sat the examinations once they were placed in secondary schools.

She said the recruitment of 5,000 teachers annually was insufficient to plug the shortage of 114,581 teachers across primary and secondary schools, special needs and training institutions. The sector, she said, had been strained by natural attrition, registration of new schools and the 100% transition policy.

### Know Your Regional Director and County Directors for Kakamega



**Lilian Wachira**  
Regional Director  
Western



**Florence Momanyi**  
Deputy County Director  
SCD Kakamega Central



**Karen Ondhoro**  
Sub-County Director  
Kakamega East



**William M. Kipchomus**  
Sub-County Director  
Butere North



**Isaac Shem Odhiambo**  
Sub-County Director  
Khwisero



**Pamela Matoke**  
Sub-County Director  
Mumias West



**Philip K. Chemining'wa**  
Sub-County Director  
Matete/Kakamega



**Rachel Lagat**  
Sub-County Director  
Matungu



**Benard Wangunda**  
Sub-County Director  
Mumias East



**John Nzuvu**  
County Director  
Kakamega



**Deborah Ongidi**  
Sub-County Director  
Lugari



**Robinson Kinyanjui**  
Sub-County Director  
Navakholo



**Rosaline Rugut**  
Sub-County Director  
Likuyani



**Rose Mosi**  
Sub-County Director  
Kakamega South

## Let Children Work, Read, Play and be Creative this Holiday

Holidays can be a great time to bond with your children. But it can also be a stressful time when the children misbehave because of boredom or fall into the lure of drugs and substance abuse, and the ever-present online dangers. We asked some teachers on tips on managing children at home and we bring their comments:



“As a parent, keep your child engaged and active by involving him/her in house chores and religious activities. However, the child must have enough time to rest, do homework and be adventurous as he/she learn new life skills and sporting activities

**Adrian Katiku, Teacher**  
Makueni Boys' High School  
Makueni

“Ensure the safety of your children by keeping them busy at home since idleness can lead them to irresponsible behaviour. Let them help with the household chores and be involved in agricultural projects, where possible, such as rearing of rabbits, chicken or gardening. Supervise them to do their holiday assignments and revision of school work. Allow them to participate in sporting and community activities of their interests that are available in your locality.

**Joyce Nyambura Thuo, Teacher**  
Bongo Mixed Day Secondary School  
Nyandarua



“In my school, we advised parents to let their children engage in unguided play, watch enjoyable and educative movies together and support them learn a new skill such as how to cook a particular food. We gave the children revision books and advised them to engage in holiday book swap with their classmates

**Betty Napatu, Teacher**  
Moi Commonwealth DEB Primary School  
Bungoma

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School holidays provide an opportunity for children and parents to reunite after a demanding school term. To manage children at home, parents should be keen to know what they are doing at any given time. Here, routines should be established and strictly adhered to. In addition, they should bother to establish the character of the friends. Your child's friends can easily corrupt his or her morals!



**Kairu Kamuri, Principal**  
Kamogo Mixed Secondary School  
Elgeyo Marakwet

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I advise parents to let children work around the home over this holiday by doing tasks that match their abilities. Besides, it is important to ensure that they also read and play. This is to ensure that they don't forget what they had learnt in school. Play forms part of their mental and physical growth.



**Grace Osumba, Teacher**  
Bondo Township Primary School  
Siaya

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I recommend engaging our children in safe use of internet at home. Monitor their chatting behaviour by having specific times and places when they can go online. Parents and guardians with access to ICT infrastructure and expertise can guide their children in content creation activities, keeping to community rules and age ratings of social platforms. The products can be shared with their children's teachers for review and advise. Through supervised exposure to TikTok and other short videos apps, we can unlock amazing talents in our children.



**Samuel Wang'ombe Mwangi, Headteacher**  
Mathanji Primary School Laikipia West  
Laikipia



## **From a Chronic Alcoholic to a Respected Counselor**

By Isaiah Kagiri Waititu

My plunge into alcoholism was slow and gradual like a small baby. I started getting into the drink while a young boy then drove into the peak when I became a teenager. I started off by defying simple instructions from my parents, like refusing to go to church, before developing a fully-fledged rebellious streak when I joined Form One in Leshau Boys Secondary School in Nyandarua County in 1992. To make matters worse, I was misguided into believing that, since I was circumcised, I had the license to do as I pleased – including taking alcohol and smoking marijuana (bhang). I became a frequent user throughout my first year of school, leading to a decline in my academic performance. I would even smuggle drugs into school by using all manner of tricks and secret routes. Nevertheless, I attained a B- (minus) in my Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) examination in 1995 and got admitted to the University of Nairobi.



Isaiah Waititu

Before enrolling, I got a job as a casual labourer at a construction company in Nairobi's Embakasi estate, marking the initial stages of my journey as an alcoholic. I used the income to sink deeper into alcoholism.

I later enrolled at Kikuyu Campus to study education and that was when things took a turn for the worse. I would scout around for chang'aa dens to quench my thirst, and at some point I started selling the illicit liquor in hostels. This followed me till my graduation.

But everything in my life continued to go on a downward trajectory. Due to alcoholism, I bungled my teaching jobs at 22 private schools due to absenteeism. I failed twice at marriage. I would survive on the paltry money I made from menial jobs. I continued with the same pattern even after being employed by TSC as a teacher in Thiiru Secondary School, Laikipia County in 2012, causing my interdiction a year into my contract.

In August 2013, my wife took me for rehabilitation at Saint Martin Social Apostolate in Nyahururu. But because of the severe withdrawal symptoms and the fact that I had not accepted I was an addict, I ran away after one day.



But all hope was not lost. My eldest sister intervened and I was taken to another centre in Kajiado County. Through personal determination, group therapy and psychiatric assessments during the three-month treatment programme, I mastered the willpower to surmount my addiction.

After leaving the centre, I joined a support group in Nyahururu where I have continued to draw inspiration to leave an alcohol-free life.

With my clean bill of health, the TSC reinstated me and I'm now teaching geography and business studies at Gatero Day Mixed Secondary School in Laikipia.

More importantly, I am now a responsible father and husband. My determination has earned me several accolades, like winning the Teacher of The Year Award (TOYA) in 2017 for posting a mean score of 8.3 in geography in that year's KCSE examination.

I have also written a book titled *Saying It Aloud*, which enhances awareness about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse. During my free time, I work with various institutions such as Saint Martin's Social Apostolate as a volunteer sensitising youths.

Waititu's phone number is 0704 453601.

**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. Send your feedback and contribution to: [mwalimunews@tsc.go.ke](mailto:mwalimunews@tsc.go.ke)**