
SPEECH BY PROF GEORGE A. O. MAGOHA, CBS, CABINET SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, DURING THE LAUNCH OF FORM ONE SELECTION ON DECEMBER 2, 2019 AT KENYA INSTITUTE OF CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT (KICD) AT 8:30 AM

- **Chief Administrative Secretary, Prof Collette Suda;**
- **Basic Education, Principal Secretary, Dr Belio Kipsang;**
- **TSC Secretary, Dr Nancy Macharia;**
- **KNEC Ag. CEO, Dr Mercy Karogo;**
- **Directors of the Ministry and TSC;**
- **County Directors of Education and TSC;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I welcome you all to the launch of this year's Form One Selection exercise, which will mark the start of our campaign to place all the 2019 Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) candidates in various secondary schools in January 2020. This exercise will be replicated at regional and county levels across the country.

Before I speak about the actual selection exercise, I wish to address the following pertinent issues regarding the secondary education sub-sector in our country:

Government's 100 per cent transition policy

The Government is committed to ensuring that every learner transits from primary to secondary school.

To address barriers to secondary education, the Ministry will continue working with the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government to facilitate the enrollment of every child in secondary school. National administrative arms will work with county and sub-county education officials to ensure that no child is locked out of secondary education owing to factors removed from their ability to access education.

In this regard, Ministry officials will be required to file accurate daily returns on the status of reporting to schools to ensure 100% transition. This means that parents/guardians and school managers must facilitate smooth admission of all children to secondary schools.

Applications for the Elimu Scholarship Programme

As I announced during the release of the KCPE results, the Ministry, through the Secondary Education Quality Improvement Project (SEQIP) will offer scholarships for 9,000 candidates who sat the KCPE examinations this year as part of the process of accelerating the 100 per cent transition policy. I am happy to announce that the Ministry on Friday opened up the process of applying for the scholarships, a window that closes on December 16th, 2019. I urge all qualified candidates to apply for consideration for the scholarships. The list of the targeted Sub-counties and the 15 urban centres with informal settlements can be accessed through the Ministry of

Education and Equity Group Foundation websites; www.education.go.ke and https://egfdmis.equitybank.co.ke/register_elimu

The 2020 School Fees Guidelines

The government continues to provide Free Day Secondary Education grants per learner for tuition, operations and infrastructure improvement. Funds are disbursed to schools based on enrollment uploaded by principals on National Education Management Information System (NEMIS).

I urge all Principals and Boards of Management to ensure that these funds are used for intended purposes. This will enable us to further the attainment of 100 per cent transition, improve the learning environment and ensure the right to education is achieved.

I will lead senior Ministry officials on a nationwide monitoring exercise to ensure that Form One students are joining the schools they were selected to and that fee guidelines are strictly adhered to.

Parents are therefore advised to only pay the amount of fees set by the Ministry and report incidents of any students turned away for not paying higher fees to their respective Regional Education Directors, County Directors of Education, TSC County Directors or Sub-County Directors for action. Cases of lethargy with this vice on the part of RDEs, CDEs and SCDEs will also be dealt with administratively.

I also call on Members of the public to report any cases of learners who fail to join Form One and file any complaints of excessive fees and levies with the Ministry. I wish to reassure parents and guardians who report such cases that relevant action will be taken against affected persons and school Boards of Management.

Form One Selection Process

As you are aware, I released KCPE results on Monday 18th November 2019 and immediately dispatched a team to begin Form One selection.

I wish to recognise the efforts of the team that worked on Form One selection comprising officers from the Ministry of Education, the Kenya National Examination Council and the ICT Authority.

A total of 1,083,456 candidates sat 2019 KCPE, out of which 1,075,201 have been placed in secondary schools. This is after excluding inmates, overage and refugees in camps. Admitting all this will complete our plan of admitting all candidates in line with the 100% transition from primary to secondary education as required by Article 53(1)(b) of the Kenya Constitution on provision of free and compulsory basic education to every Kenyan child. This year, we have gone strictly by merit and students' choices.

The Dilemma of Thousands of KCPE Candidates Choosing Same School as Option One

I wish to outline a dilemma of the Ministry in placing top KCPE performers in schools of their choice. This year, we discovered that candidates considered capable of scoring top marks in the

KCPE have a tendency to select just a few schools. Unfortunately, the top schools that are an envy of these candidates have no capacity to admit all of them. This disadvantages the candidates in the sense that missing their First Choices leaves them at the mercy of the remaining schools, some of which they might not be interested in. I wish to read out the list of some of these schools:

School	Category	No of Candidates Selecting School	Capacity
Pangani Girls	National	111,817	336
Alliance High school	National	83,489	384
The Kenya High	National	49,727	336

County Secondary School Capacity Challenges

During the selection, we noted the challenge of inadequate capacities of places in secondary schools in some counties. I wish to mention a few of these counties:

SN	County	Candidature	Capacity	Shortfall
1	Nairobi	62,973	23,613	39,360
2	Mombasa	18,989	5,126	13,863
3	Kilifi	34,404	10,493	23,911

Faced with this challenge, the Ministry opted to place learners from these counties to schools in neighbouring counties and not in their choices. I, therefore, call upon the leadership of these counties to provide the enabling environment for establishment and expansion secondary schools.

Overall, due to skewed candidates' choices or unavailability of vacancies in home counties, the Ministry placed 30,000 candidates in schools they had not picked, although they reflected their level of scored. I wish to ask parents/guardians and teachers to work closely with candidates during the process of selecting schools to ensure they make the right choices.

Candidates' Failure to Follow Selection Guidelines

A few candidates opted to select one or two choices of secondary schools against the required number of 11, thus limiting placement by their preferred choices. The Ministry opted to place such candidates in schools matching their marks and had capacity, even if they had not chosen them. Going forward, head teachers should work with parents to ensure candidates make choices as per the guidelines.

Placement of Candidates to each School Category

I wish to note that all learners had an equal chance of getting selected to their preferred schools based on merit, choice and equity. Based on this fair criterion, placement of candidates based on each school category is as follows:

Category	No. Selected
National	33,009
Extra-Country	184,816
County	188,454
SNE	777
Sub-county	669,145
Total	1,075,201

Some 777 SNE candidates have been placed in their choices in regular schools. In total, 1,246 have been placed in various categories of schools.

Role of NEMIS in the Admission Process

All learners selected to join National, Extra-County and County schools will receive admission letters online. Parents/guardians are, therefore, advised to visit the Ministry's website www.education.go.ke to download admission letters.

Upon downloading, the learner must present the letter to the head teacher of the primary school where they sat their KCPE Examination for authentication. The letter will further be verified by the Principal of the admitting school. Principals are advised to confirm that letters presented to them belong to learners strictly in their selection list. Schools can access their selection lists from the NEMIS platform.

The admission of Form One students likewise will be done online through NEMIS. The Ministry has developed a reporting module that will be used by each Principal to relay the admission of each learner online. This will provide real time data on admission and reporting trends to facilitate decision-making. Principals will be responsible for the security and integrity of their school data in NEMIS.

As you may be aware, the Government pays examination fees for all candidates in both public and private schools. Moving forward, payment of this fee will be based on NEMIS data. Therefore, I call upon all private schools to ensure all their students are captured in NEMIS.

Form One Reporting Dates

The Ministry is determined to ensure that Form One students report to school as early as possible to embark on their studies. Parents should therefore use the next four weeks to make necessary arrangements in readiness for the new academic year. Reporting dates for all Form One students in all categories of schools shall be **13th January, 2020**. The last reporting date shall be 17th January 2020.

After today's event, Form One placements for National and Extra-County schools can also be accessed by texting the candidate's index number to **22263**. Soft/hard copies for each school will be availed to Principals and County Directors of Education.

The launch of respective County Form One selection will be held on 4th December 2019, when lists of Extra-County and County schools will be released. This will be followed by Sub County

schools placement on 6th December 2019. All private schools must complete their selection by 16th December 2019 and file returns through NEMIS.

In conclusion, I would like to congratulate the KCPE candidates of 2019 and wish them well in their future endeavours. It is now my pleasure to officially launch the Form One Selection Exercise for 2019.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU ALL!