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REPUBLIC OF KENYA

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MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2019

PRELIMINARY BRIEF ON THE 2019 KCPE EXAMINATION

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Today marks the fifth day since 2019 Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) Examination started. A total of 699,746 begun sitting the examination on Monday. So far, the candidates have sat eleven examination papers. The last for this week, Chemistry Paper III, is currently underway, although centres with fewer students may already have cleared it.

As a Ministry, we are proud of how the examinations have so far progressed. In 99.9 per cent of the centres, examination officials have meticulously enforced the Kenya National Examinations Council (KNEC) regulations that are meant to ensure delivery of a credible examination.

Our monitoring teams spread across the country have turned in positive reports suggesting that the number of examination malpractices have significantly reduced compared to the same time last year.

However, I must report that much as we celebrate the near end to the traditional forms of cheating, we are also disappointed that some unscrupulous people, mainly in private centres, are going to great heights to invent new tricks meant to beat our formidable measures. I wish to list some of these:

1. As you may be aware, 11 people were arrested in Kisii in connection with the production of a fake candidates photo identification album mimicking that of the KNEC roll. Some of these have already been charged in court. To preempt further practices like this, I have directed all examination officials to conduct thorough checks on the photos of each candidates and counter-check them with their names and faces.

Examination officials have already collected more than 50 mobile phone handsets from various examination centres across the country. Some 35 of these were collected at the St Teresa's private centre in Nairobi where 26 people were also arrested. Seven were collected

from Diffu and Tawakal centres in Garissa. The gadgets were meant to relay “answers” to examination rooms, a strategy that could not work thanks to our watchful examination officials. I have therefore directed thorough frisking of candidates before examinations can start.

2. At least 10 examination officials were replaced in various centres over their participation in overt or covert decisions that endangered the security of the KCSE examination. Some of these officials allowed unauthorised people to access examination centres while others agreed to receive bribes arising from funds raised to aid cheating. These officials accept as high figures as Sh120,000 to play ball in the cheating.
3. Two examination officials have been arrested and replaced after they exposed the contents of examination papers before the scheduled time. One of these cases happened right here in Nairobi, at a private centre.
4. Disciplinary action will be taken against teachers who dressed as cooks with the intention of aiding candidates in their examinations. Some of these teachers were found working out answers to questions that were sneaked out of examination centres before strategically posting them in toilets. Candidates would then pick up the answers from the toilets. We wish to ask those teachers engaged in these dirty tricks to desist as we will catch them.
5. We noted one case of a Centre Manager who transported answer scripts to an examination container in a private vehicle. Such actions must stop since we have issued firm measures that only designated vehicles must be used to transport examination materials to and from the container in the company of security officials.

Overall, we are thoroughly impressed with the level of discipline amongst our security, teachers and other staff involved in the examinations administration all of whom are drawn from the Multi-Agency Team that is administering the exercise.

By working with utmost professionalism and commitment, the Team has ensured that none of the examination papers (or question) has been leaked. We are certain that the same discipline and dedication to duty will be extended to the second week of KCSE on Monday.

As we promised, we have managed to spot all forms of cheating around our centres thanks to the extension of security surveillance to up to two kilometers of each examination centre. This will be sustained till the examination is completed.

Once again, I thank all my Government colleagues for putting everything aside to give the national exercise the attention it deserves.

I most sincerely thank the media for being vigilant and always helping us to monitor and report any examination irregularities since the examinations started.

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