

SPEECH BY THE CABINET SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION, PROF. GEORGE A. O. MAGOHA, EGH, DURING ABSA HANDOVER OF SCHOOL BAGS AND MASKS AND LAUNCH OF KENYA UNIVERSITIES & COLLEGES CENTRAL PLACEMENT SERVICE (KUCCPS) PLACEMENT PROCESS FOR THE 2020 KCSE CANDIDATES TO UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES AT THE JOSEPH KANGETHE PRIMARY SCHOOL ON MAY 24, 2021

*Salutations:*

Chief Administrative Secretary, Dr. Sara Ruto

Principal Secretary for Early Learning and Basic Education Dr Julius Jwan;

Principal Secretary for Implementation of Curriculum Reforms, Prof. Fatuma Chege;

Absa Bank Managing Director, Jeremy Awori;

Officials from KUCCPS led by CEO Mercy Wahome

The Head Teacher, Joseph Kangethe Primary School

Fellow Government officials present

Members of the press

Ladies and gentlemen

Good Morning,

It gives me great pleasure to join students, teachers, parents, guardians, the community and Absa bank here today, to witness this great collaboration and support as we handover school and hygiene items to the Joseph Kangethe Primary School community.

On behalf of the Government, I wish to thank Absa Bank Kenya for this gracious donation of 4,000 bags and 20,000 masks. We shall ensure that the donation will benefit students in the urban informal settlements.

As you are aware, other partners including UNICEF and KCB recently made their donations of masks, which we distributed to needy and vulnerable learners. I promise that the masks we have received today will be a good addition to this campaign of ensuring our

learners are all masked. I therefore urge all partners, through their Community Social Responsibility programmes to step in and provide support to our children as we fight COVID-19, which is here to stay.

#### *Accelerated Basic Education Calendar*

All our learners returned to school for the Third Term of the 2020 Calendar year on May 10, 2021. I wish to inform the country that all learners reported to their respective schools and have since settled down for the accelerated academic calendar. I therefore ask all stakeholders to provide adequate support to our children to enable them to go through the strict academic timelines that we have set aimed at restoring normal programmes by the end of next year.

I take this opportunity in a very special way to celebrate teachers and the parents who have maintained their support in ensuring that the students have access to what they need on a daily basis as they report back to school. I appreciate teachers for their continued resilience and utmost dedication in ensuring that the curriculum is fully covered and that the school runs accordingly. I also commend the parents and guardians who make sure that our students have the basic needs and support from home despite the tough economic times everybody is currently facing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### *Form One Selection Exercise Results*

The Ministry is concluding a meticulous Form One selection exercise for the 2020 Kenya Certificate of Primary Education Examination results. I will be releasing the selection results on Tuesday, June 15, 2021. I wish to stress that all the candidates who sat the examination will find places in secondary schools in the spirit of our 100 per cent transition policy.

As I urged parents and all other stakeholders, we must ensure utmost protection to all the learners who sat the 2020 Kenya Certificate of Primary Education Examination as they are prepared to join Form One in July. We must ensure we ward off all forms of child abuse that are common in some parts of the country, which could prevent the learners from joining Form One.

#### *Revision of Degrees and College Choices for the 2020 KCSE Candidates*

I am pleased to note that KUCCPS is ready to proceed with university and college placement for the 2020 KCSE candidates. Accordingly, I wish to announce that the Revision of Choices for Placement to Degree, Diploma, Artisan and Craft Courses will commence today, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Consequently, I have directed KUCCPS to open its system for the 2020 KCSE cohort to review and, if they so wish, make changes to the courses that they selected through their schools. Candidates who were not able to apply in school will use the opportunity to submit their choices.

All applicants will know the universities and colleges they have been selected to by the end of July 2021. This will enable our higher education institutions to admit the students in the new academic year beginning September 2021. The students and their parents will also have ample time to prepare adequately.

During the release of the 2020 KCSE examination results, I affirmed the Government's commitment to provide an opportunity for every child to pursue a career of their choice. I also assured all the candidates that a bright future awaited them; that no learner will be left behind. Our Technical and TVET institutions have vacancies for 331,045 new students, while our public and private universities have 160,160 spaces for government-sponsored students.

Therefore, I wish to reiterate that all the 143,140 candidates who scored a mean grade of C+ and above will be absorbed by our universities and TVET institutions by choice. Further, the remaining 600,159 are eligible to apply for TVET programmes offered in our National Polytechnics and other Technical Training Institutions.

I wish to conclude this speech by saying that, all learners - including these young ones of Joseph Kangethe Primary School - must remember that: "The beautiful thing about education is that no one can take it away from you."

Education is a long-term investment. The time, hard work one puts in, and the courage to overcome challenges and persevere the journey always pays off in the fullness of time.

Thank you very much.