

TEACHERS SERVICE COMMISSION



TALKING POINTS

BY

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COMMISSION SECRETARY/CHIEF EXECUTIVE

DURING

THE WORLD TEACHERS' DAY CELEBRATIONS

AT

**KENYA SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT, KABETE ,
NAIROBI**

ON

5TH OCTOBER, 2023

SALUTATIONS:

- Commission Chairman, Dr Jamleck Muturi John
- Secretary General, Kenya National Union of Teachers (KNUT)
- Secretary General, Kenya Union of Post Primary Education Teachers (KUPPET)
- Secretary General, Kenya Union of Special Need Education Teachers (KUSNET)
- Chairperson Kenya Secondary School Heads Association (KESSHA)
- Chairman Kenya Primary School Heads Association (KEPSHA)
- Kenya Women Teachers Association (KEWOTA)
- Special School Heads Association of Kenya (SSHAK)

Our partners:

- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- Kenya National Commission for UNESCO (KNATCOM)
- United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)

Teachers

Invited Guests.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am extremely excited to be part of this great annual event of celebrating the World Teachers' Day. I welcome all of you to this event, and to confirm to you that the Teachers Service Commission, right from the Board to the Secretariat, is fully committed to ensure the welfare of teachers as its primary responsibility.

This occasion is significant since it brings to the fore the significant role that teachers play in provision of quality education. The theme of this year's World Teachers Day is '*The Teachers we Need for the Education we Want: The global imperative to reverse the teacher shortage*'. This is a timely theme as it reflects the critical role that is being played by the teachers in ensuring the education programmes are delivered to address the societal needs. As one of the scholars *Christopher Pyne* said "...a quality education begins with the best teachers, ...and that... "quality of an education system cannot exceed the quality of its teachers".

This day honours teachers around the globe and celebrates their contribution to shaping the future of their learners and their nations. It also examines the ways in which education systems, societies, communities, and employers recognise, appreciate, and actively support teachers.

One would ask, what is there to celebrate the Kenyan teacher for in the past one year? I wish to outline just **SIX** reasons why we are celebrating today:

1. Restoration of the normal school calendar

From 2020 to 2022, our country mounted a heavily constricted academic calendar, which contained a heavily constricted programme that heavily put pressure on the teacher and learner. The aim was to work towards the normalising of the school calendar. Today, therefore, we must celebrate our teachers for soaking all the pressure over the past two years, which has enabled us achieve the normal school calendar in 2023.

2. Transitioning of Grade 6 learners to Grade 7

Secondly the Kenyan teacher has been instrumental this year in successfully transitioning the Grade 6 learners to Grade 7 in 2023. This has been no mean task as the Junior School level, under the CBC, was being introduced to our schools this year. The fact that our teachers have successfully swam into the deep Junior School waters this year and guided our learners exceptionally well is something we must celebrate today.

3. Participation in CBC Retooling process

This year, in between their normal duties, **75,250** teachers have participated in the retooling exercise to ensure they are compliant with the CBC. This involved the newly recruited teachers, Headteachers and teachers deployed from primary to junior school and also teachers drawn from private schools.

The fact that these teachers managed to attend the sessions while at the same time expected to attend to their normal school programmes is indeed a reason to celebrate them. This has enhanced the pedagogical content knowledge implementation for the newly recruited teachers currently handling grade 7. The Commission celebrates the pre-primary and primary School teachers who have embraced implementation of CBC and are tirelessly assisting the Kenyan learners to acquire the required core competencies and values.

In line with this year's World Teachers Day theme, to increase teachers presence in classroom, the **Kenya Kwanza Government** has recruited **56,000**. I wish to also announce that we will be retooling these teachers countrywide starting tomorrow **6th to 13th October 2023** which involve the **36,000** teachers recruited in **January, 2023** and **20,000** recruited in **August 2023**.

4. Successful Review of the 2021-2025 CBA

Part of our celebrations this year includes the fact that, unlike other sectors, teachers have successfully renegotiated the CBA for higher salaries of up to **9.5** per cent. I wish to congratulate all officials of the respective trade unions for putting their best feet forward as they sat on the negotiation table to ensure quick conclusion of the **CBA 2021-2025** review.

5. The 2023 National Examinations Season

As I said earlier, the Kenyan teacher has restored the normal academic calendar for schools. As a result, our national examinations and assessments are set to start on October 30, 2023. Last week, we launched the examinations season, which has culminated in countrywide briefings this week to be attended by **71,760** Centre Managers. For the purpose of the 2023 national examinations, the TSC has vetted a total of **223,223** teachers who will serve as supervisors and invigilators while **37,731** will perform the role of examiners. We must celebrate our teachers for doing a splendid job in guiding all our candidates for important national examinations. I am, again, very confident that the teachers that we have earmarked to guide the administration of the examinations will carry out their responsibilities as guided under the Kenya National Examinations Council regulations.

6. Recognition of Teachers

The TSC recognises that a professional and committed service is crucial for improved learning outcomes in Kenya. Our commitment is to continue to work towards transforming and elevating teaching as a profession. In this case, the Commission has recognised teachers who have demonstrated exemplary performance in management and delivery of the curriculum including co-curriculum for quality education. The process has been carried out in adherence with the TSC Performance Recognition, Reward and Sanction Policy Framework.

As a result, we are today honouring **592** teachers; 200 who are present with us here and the rest across the counties for their outstanding service as outlined in the policy. These teachers have posted outstanding performance both as individuals and teams in academic, co-curricular activities and community service. Some have been recognised nationally and internationally as you will see shortly when we present them with various awards. Let us take time to honour and admire all their contribution in elevating the teaching profession.

Today isn't a day for long speeches. It is a day to honour our teachers. I therefore wish to invite the Chairman of the TSC Dr Jamleck Muturi John to make his speech.

Thank You and God bless you.