



Commission Cautions Public against Fraudsters, Dismisses Ex-Teacher's Claim of Stolen Pension

The teachers' employer has dismissed as fake a letter asking teachers to apply for positions in junior and senior secondary schools.

The circular shared on social media purported that the Commission was seeking to deploy an undisclosed number of teachers to the junior secondary schools in the 2025/2026 academic year to help boost the quality of education.

The document, which had a fake signature of Teachers Service Commission (TSC) Chief Executive Nancy Macharia, directed principals of secondary schools to submit names of applicants to sub-county directors by October 1 this year.

The Commission flagged the bogus notice, cautioning individuals to beware of fraudsters. The Commission also advised the public that it does not charge for employment, recruitment, transfer, promotion and pension services.

At the same time, the TSC also dismissed claims by a former teacher that his death was faked and gratuity paid to individuals purporting to be his sons.

The Commission clarified that the person was dismissed from service in 2012, making him ineligible for pension. TSC further added that there is no official record showing that the teacher

is dead or had his pension claim processed.

In line with the provisions of The Pensions Act (Cap. 189), the Code of Regulations for Teachers (2015) provides for the benefits that may be paid to teachers serving on permanent and pensionable terms when they exit service. They include pension, service gratuity, marriage gratuity, death gratuity, and dependants' pension.

The mandate for payment of these benefits is vested in the Pensions Department of the National Treasury. The TSC, however, processes claims in respect of eligible teachers and submits them to the treasury for payment.

Death gratuity is a lump sum (one off) amount payable to the legal representative or dependants of a teacher who dies while serving on permanent and pensionable terms of service. The amount payable is equivalent to two years' salary, calculated on the salary at the time of death.

Regulation 173 of the Code of Regulations for Teachers provides that 'a teacher confirmed on permanent and pensionable appointment shall be entitled to death gratuity which shall be payable to the legal representative or to the dependants.'

TSC Calls for Compliance with School Safety Standards as Government Conducts Probe into Cases of Unrest

The Teachers Service Commission (TSC) has directed principals and head teachers to step up measures to promote safety of learners in schools.

TSC Chief Executive Nancy Macharia urged school heads to be vigilant, enhance supervision of learners and tackle disciplinary cases promptly to forestall disorder and promote a conducive learning environment.

In a circular dated September 13, Dr Macharia instructed all heads of institutions to work jointly with officers from the Ministry of Education and National Government administration to maintain safety in schools.

“As you are aware, safety, security and welfare of learners as well as effective management of institutional property is an integral component of the teaching and learning process. To this end, Institutional Administrators are required to take adequate measures to ensure safety of learners and institutional property,” the circular read.

The directive comes amid a wave of unrest that has hit various schools in the recent weeks, which have caused injuries to students and damage of property.

Several public secondary schools have been shut down indefinitely as the government institutes measures to contain the problem.

Dr Macharia also put head teachers flouting guidelines on safety standards on notice. She lamented that some head teachers have not implemented the guidelines provided in the Safety Standards Manual for Schools in Kenya, placing the welfare of learners in jeopardy.

She underscored that the Government has issued adequate policies and circulars to the school administrators to assist them in enforcing compliance with the guidelines.

“The Commission shall take firm disciplinary action against those found to have flouted the guidelines stipulated in the Manual, in accordance with the



Illustration: The Government has directed head teachers to promote safety of learners.

provisions of the Code of Regulations for Teachers and the Code of Conduct and Ethics,” the document read.

Specifically, the head teachers were ordered to remain in school at all times and jointly work with deputy heads of institution and senior masters in charge of boarding programmes to safeguard learners’ safety.

They were also instructed to partner with law enforcement agencies in investigating arson and indiscipline incidents and recommend administrative and legal action against perpetrators.

The government is keen on abating upheaval in schools following the dormitory inferno that claimed the lives of 21 students at Hillside Endarasha Academy Primary School in Nyeri County on September 6.

To prevent a recurrence, the Ministry of Education embarked on a multiagency inspection of all public and private basic learning institutions to assess their levels of adherence to the manual.

In a statement on September 11, Basic

Education Principal Secretary Belio Kipsang stated that the first stage of the undertaking will cover boarding primary and junior schools, while the subsequent phase will cover secondary schools.

“The inspection will also provide an opportunity for the Government to unearth reasons behind the recent spate of school fires that have been reported in a few schools in the country, and make recommendations to remedy the situation,” he said.

Members of the taskforce include officials from the ministries of Education, Health and Interior and National Administration. Others are agents from the Department of Public Works, Kenya Red Cross and county governments.

PS Kipsang emphasised that school administrators, managers and ministry officials found culpable of contravening the regulations will be prosecuted.

Figures from the Ministry of Education shows that there have been 107 school fire incidents and 239 cases of unrest this year .



Breast Cancer Awareness Month

THEME: No-One Should Face Breast Cancer Alone



1st to 31st October

2024

Also known as the pink month, October has been designated to promote awareness on Breast Cancer. Breast cancer occurs when breast cells start to grow abnormally. The cells grow rapidly compared to healthy cells and are stored in the body forming a lump. It is the most common Cancer globally with around 2.3 million cases annually. It represents 1 in 8 cancer cases in both sexes and a quarter of all cancers in women. 70% of deaths occur in resource constraint areas such as Kenya.

In Kenya, Breast Cancer is the most diagnosed cancer with an annual incidence of 6000 new cases and 2500 cancer related deaths. 7 women lose their lives daily because of breast cancer. Cancer is the 3rd cause of death in Kenya after infectious conditions and cardiovascular conditions with Cervical Cancer being the leading cause of cancer deaths in women followed by Breast Cancer.

Objectives for this year's theme are;

- To promote advocacy, awareness, social mobilization, and behavior change communication on breast cancer.
- To provide a platform for knowledge exchange, multisectoral collaboration, action and renewed Global Breast Cancer Initiative key performance indicators by Member States.
- To launch the Breast Cancer Patient Navigation brief and knowledge action portal.
- To encourage focused country policy dialogues on improving breast cancer service delivery, monitoring and evaluation at all levels of care.

In 2024, an estimated 367,320 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer while an estimated 42,250 will lose their lives. Though black women have a lower incidence compared to the white race but are 40% more likely to lose their lives. More than 4 million people are survivors or living with the disease – more than any other group of cancer survivors. Such statistics remind us that there is more to do. There are ways to prevent the occurrence of Breast Cancer through watching out on the modifiable risk factors.

Non-Modifiable Risk Factors



Gender

females are more at risk compared to men accounting for 99% of the cancer diagnoses



Older age

80% of cases occur in women 45 years and older and men above 60 years.



Previous history

previous diagnosis of Breast Cancer increases the risk of a subsequent diagnosis.



Family history

History of breast cancer diagnosis in a mother, father, sister or brother increases the likelihood of Breast Cancer.

Modifiable Risk Factors

Obesity

A body mass index of 25 and more increases estrogen levels through excessive fat cells in the body.

Alcohol Intake

Alcohol increases the presence and amount of estrogen in the body.

Cigarette smoking

Multiple impurities and chemicals contained in cigarettes leads to cell damage and uncontrolled cell growth.

Diet

A diet high in fats increases the presence of estrogen.

Sedentary lifestyle

Lack of physical exercise increases the presence of fatty tissues that directly correlate to estrogen production.

Radiation exposure

Radiation causes gene mutations that can lead to cancer cells occurrence.

Hormonal therapy

Estrogen hormone plays a key role in breast cancer occurrence.

References

1. Breast Cancer Facts and Stats, National Breast Cancer Foundation. 1st August 2024.
2. WHO Global Breast Initiative: Breast Cancer Awareness Month. World Health Organization, 2024.
3. 2024 Breast Cancer Awareness Month Events and Initiative, Monica Smith. 4th September 2024.

Recruitment of Teachers to Administer KCSE, KPSEA and KILEA Examinations Underway

The recruitment of more than 70,000 teachers to administer this year's national examination and assessments has kicked off in earnest.

The Teachers Service Commission (TSC) is targeting to hire roughly 188,859 teachers to work as centre managers, supervisors and invigilators ahead of the start of the examinations in October 22.

In a circular to regional and county directors, TSC Chief Executive Officer Nancy Macharia instructed the officers to select, vet and nominate teachers to be engaged in the administration of Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE), Kenya Intermediate Level Education Assessment (KILEA) and Kenya Primary School Education Assessment (KPSEA) examination and assessments by October 11.

"Only supervisors and invigilators who have registered in the CP2 system will be deployed to manage the 2024 national examination and assessments hence have their claims processed," it read.

More than two million learners registered for the examinations that will run from October to November 2024.

About 965,501 candidates will sit the KCSE examination between October 22 and November 22, with rehearsals scheduled for October 18, while roughly 1,313,913 learners transitioning from Grade 6 to 7 will rehearse for the KPSEA assessment on October 25 and sit the examination from October 28 to October 30.

The candidates will be the third cohort to sit the assessment under the Competency-Based Curriculum. Special needs learners will sit the KILEA assessment from October 28 to October 31, with rehearsal set for October 25.

The document also provided the administrators with guidelines for the exercise, key among them

Type of Examination	No. of Centre Managers	No. of Supervisors	No. of Invigilators
KCSE	9156	10,354	53,275
KPSEA	16,934	17,327	81,069
KILEA	-	-	744
TOTAL	26,090	27,681	135,088

the deployment of qualified teachers registered and employed by the Commission.

As a measure of promoting integrity of the examination, supervisors, centre managers and invigilators must declare interest of the centre they are posted to.

"The circular also requires the sub-county directors to Centre managers will be required to verify supervisors and invigilators posted in their centres by confirming their details and workstation. They will be required to take attendance on a daily basis," it adds, which is a bid to ensure that only relevant personnel are at the examination centres.

The sub-county directors are further required to ensure that the number of invigilators deployed to hosted centres must be commensurate to the number of candidates at the centre.

The raft of requirements also dictates that one supervisor will be in charge of 200 candidates, and no supervisor and invigilator should be deployed to a centre they have served in in the last two consecutive years.

According to the rules, only secondary school teachers will be required to act as supervisors and invigilators for the KCSE examination.

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. Send your feedback and contribution to: mwalimunews@tsc.go.ke

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