

News Brief



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Quote of the Month



Great leaders don't succeed because they are great. They succeed because they bring out the greatness in others.

-Jon Gordon



Editor's Note

In this edition, we endeavour to provide concise yet comprehensive coverage of the most significant events shaping the Qualifications sphere. Our team has meticulously curated the latest updates across various domains, within and beyond the Authority's Walls.

We remain committed to upholding the highest standards of integrity, ensuring that our readers receive accurate and balanced reporting.

Thank you for choosing KNQA Briefs as your trusted companion in navigating the complexities of our ever-evolving world.

Editorial Team

Ivey Koin

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Albert Induli



MESSAGE FROM CHAIRMAN

**Hon. Stanley Kiptis,
Council Chairperson**



Dear Team,

On behalf of the KNQA Council and the entire team, I extend warm congratulations to our able Director General Dr. Alice Kande for her appointment as the CEO of our esteemed organization. Your selection for this role comes as no surprise, given your exceptional track record, dedication, and vision for our institution.

Your leadership skills and deep understanding of the Authority's mission and goals make you the perfect candidate to steer us forward into a new era of growth and excellence. We fully believe in your ability to inspire and guide the team toward greater achievements.

As you embark on this new journey, please know that you have the full support of the KNQA Council and every member of our staff. Together, we will work tirelessly to uphold our standards of quality and service, ensuring that we continue to make a positive impact in our field.

We also extend our best wishes to you and your family as you take on this important role. We understand the sacrifices and dedication required and we are grateful for your commitment to serving the Authority.

Once again, congratulations, Dr. Kande! We look forward to working closely with you and witnessing the great strides we will undoubtedly make under your leadership.

Warm regards,



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL



Dear Team,

I wish to express my deepest gratitude for the incredible honour and privilege of being appointed as the Director General/CEO of the Kenya National Qualifications Authority (KNQA). It is with immense humility and excitement that I step into this role, fully committed to steering the Authority towards greater heights of success and achievement.

I am truly grateful for the trust and confidence that the Council and the entire team have placed in me. I recognize the

weight of responsibility that comes with this position, and I am dedicated to upholding the values and vision of the Authority.

I am eager to work closely with every one of you to drive innovation, foster a culture of excellence, and deliver exceptional results. Together, I am confident that we will overcome challenges, seize opportunities, and continue to exceed expectations.

I am deeply appreciative of the support and encouragement I have already received from all corners of the Authority. Your belief in my abilities fuels my determination to lead with integrity, transparency, and unwavering commitment.

As we embark on this exciting journey together, I am inspired by the collective talent, passion, and determination within the Authority. With your collaboration and dedication, I am confident that we will write the next chapter of success for KNQA.

Thank you once again for this incredible opportunity. I am truly honored to serve as Director General/CEO, and I look forward to a future filled with shared accomplishments and continued growth.

Warm regards,



Dr. Alice Kande, Director General/CEO, KNQA

RECENT EVENTS



Prime Cabinet Secretary Hon. Musalia Mudavadi (from right), CS Education Hon. Ezekiel Machogu, PS TVET Dr. Esther Muoria, PS Higher Education and Research Dr. Beatrice Inyangala, KNOA Director General Dr. Alice Kande and KUCCPS CEO Dr. Mercy Wahome during the opening ceremony of the PASET Conference. The three-day conference hosted at the Safari Park Hotel is a sub-Saharan Africa program that aims to strengthen Science, Technology, and Engineering capabilities for the socio-economic transformation of the member countries through post-doctoral training and skilling the youth in the TVET Sector.

Prime Cabinet Secretary Hon. Musalia Mudavadi and CS Education Hon. Ezekiel Machogu at the 6th PASET Forum/Conference at Safaripark Hotel in Nairobi.





KNQA Council Chairperson Hon. Stanley Kiptis Receives H.E Deputy President Hon. Rigathi Gachagua during the RPL Launch/Graduation Ceremony at KICC on 22nd March 2024.

KNQA Ag. Director General Dr Alice Kande receives an award from H.E. President William Ruto during the third day of the Third National Wage Bill Conference, 2024 at the Bomas of Kenya. KNQA was recognized for its well-managed wage bill and zero audit queries by @OAG_Kenya



KNQA Director General Dr. Alice Kande welcomes Deputy President Hon. Rigathi Gachagua at the Nyeri National Polytechnic during a graduation ceremony.



KNQA Council Members with part of the Authority's Staff Members during a recent retreat workshop in Mombasa.



KNQA Chairperson Hon Stanley Kiptis(second from left), Director General Dr. Alice Kande(second from right), Consultant Dr.Laura Mamuli (right) in the front row together with the staff of the Authority in a group photo during the refining of KNQA outreach policy workshop in Naivasha. The policy will go a long way in enhancing stakeholders' understanding of the Authority's policies, priority action areas, and engagement opportunities.



KNQA DG Dr Alice Kande among other participants at Nation Leadership Forum. The focus is on global perspectives in Kenya's education reforms.



KNQA hosts Representatives from Aga-Khan University where matters of collaboration on Qualification Alignment and Validation were discussed.

WAY FORWARD RPL: KNQA'S FOCUS ON RPL IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES



KNQA Ag. Director General Dr. Alice Kande explains the Significance of RPL to H.E Deputy President Hon. Rigathi Gachagua during the RPL Launch/Graduation Ceremony at KICC on 22nd March, 2024.

On the illustrious evening of March 22nd, 2024, the Kenya National Qualifications Authority (KNQA) transformed the Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC) into a hub of celebration and accomplishment. The occasion marked the Post Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Launch and Graduation Ceremony, a pivotal event recognizing the dedication, perseverance, and academic prowess of individuals who have embarked on a journey to elevate their qualifications and skills. Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) stands as a beacon of inclusivity and empowerment in Kenya's educational landscape. It acknowledges the wealth of knowledge and experience individuals accumulate through informal learning channels, such as work experience, volunteering, and self-study. RPL offers a pathway for individuals to formalize and validate their expertise, enabling them to bridge the gap between their existing skills and accredited qualifications.

As the ceremony unfolded, each graduate took center stage, a symbol of personal triumph and societal progress. Their stories echoed tales of resilience, determination, and the unwavering pursuit of excellence. From seasoned professionals seeking to upskill in their respective fields to individuals charting new career trajectories, the diversity of backgrounds underscored RPL's universal appeal and transformative potential.

H.E Deputy President, Hon. Rigathi Gachagua delivered a stirring keynote address, emphasizing the pivotal role of RPL in fostering lifelong learning and driving economic growth. She highlighted KNQA's commitment to expanding access to quality education and ensuring no talent goes unrecognized or underutilized. The ceremony was a tapestry of cultural diversity and academic excellence. From artisans mastering traditional crafts to tech enthusiasts pioneering innovation, each graduate embodied the rich tapestry of Kenya's talents. Their achievements served as a testament to the power of education to break barriers, uplift communities, and ignite transformational change.



RPL graduand Mr. Silas Kimatu who is among the beneficiaries of the Program and true testimony of a self-made approved motor mechanic during the RPL graduation at KICC in Nairobi

Beyond the conferral of certificates, the ceremony symbolized a broader commitment to empowering individuals and communities. Armed with newfound qualifications and renewed confidence, the graduates are poised to contribute meaningfully to Kenya's socio-economic fabric, driving innovation, and fostering inclusive growth.

When all was said and done, the echoes of applause lingered, a poignant reminder of the collective journey embarked upon and the promise of brighter tomorrows. The RPL Launch and Graduation Ceremony served not only as a celebration of past accomplishments but also as a beacon of hope for the future—a future where education knows no bounds, and opportunities abound for all who dare to dream.

Amidst cheers of jubilation and tears of joy, the Kenya National Qualifications Authority ushered in a new era of possibility and promise. The RPL Launch and Graduation Ceremony encapsulated the spirit of resilience, determination, and transformation, heralding a future where every individual's potential is recognized, celebrated, and unleashed for the betterment of society.

As all systems go, it is worth noting that RPL (Recognition of Prior Learning) policies are crucial for acknowledging individuals' existing skills and knowledge, particularly in education and workforce development. The Kenya National Qualifications Authority (KNQA) plays a significant role in formulating and implementing RPL policies in Kenya.

Here are some strategies that KNQA is set to employ in implementing RPL policy According to Dr. Peter Wekesa, KNQA Ag. Deputy Director PROP and Chairperson RPL Steering Committee:



Stakeholder Engagement:

KNQA is set to engage with various stakeholders, including educational institutions, employers, professional bodies, and civil society organizations, to gather input and build consensus on RPL implementation.



Awareness Campaigns:

Launching awareness campaigns to inform the public, employers, and educators about the benefits of RPL and how it works. This could include workshops, seminars, informational materials, and online resources.



Guidelines and Standards:

Developing clear guidelines and standards for assessing and accrediting prior learning. These guidelines should outline the criteria for assessing prior learning, documentation requirements, assessment methods, and credit transfer mechanisms.



Capacity Building:

Providing training and capacity building programs for assessors, educators, and administrators involved in RPL processes. This ensures they have the necessary skills and knowledge to conduct assessments fairly and accurately.



Quality Assurance:

Establishing quality assurance mechanisms to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of RPL processes. This may include regular audits, feedback mechanisms, and review panels to ensure consistency, fairness, and reliability in assessment outcomes.



Flexible Assessment Methods:

Offering a range of assessment methods to accommodate different types of prior learning, including portfolios, interviews, practical demonstrations, and examinations. This ensures that individuals from diverse backgrounds have an equal opportunity to demonstrate their skills and knowledge.



Credit Transfer:

Facilitating the transfer of credits earned through RPL to formal qualifications and training programs. This encourages lifelong learning and allows individuals to progress within the education and training system more efficiently.



Incentives:

Providing incentives for individuals to undergo RPL assessments, such as fee waivers, scholarships, or recognition awards. Employers could also be incentivized to value and support employees' participation in RPL processes.



Partnerships:

Collaborating with other government agencies, industry associations, and international organizations to share best practices, leverage resources, and promote RPL as a valuable tool for skills development and recognition.

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Continuous Improvement:

Continuously reviewing and updating RPL policies and processes based on feedback, research, and changing needs and trends in the labor market and education sector.

H.E Deputy President Hon. Rigathi Gachagua issues RPL Certificates to successful graduands



KNQA RECEIVES ACCOLADES FOR WAGE BILL ACCOUNTABILITY



KNQA Chairperson Hon Stanley Kiptis (left), and Director General Dr. Alice Kande (center) follow proceedings during the third day of the Third National Wage Bill Conference, 2024 at the Bomas of Kenya

The Kenya National Qualifications Authority (KNQA) was honoured with the Wage Bill Accountability Award by President William Ruto, alongside two other government agencies. As the first runners-up, KNQA was recognized for her exemplary performance.

Outshining over 300 government agencies, KNQA maintained the parameters set by the Salaries and Remuneration Commission (SRC) during the Commission's third national wage bill conference at the Bomas of Kenya. Their wage bill remained below 35 percent of revenue for three consecutive years, demonstrating a commitment to fiscal responsibility. Additionally, they received unqualified audit opinions from the Auditor General for three consecutive years and implemented productivity measures, as acknowledged by the SRC.

President Ruto praised the winning institutions for their exemplary leadership in managing the wage bill, setting a commendable example for the public sector. He emphasized the importance of collaboration and commitment to implementing strategies aimed at achieving public service wage bill sustainability, in line with the conference's theme of "Towards 35%".

Dr. Kande, on behalf of KNQA, received the award, expressing pride in the team's achievement and vowing to continue their efforts to excel further.

President Ruto reiterated the government's commitment to supporting institutions in implementing such initiatives, urging unity, patriotism, and teamwork to ensure success.

KNQA: DR. ALICE KANDE CONFIRMED NEW AUTHORITY'S CEO



KNQA has confirmed Dr. Alice Kande as its Director General. Dr.Kande has been holding the position in acting capacity since December 7, 2022. She has been the acting DG following the exit of Juma Mukhwana who now serves as Principal Secretary State Department for Industry. Dr. Kande will hold the position for five years.

In his remarks at the Authority's headquarters, KNQA Chairperson Hon. Stanley Kiptis said that following deliberations and careful consideration, the council appointed Alice Kande as the Director General/Chief Executive officer for a five-year term. It is worth noting that before the appointment, Dr. Kande served as Deputy Director in charge of Planning, Research, Outreach, and Policy at the Authority.

Dr. Kande holds a doctorate in Business Administration (Strategic Management) from Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology. She also holds a Master's in Business Administration and a Bachelor of Education both from Kenyatta University.

Dr. Kande is a member of the Kenya Institute of Management and Academy of International Business-SSA Chapter.

Before joining KNQA in 2021, Dr. Kande was a Senior Researcher at the Commission for University Education (CUE). "We have confidence in her leadership and hope she will steer the organization well, she has delivered for the period she served as acting Director General," Hon. Kiptis said.

"The Council congratulates Kande on her appointment and thanks all the candidates, stakeholders, and Kenyans for their participation in the recruitment and selection process," he added.

KNQA AT 6TH PASET ANNUAL FORUM & RSIF: TVET'S ROLE IN AFRICA'S INDUSTRIAL SHIFT

The 6th PASET (Partnership for Skills in Applied Sciences, Engineering, and Technology) Forum and RSIF (Regional Scholarship and Innovation Fund) Annual Conference which took place in Nairobi recently attracted a global attendance, marking a pivotal moment for Africa's education and industrialization landscape. The event, graced by esteemed dignitaries including Prime Cabinet Secretary H.E Hon. Musalia Mudavadi and Cabinet Secretary for Education Hon. Ezekiel Machogu, brought together policymakers, educators, innovators, and stakeholders from across the continent and large to delve into the theme: "Leveraging TVET in the Knowledge and Skills Ecosystem for Africa's Industrialization."

One of the key highlights was the inaugural address by Prime Cabinet Secretary H.E Hon. Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, (Representing President H.E Dr. William Ruto) who underscored the centrality of TVET in shaping Africa's future. "Investing in TVET is not just about imparting skills; it's about empowering individuals, driving innovation, and building resilient economies," Dr. Mudavadi emphasized. His sentiments were echoed by other high-level speakers, including Hon. Ezekiel Machogu and Dr. Esther Muoria, emphasizing the need for concerted efforts to transform Africa's education landscape.

During the Event, the Kenya National Qualifications Authority (KNQA) took center stage, showcasing its commitment to advancing Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) through an engaging exhibition. Drawing delegates from various corners of the world, the KNQA's exhibition spotlighted innovative approaches and initiatives aimed at enhancing the quality and relevance of TVET programs in skills, lifelong Learning, Recognition of Prior Learning across Africa.



Dr. Alice Kande, the Director General of KNQA, emphasized the critical role of TVET in driving Africa's industrialization agenda. She highlighted the importance of equipping the continent's workforce with practical skills and competencies tailored to the demands of emerging industries. "At KNQA, we are dedicated to fostering a dynamic TVET ecosystem that nurtures talent, fosters innovation, and accelerates economic development," Dr. Kande affirmed.

Throughout the conference, discussions revolved around harnessing the full potential of TVET to address the evolving needs of Africa's industries. From panel sessions to interactive workshops, experts shared insights on best practices, policy frameworks, and strategic partnerships aimed at strengthening TVET systems across the continent.

The conference also provided a platform for showcasing groundbreaking research and innovations emerging from the RSIF program. Scholars and researchers shared their experiences and insights into how RSIF-funded initiatives are driving scientific excellence and fostering technological innovation across Africa.

As the curtains drew to a close on the 6th PASET Forum and RSIF Annual Conference, delegates departed with renewed optimism and a shared commitment to advancing TVET as a catalyst for Africa's industrial transformation. The event served as a testament to the power of collaboration, innovation, and visionary leadership in shaping the continent's future.

In the wake of the conference, stakeholders are poised to leverage the momentum gained to drive tangible action and policy reforms that will unlock Africa's vast potential and propel it towards a future of prosperity and sustainable development. With TVET at the forefront, Africa stands poised to harness its demographic dividend and chart a course towards inclusive growth and shared prosperity for all.

Generally, it's important to note that PASET, is an initiative launched by African governments, the World Bank, and various partners to address the critical shortage of skilled professionals in Africa, particularly in the fields of applied sciences, engineering, and technology. So far, 11 member countries have joined the initiative (Bénin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal and Tanzania)

The primary goal of PASET is to strengthen the capacity of African countries to produce highly skilled professionals who can contribute to the continent's development and economic growth. It focuses on improving the quality of higher education, promoting research and innovation, and enhancing the relevance of education to the needs of the job market. The initiative targets to train at least 800 new PhDs in Applied Sciences, Engineering, and Technology (ASET) in priority domains in the next 10 years who will train the next generation of Students, researchers, and innovators in Sub-Saharan Africa through a flagship program called "Regional Scholarship and Innovation Fund (RSIF)".



KNQA Council Chairperson Hon. Stanley Kiptis second (L) and Director General Dr. Alice Kande second (R), share a Light Moment with other Delegates during the 6th PASET Forum at Safari Park Hotel in Nairobi.

PASET operates through three main pillars: Regional Scholarship and Innovation Fund (RSIF), Regional Benchmarking Initiative (RBI), and Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Initiative. These pillars aim to address different aspects of skills development, including supporting PhD and master's level education, improving the quality of higher education institutions, and enhancing technical and vocational training programs.

Overall, PASET represents a concerted effort to transform Africa's education and training systems to meet the demands of the modern economy and contribute to the continent's sustainable development. The new PASET Strategic Plan for 10 years (2024-2033) highlighted the importance of TVET, which did form part of PASET's original proposed activities, and which could again become an important future thrust area for PASET. TVET is equally important for Africa's future scientific and Technological development. This explains why this year's Forum is emphasizing TVET.

KNQA ADVANCES TRANSPARENCY AND GLOBAL RECOGNITION WITH NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS CLASSIFICATION STANDARD: DR. KANDE

"At the heart of one of KNQA directives lies the creation of the Kenya National Qualifications Classification Standard (KNQCS), intended to establish a uniform system for coding national qualifications bestowed by various institutions within the country.

This initiative arises from the varied terminologies and codes utilized by educational and training providers in Kenya. The KNQCS is presently undergoing review by multiple stakeholders, led by the Kenya National Qualifications Authority. These



stakeholders encompass the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Authority (TVETA), the National Industrial Training Authority (NITA), the Ministry of Education, the State Department of Early Childhood and Basic Education, the Directorate of Quality Assurance and Standards, UNESCO's Institute of Statistics (UIS), the Kenya Institute for Curriculum Development (KICD), the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Curriculum Development, Assessment, and Certification Council (TVET CDACC), the Ministry of Labour, among others.

The objective is to harmonize with the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED), categorizing programs and resulting qualifications using three principal variables: fields of education and training (ISCED-F 2013), KNOF levels, and levels of educational completion (ISCED-P 2011).

The motivation behind KNQCS arises from the necessity for a standardized national system to address the challenges posed by diverse coding methods. Its purpose is straightforward: to facilitate seamless mobility, comparability, and recognition of qualifications both domestically and internationally.

KNQCS aims to classify education and training programs based on ISCED fields, ensuring clear program identification, fostering transparency, enabling comparability, enhancing education system statistics reporting, and promoting skills and learner mobility.

The standard encompasses the coding of all education and training programs in Kenya and targets various stakeholders, including education institutions, accrediting bodies, curriculum developers, employers, and more.

Grounded in national and international frameworks such as the Constitution of Kenya

2010, Kenya Vision 2030, and the KNQF Act No. 22 of 2014, KNQCS aligns with global commitments such as the United Nations Sustainable Goal No. 4 and the African Continental Qualifications Framework.

Effective qualification naming and coding are crucial for categorization, recognition, and communication. KNQCS provides guidelines for program nomenclature, ensuring relevance, distinctiveness, and clarity.

Prerequisites for coding involve mapping programs with ISCED F-2013, conducting detailed program analysis, and applying the KNQF. The eight-digit KNQCS code combines elements from ISCED F-2013, KNQF 2014, and ISCED P-2011, offering a unique identifier for each qualification.

Systematically mapping KNQF levels to corresponding ISCED levels is essential for consistency and accuracy in qualification classification. This exercise aims to render Kenyan qualifications internationally recognizable by aligning them with global standards.

The KNQCS represents a significant step toward establishing a transparent and standardized classification system for qualifications in Kenya. By enhancing comparability and recognition both nationally and internationally, it paves the way for improved education mobility and global collaboration.

The current preliminary stages focus on internal and targeted stakeholder validation, a crucial step preceding broader stakeholder validation, council approval, publishing, and gazetting. This process aims to identify and rectify any gaps or inconsistencies in the draft standard, ensuring accuracy and suitability.

KNQCS endeavors to harmonize and standardize the coding and classification of national qualifications, thereby enhancing national and international recognition, comparability, and transferability. The standard targets a wide array of stakeholders, including education and training entities, curriculum developers, regulatory agencies, qualification authorities, professional bodies, awarding institutions, assessment bodies, placement entities, employers, and other interested parties.”



KNQA ICT TEAM DRIVES INNOVATION THROUGH WEBSITE AND SYSTEM UPGRADES

In the dynamic realm of education, the seamless integration of technology is pivotal for fostering efficiency and accessibility. Recognizing this, the Kenya National Qualifications Authority (KNQA) has embarked on a transformative journey, with its ICT team spearheading initiatives aimed at upgrading the authority's website and systems. This initiative not only promises to streamline processes but also underscores Kenya's commitment to embracing digital innovation in its educational infrastructure. amidst a backdrop of innovation and progress, the KNQA ICT team recently convened a workshop dedicated to reimagining and fortifying the authority's digital footprint.

Held in Naivasha, this gathering served as a nexus for brainstorming ideas, fostering collaboration, and charting the roadmap for an enhanced online presence. At the core of this endeavor lies a sincere dedication to empowering education through technology. By revamping the authority's website and systems, the ICT team aims to facilitate seamless access to educational resources, streamline accreditation processes, and enhance user experience for stakeholders across the nation. Such advancements are poised to not only elevate the efficiency of KNQA's operations but also democratize access to educational opportunities. Central to the success of this initiative is the spirit of collaboration and innovation that permeates every facet of the workshop. Drawing upon the diverse expertise

within the ICT team, participants engage in spirited discussions, leveraging cutting-edge technologies and best practices to architect a digital ecosystem that is robust, user-centric, and future-ready. Through collaborative efforts, the team endeavors to transcend conventional boundaries, paving the way for transformative solutions that redefine the educational landscape of Kenya.

In navigating the intricacies of website and system upgrades, the ICT team confronts many challenges ranging from data security concerns to interoperability issues. However, armed with resilience and ingenuity, these challenges are not perceived as roadblocks but rather as opportunities for growth and innovation. By harnessing the power of emerging technologies such as cloud computing and data analytics, the team remains steadfast in its commitment to overcoming obstacles and realizing the full potential of KNQA's digital infrastructure.

As time goes by palpable sense of excitement and anticipation fills the air, as the Authority envisions the future trajectory of KNQA's digital evolution. Armed with newfound insights and innovative strategies, the ICT team emerges poised to embark on a transformative journey that transcends mere technological upgrades. At its core, this initiative embodies Kenya's unwavering resolve to harness the power of technology in advancing education, fostering inclusive growth, and unlocking the full potential of its citizens.

In the ever-evolving landscape of education, the convergence of technology and innovation catalyzes progress and empowerment. Through the concerted efforts of its ICT team, the Kenya National Qualifications Authority stands at the precipice of a digital renaissance, poised to redefine the boundaries of educational excellence and accessibility. As the workshop draws to a close, a sense of optimism pervades, heralding a future where technology serves as a beacon of hope, transforming aspirations into achievements and dreams into realities.

EMPOWERING KENYA'S EDUCATION SECTOR: KNQA QAV DEPARTMENT ENGAGE STAKEHOLDERS AND STAFF

In a bid to fortify Kenya's educational landscape, the Kenya National Qualifications Authority (KNQA) orchestrated a pivotal workshop in Naivasha. This endeavor, spearheaded by the Qualifications Alignment and Validation (QAV) Department of KNQA, was meticulously designed to capacity-build stakeholders and staff on the fundamental pillars of the Basic Education Framework. With an emphasis on collaboration and knowledge exchange, the workshop convened an esteemed cohort of professionals hailing from diverse educational entities.

The symposium served as a crucible for fostering synergies among key stakeholders instrumental in shaping Kenya's educational trajectory. Among the distinguished guests were representatives from the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), Curriculum Development, Assessment and Certification Council (CDACC), Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD), Technical and Vocational Education and Training Authority (TVETA), and the Directorate of Quality Assurance and Standards (DQAS).

One of the core objectives of the workshop was to elucidate the intricacies of the Basic Education Framework, a cornerstone in Kenya's educational architecture. Through a series of immersive sessions, participants delved into the nuances of the framework, gaining profound insights into its theoretical underpinnings and practical applications. From curriculum alignment to assessment methodologies, the workshop provided a comprehensive overview, empowering attendees with the requisite knowledge to navigate the educational landscape adeptly.

The interactive nature of the workshop facilitated robust discussions and knowledge exchange, fostering a dynamic learning environment. Participants seized the opportunity to share best practices, challenges, and innovative strategies, enriching the collective understanding of educational governance and quality assurance.

Moreover, the workshop served as a platform for fostering strategic collaborations and partnerships. By bringing together stakeholders from disparate domains within the education sector, KNQA catalyzed dialogue and cooperation, laying the groundwork for future collaborations aimed at advancing educational excellence and inclusivity.

KNQA's QAV H.O.D., Mr. James Onyango expressed his optimism about the outcomes of the workshop, stating that it was a pivotal moment in the collective endeavor to fortify Kenya's education sector. By fostering collaboration and equipping stakeholders with the requisite knowledge and skills, the Authority was laying the foundation for a more robust and inclusive educational ecosystem."

The resounding success of the workshop underscored KNQA's commitment to fostering excellence and innovation in Kenya's education sector. As the nation charts a course towards educational transformation, initiatives such as this serve as beacons of progress, illuminating the path towards a brighter future for generations to come.



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It was a Gratifying Moment, Realizing a Dream Re-kindling Policy, RPL.

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KNQA CEO Dr. Alice Kande.



KNQA Director General Dr. Alice Kande during an Interview with members of the Fourth Estate in her Office at NACOSTI Building

In a reflective moment within her office at NACOSTI Plaza in Loresho, Dr. Alice Kande, recently appointed CEO of the Kenya National Qualifications Authority (KNQA), shared insights into the journey of the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) policy. Having acted in her position for over a year, Dr. Kande articulated the evolution of the KNQF Act and its transformative opportunities, particularly for the informal sector, within the broader context of lifelong learning.

Dr. Kande traced the inception of the RPL policy back to 2018 when it was mooted by the employers' fraternity, driven by the imperative of fostering a skills-oriented workforce. Emphasizing equity and accessibility, the KNQF comprises three sub-frameworks to recognize skills acquired through various pathways. Dr. Kande envisioned a flexible policy, allowing individuals to demonstrate their expertise without starting from scratch.

Highlighting the essence of RPL, Dr. Kande emphasized its focus on producing a workforce that is not merely paper-qualified but genuinely skilled, drawing from

practical demonstrations of expertise. By 2021, a multi-sectoral and multi-agency team had been assembled, culminating in drafting the initial RPL document by June of the same year. The subsequent years saw relentless efforts culminating in a meticulously researched RPL policy document by 2022, poised to unlock opportunities for skilled workers without formal credentials. The long-awaited document underwent rigorous quality assurance processes and was finally launched on March 22, 2024.

Reflecting on the piloting stages, Dr. Kande noted the overwhelming response from Kenyans, underscoring its alignment with the Government's Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) and its direct impact on empowering the Jua Kali sector. In her assessment of KNQA's role, Dr. Kande underscored the importance of quality assurance in the assessment process, ensuring adherence to stipulated standards across all facets of implementation.

Acknowledging the challenges encountered along the way, Dr. Kande navigated the uncharted waters with resilience, grappling with the complexities of introducing a novel policy in a landscape already populated with established frameworks. Resource constraints posed additional hurdles, albeit mitigated by the unwavering support of stakeholders, including the International Labour Organization (ILO) and sponsors who facilitated candidate assessments.

For Dr. Kande, the policy launch symbolized a collective triumph, a testament to the power of collaboration and concerted effort. She lauded the multi-ministerial support and expressed gratitude to all stakeholders, including government offices and international partners, for their unwavering support in delivering the RPL policy to fruition.

Looking optimistic, Dr. Kande expressed confidence in KNQA's ability to boldly navigate the next steps, envisioning a bright future characterized by transformative shifts in the education ecosystem.





MISSION:

To establish and manage the KNQF aimed at promoting globally recognized and competitive qualifications for sustainable development.

VISION:

Globally Recognized and Competitive Qualifications Transforming Kenya.

CORE VALUES:

Professionalism, Integrity, Teamwork, Accountability, Quality, Relevance, Equity, Responsiveness

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