

KNQA Briefs



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KNQA SIGNS 2023/2024 PC

Quote of the Month



You Gain Strength, Courage and Confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face

-Eleanor Roosevelt



Editor's Note

Dear colleagues,
Welcome to our second issue of the KNQA Briefs. We count on your support as we gear up towards our big day, the RPL Policy Launch and Graduation. The coming month has a lot in store for the Authority: the long-awaited RPL Policy Launch, the Graduation of the first RPL cohort, and the hosting of the ACQF team. We look forward to a successful October, and may the odds be ever in our favour!

Editorial Team

Ivey Koin
Albert Induli
Fiona Baraza

Upcoming Events

- Upcoming RPL launch/ graduation on October 6th, 2023
- Kenya will host Africa Continental Qualifications Framework (ACQF) workshop from 9th to 13th October 2023 in Nairobi. More details to follow.

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Dear Team,

I hope this message finds you all in good health and high spirits. Allow me to take a moment to express my sincere appreciation for the dedication and hard work that each one of you brings to the Kenya National Qualifications Authority (KNQA) every day.

The Authority's success is built on the collective efforts of our talented and committed team. It is your passion, expertise, and unwavering commitment to our mission that drives us forward. As the Chairperson of the KNQA, I am truly proud to be leading such an exceptional team.

In the face of challenges and obstacles, you have demonstrated resilience and adaptability, ensuring that our mission to promote and assure quality education and training in Kenya continues to progress. Your dedication has not only helped us maintain high standards but has also enabled us to exceed our goals.

”

Hon. Stanley Kiptis, Council Chairperson during KNQA's team building exercise in June.



“

Dear KNQA Team,

Jambo, let me take this moment to express my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for the exceptional dedication and hard work that each one of you brings to the Authority every day.

We encounter challenges and obstacles in pursuing our mission to promote quality education and lifelong learning. Yet, it is in overcoming these challenges that we truly prove our resilience and commitment to the cause.

I want to remind you that our work at KNQA profoundly impacts countless individuals' lives. Our efforts enable people to realize their dreams, achieve their aspirations, and contribute to the development of our nation.

Each assessment, each qualification recognized, each policy implemented, and each interaction with stakeholders is a step towards a brighter future for Kenya. Your dedication to excellence in your work is what drives this progress.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment, your passion, and your resilience. Your dedication is what makes KNQA a beacon of hope for learners and professionals across Kenya.

I believe in each one of you and the incredible potential we have as a team. Together, there's nothing we cannot achieve. Let's continue to inspire, educate, and transform lives. With deep appreciation and warm regards,

”

Dr. Alice Kande, Ag. Director General/CEO during KNQA's team building exercise in June



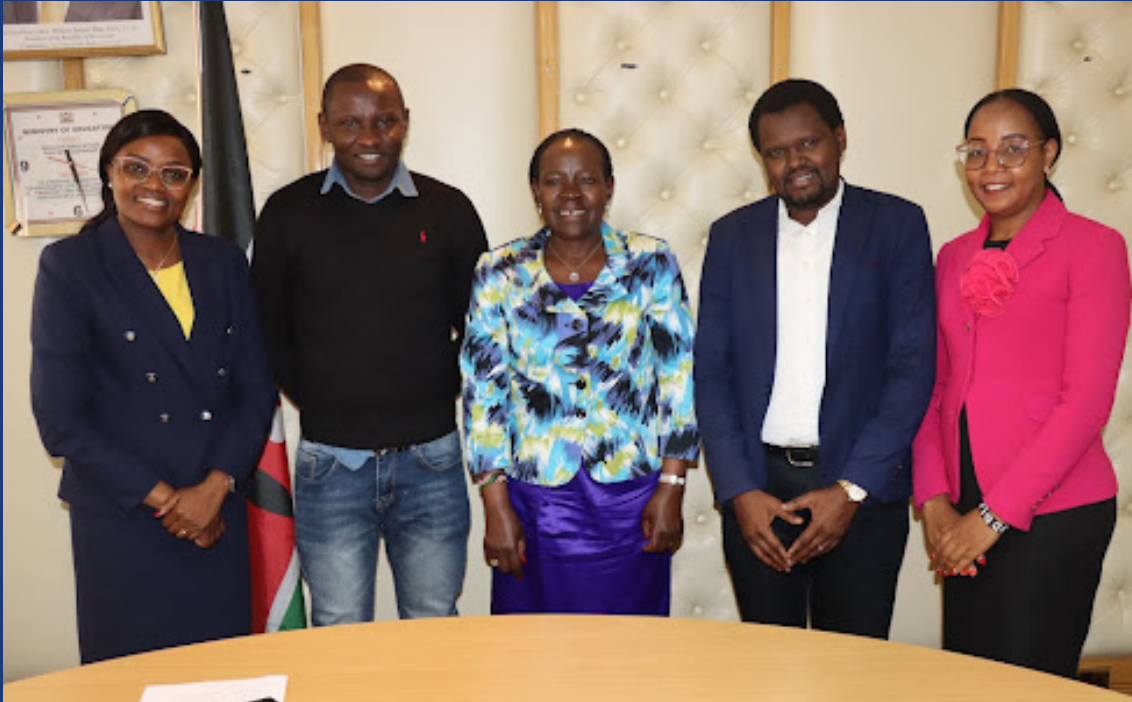
Recent Events



KNQA Ag. Director General Dr. Alice Kande hosting a team from KASNEB represented by Mr. Erastus Ng'ang'a Ag. Director Curriculum Research and Development During a consultative meeting at the KNQA Offices.



A KNQA Officer creating awareness on the Authority's mandate during the Mombasa International Show at the Agricultural Society of Kenya (ASK) Showgrounds.



The Ad hoc Committee on the Review of the National RPL Policy met with the PS State Department for TVET Dr. Esther Muoria (in blue), to brief her on the progress of the review process and the forthcoming RPL Policy Framework National Launch. Others present were; KNQA Ag. DG Dr. Alice Kande (on her left) and other Committee members from KNQA, ILO, TVETA, TVET -CDACC, FKE KNFJKA, KETRB, NITA, CoG and MoE.



Mr. Davis Kimutai leads a session during an ICT Policy validation workshop in Naivasha. The Authority identified a gap to be addressed by a comprehensive ICT policy. The Policy seeks to capitalize on strengths to effectively navigate the evolving ICT landscape while safeguarding data security and privacy.

The implementation of a well-crafted policy requires the involvement of stakeholders from every department to improve organization, clarity, and to streamline operations. Among those present were, KNQA Ag. DG, Dr. Alice Kande, KNQA DTS Mr. Stanley Maindi, the ICT department and other key officers from each department.



The KNQA hosted representatives from Mount Kenya University who paid a courtesy call at the Authority's offices. The meeting was attended by KNQA Ag. Director General Dr. Alice Kande, among the issues discussed were the Recognition of Prior Learning Policy Framework.



Members of the Technical Committee on the Review of the RPL Policy Framework after a workshop to validate RPL Policy Framework and Guidelines for implementation of RPL. During the meeting, KNQA Chairperson Hon. Stanley Kiptis (third left), KNQA Ag. DG, Dr. Alice Kande(second left), KNQA DTS Mr. Stanley Maindi(right), and other key players from the education sector were present. #RPLinKenya



KNQA Ag. Director General Dr. Alice Kande, Deputy Directors and Heads of Sections during a Performance Evaluation for the FY 2022/23 at the Authority's Offices. Also present during the Exercise was the Council Chairperson Hon. Stanley Kiptis.

KNQA'S EFFORTS TO SENSITIZE THE PUBLIC ON QUALITY QUALIFICATIONS

This year's theme of the Mombasa International show was "Promoting Climate Smart Agriculture and Trade Initiatives for Sustainable Economic Growth" which aligns with the National Government Agenda on Agriculture and Trade Development, Environmental Sustainability, Climate Change Adaptation, Job Creation, and Inclusive Growth. In this regard, the Authority was participating in an innovation competition for parastatals and institutions under the Ministry of Education. The competition coincided with this year's Mombasa International Show that was scheduled to take place from 6th to 10th



September 2023 at Jomo Kenyatta Show Grounds, Mombasa County. Objectively the five-day event;

Provided the public, especially the youth and their parents, an opportunity to interact with officers from the Kenya National Qualifications Authority and obtain information that assisted them to Understand the Authority's Mandate and acquire knowledge on the Recognition of Prior Learning that targets the skilled population in the country.

It also provided interested young people with an opportunity to discover the diversity of higher education in the TVET sector and other institutions of higher learning.

Furthermore, the officers were able to impart knowledge of various professions to students and the general public hence creating awareness of the various career pathways, skills and qualifications needed for the clients professions of interest.

REALIZATION OF THE RPL POLICY IN KENYA; AUTHORITY'S KEY MILESTONE

Speaking at Jogoo House, when she received a brief on the review of RPL policy from Technical Committee set up by the Ministry of Education led by KNQA Ag. Director General Dr. Alice Kande, TVET Principal Secretary Dr Esther Muoria said the policy will incorporate more inputs from all stakeholders before its launch which she said is vital.

"I appreciate the progress made by the Committee reviewing the implementation guidelines and Policy Framework on Recognition of Prior Learning steered by the Kenya National Qualifications Authority (KNQA) acting Director General Dr Alice Kande, " said Dr Muoria.

The multi-sectoral committee has experts from the International Labour Organisation(ILO), Federation of Kenya Employers(FKE), Kenya National Federation of Jua Kali Association, Council of Governors, Ministry of Education, NITA, and TVET CDACC, among others, and it is reviewing the policy that was developed by KNQA in 2021.

“The Policy and guidelines will provide standards of assessing and certifying the skills and competencies acquired through experience. This will enable our skilled but uncertified youths to be awarded certificates based on individual competencies, expanding their employment and advanced learning opportunities,” said PS Dr. Muoria.



During the briefing, KNQA acting Director General Dr. Alice Kande, thanked the Technical Committee for the tireless commitment to the task, stating that the policy will be applied to effectively coordinate and harmonize the national curriculum development approach to produce quality skilled human resources with the competence required for the emerging trends in the industry and for the growth and prosperity of the various sectors of the economy.

Dr.Kande added that collaboration between industry and academia can create a lively and receptive framework for offering advisory on market-driven courses.

“Industry experts possess real-world insights into the rapidly evolving market trends, skill demands, and emerging technologies. By actively engaging with academic institutions, these experts can provide valuable guidance on curriculum design, ensuring that courses align with the current and future needs of the job market,” said Dr. Kande.

“With strong collaborations, the industry can provide real-world insights, expertise, and resources to enrich student’s learning experiences, ensuring their skills align with current market demands. In tandem with this, academia can contribute by tailoring curricula to meet industry needs, integrating theoretical knowledge with hands-on training,” emphasized Dr. Kande

The Authority is set to Launch the RPL Policy and graduate the **first RPL Cohort** on the 6th of October 2023.

The Presidential Working Party on Education Reform (PWPER) has since recommended the implementation of the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Policy Framework and Credit Accumulation and Transfer Systems (CATs) in Kenya.

In a report presented to President William Ruto, Prof Raphael Munavu's team also wants more awareness creation on the Recognition of Prior Learning and Credit Accumulation and Transfer System.



“We recommend the development of a framework for linkages among TVETs to remove duplications and create centers of excellence based on niche,” reads the report that the President has directed its immediate implementation.

In 2021, during Madaraka Day celebrations in Kisumu County, former President Uhuru Kenyatta announced that the government was keen to give every Kenyan an opportunity to participate in economic development, noting that the move was to address the inequity in tendering for contracts by Jua Kali artisans and craftsmen, due to their lack of certification and to secure opportunities for them.

Last month, Education Cabinet Secretary for Education, Mr. Ezekiel Machogu, appointed the team to review the RPL Policy Framework as well as organize the first graduation of RPL learners. The move is to provide a framework for recognizing skills through awarding certificates based on competence to enable them to participate in various economic opportunities.

“Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) has been adopted as a redress mechanism for the past inequalities, facilitating improved employability, mobility, progression, and access within education, training, and development career paths,” said Dr. Kande.

Internationally, RPL is used as a tool for lifelong learning through the provision of access to higher education, Award of credit towards a qualification, Admissions into formal institutions of Learning, advanced standing, and credit accumulation and transfer; RPL for credit transfer or harmonization (national and foreign credits); RPL for recognition of experiential learning; RPL for upgrading of skills or qualifications and regulatory requirements of some sectors in terms of employing qualified persons.

The KNOF Act Section 8 (1) (k) mandates the authority to promote lifelong learning and recognize the acquisition of skills obtained through different methods: formally, informally, and informally. The Authority recognizes that not all skills are acquired in a classroom setting. There are mechanics, technicians, plumbers, and tailors with excellent skills they have acquired in the course of their work.

These skills, although contributing immensely to our socio-economic development, are mostly undocumented, unappreciated, and remain neglected.

RPL POLICY GETS GOVERNMENT'S NOD

The government has emphasized its commitment to reform skills development as a key enabler to realizing the Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).

Principal Secretary, State Department for Vocational and Technical Training – Dr. Esther Thaara Muoria, in remarks read on her behalf by Director Technical Education Mr. John Tuwei, in Naivasha during the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) stakeholders validation workshop, said the revised policy framework would play a pivotal role in this agenda.

“This clarity will play a crucial role in ensuring seamless implementation of RPL without any room for confusion. Our aim is to create a system where everyone’s skills and competencies are recognized and valued, regardless of their background or educational journey,” said Dr Muoria.



She went on: “ It is important to keep in mind that the success of RPL relies not solely on policies and guidelines but on raising awareness and promoting it widely. We must make a concerted effort to create awareness about RPL and its numerous benefits among all stakeholders, including learners, employers, training providers, and the general public. The more people comprehend the value of RPL, the wider its adoption will be.”

The legal instruments being validated are

The Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Policy Framework in Kenya (Revised); guidelines for the implementation of RPL in Kenya; and differentiated Unit Cost (DUC) of Assessing Prior Learning. The Ministry of Education, through the Kenya National Qualifications Authority (KNQA), together with other stakeholders, has been spearheading the review process.

According to KNQA acting Director General Dr. Alice Kande, the move to review the policy is to align it with global and national agendas.

“We undertook the task of realigning the RPL policy framework as a rallying call to provide for the recognition of competencies, including skills, knowledge, attitude, and values. We understood that our policies should not exist in isolation but should seamlessly integrate with the broader vision of our government, aligning with the National Economic Agenda and the Bottom-Up Transformation Agenda—a vision that champions inclusivity, empowerment, and the enhancement of our nation’s human capital.,” said Dr Kande.

She said the validation of the revised draft of the RPL Policy Framework is not just a symbolic achievement; it is a testament to Kenya’s commitment to excellence and its unwavering dedication to the betterment of our society.

“This revised framework is not merely a document; it is a promise to our citizens that their skills and experiences matter and that education is a lifelong journey that respects their unique pathways. It is a promise to our nation that we are aligning ourselves with the winds of change, embracing innovation, and fostering an environment where every citizen can earn a decent life and thrive,” said Dr. Kande.

KNQA Council Chairperson Hon. Stanley Kiptis said the RPL policy framework will effectively serve the needs of Kenyans.

“ RPL policy framework is not just a set of guidelines; it is a promise to our learners, our workforce, and our nation. It is a promise of a brighter, more equitable, and prosperous future. Together, with your active participation and dedication, we can transform this promise into reality,” said Mr. Kiptis.



The Presidential Working Party on Education Reform (PWPER), report which was released in August this year has recommended the implementation of the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) policy and Credit Accumulation and Transfer Systems (CATS) in Kenya.





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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