

THE FRAMEWORK

THE QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE KENYA NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

Newsletter



COVER STORY

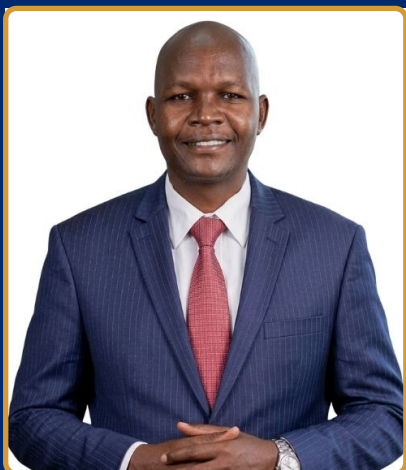
KNQA steps up KNQF and NQD implementation with university leadership

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THE QUARTER IN NUMBERS

- 71** programmes registered as national qualifications at Kabarak University
- 97** programmes and 11,000+ graduate records registered at the University of Embu
- 8** EAC Partner States validating the draft EAC TVET Qualifications Framework
- 10** levels in the KNQF, across the Academic, TVET, Professional and Skills sub-frameworks



Hon. Stanley Kiptis, EBS

CHAIRPERSON, KNQA COUNCIL

Kenya National Qualifications Authority

“Strong institutions and shared responsibility make a qualifications system that people can trust.”

THE COUNCIL THIS QUARTER

- Strategic retreat in Naivasha, 14–18 September
- Graced the Kabarak University capacity-building workshop
- Courtesy call on the Public Service Commission
- Addressed delegates at the 7th ACQF Forum

REMARKS BY THE COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON

Strengthening the foundations of the Framework

Dear Stakeholders and Partners,

On behalf of the KNQA Council, I welcome you to this edition of *The Framework*. The Council provides strategic direction to the Authority, and this quarter we focused on making sure KNQA has the people, structures and policies it needs to deliver the Kenya National Qualifications Framework (KNQF) with excellence.

In September the Council retreated in Naivasha to review the draft Organisational Structure and Staff Establishment, the Career Guidelines, the Human Resource Manual and the Rewards and Sanctions Policy, alongside the National Qualifications and UNESCO Qualifications Passport policies. These instruments will strengthen the capacity of the Authority to serve learners, institutions and employers.

I was pleased to grace the capacity-building workshop at Kabarak University, and to join the Director General in calling on the Public Service Commission, where we shared how the multi-agency composition of our Council brings the whole education and training sector around one table, and urged the use of the National Qualifications Database (NQD) to verify qualifications in recruitment. At the 7th ACQF Forum in Nairobi, Kenya's hosting of continental partners showed the confidence the region places in our work.

The KNQF (Amendment) Bill, 2026 is now open for public participation. I encourage institutions, regulators, awarding bodies, employers and the public to make their views known, because a framework that serves everyone must be shaped by everyone.

I thank the Ministry of Education, the State Departments for TVET and Higher Education, my fellow Council members, the Director General, management and staff for their commitment. Let us keep building a system in which every qualification is credible, comparable and portable.

Hon. Stanley Kiptis, EBS

Chairperson, KNQA Council

**Dr. Alice Kande, PhD**

DIRECTOR GENERAL / CEO

Kenya National Qualifications Authority

“A qualification is only as valuable as the trust people place in it.”

THIS QUARTER AT A GLANCE

- 14 weekly Roundups published
- Universities, TVET institutions and agencies onboarded onto the NQD
- KNQF Amendment Bill opened for public participation
- Kenya at the table in the EAC, IGAD, SADC, UNESCO and ACQF forums

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

Building trust in every qualification

Dear Stakeholders and Partners,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the first edition of *The Framework* for the 2026/27 financial year. The first quarter has been one of deepening implementation: taking the Kenya National Qualifications Framework (KNQF) from policy into the everyday practice of institutions, regulators and employers.

Much of our energy went into the National Qualifications Database (NQD). We brought university leadership together to clarify a simple but important message: KNQA does not duplicate sector regulators. Accreditation remains with the regulator, while registration gives an accredited qualification its place in the national system. Working hand in hand with institutions such as Kabarak University and the University of Embu, hundreds of programmes and thousands of graduate records are now being captured and made verifiable.

We also advanced the reforms that make learning more flexible and inclusive: Recognition of Prior Learning, the Kenya Credit Accumulation and Transfer System, and the development of a micro-credentials policy. On the legislative front, the KNQF (Amendment) Bill, 2026 is now before the public for participation, and I encourage every stakeholder to make their voice heard.

Beyond our borders, Nairobi hosted the UNESCO Qualifications Passport Technical Advisory Group and the ACQF Forum, and we shared Kenya's experience at the SADCQF, IGAD and EAC platforms. Recognising what people know, wherever and however they learned it, is a matter of dignity, mobility and opportunity.

I thank the KNQA Council under Hon. Stanley Kiptis, the Ministry of Education and the State Departments for TVET and Higher Education, our sector regulators, partner institutions and the dedicated KNQA team. As you read the stories that follow, I invite you to register your qualifications on the NQD and to verify before you enrol or recruit.

Dr. Alice Kande, PhD

Director General / CEO, Kenya National Qualifications Authority

FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the Quarter 1 edition of *The Framework*. This issue brings together the quarter's milestones, from policy and standards to the onboarding of universities onto the National Qualifications Database, and from regional partnerships to public outreach. I hope the stories inform and inspire you. Please share the newsletter widely, and write to us at info@knqa.go.ke with your feedback and story ideas.

Benard Aloo · Editor, *The Framework*

Policy & Standards

Shaping the rules that make qualifications comparable and trusted

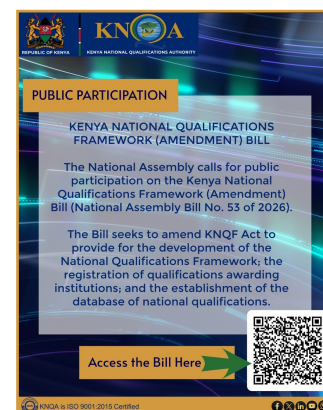
LEGISLATION

Public invited to comment on the KNQF (Amendment) Bill, 2026

Nairobi | 18 August 2026 — The National Assembly has invited the public and stakeholders to submit memoranda on the Kenya National Qualifications Framework (Amendment) Bill, 2026 (National Assembly Bill No. 53 of 2026). A public notice issued by the Clerk on 18 August 2026 covers six education and training Bills before the Departmental Committee on Education.

Sponsored by the Leader of the Majority Party, the Bill seeks to amend the KNQF Act, 2014 to provide for the development of the National Qualifications Framework, the registration of qualification-awarding institutions and the establishment of a database of national qualifications.

Education and training institutions, regulators, awarding bodies, professional bodies, employers, learners and members of the public are encouraged to participate. The amendment is an opportunity to align the law with the evolving needs of Kenya's qualifications ecosystem and to strengthen the credibility and portability of qualifications.



KNQA public notice on the Bill



Stakeholders reviewing the proposed National Standard.

STANDARDS

One national standard for assessment and certification

KNQA, led by Director of Standards and Alignment Mr. Mohammed Noor, convened a three-day stakeholder engagement on the National Standard for Assessment and Certification of Qualifications. It brought together the State Departments for TVET, Higher Education and Basic Education, CUE, TVETA, NITA, KNEC, TVET-CDACC, KMTC, KASNEB and Strathmore University.

The proposed framework requires assessment by registered entities, through accredited programmes and authorised assessment centres, with clear requirements for assessment personnel. Separate performance indicators will be developed for each qualification type.



The Council and senior management at the strategic retreat in Naivasha.

GOVERNANCE

Council retreat strengthens institutional capacity

From 14 to 18 September 2026 the KNQA Council, led by Chairperson Hon. Stanley Kiptis, EBS and Vice Chairperson Mrs. Jacqueline Mugo, EBS, retreated in Naivasha with Director General/CEO Dr. Alice Kande, PhD and senior management.

They reviewed the draft Organisational Structure and Staff Establishment, Career Guidelines, Human Resource Manual and Rewards & Sanctions Policy, a significant step toward an effective, professional institution able to deliver on its mandate.

POLICY PIPELINE: WHAT IS MOVING

Micro-credentials policy

Kenya is progressing a micro-credentials policy to clarify how they are identified and integrated into the wider qualifications ecosystem.

NQD Policy

The NQD Technical Working Committee held a validation workshop for the NQD Policy.

Council-reviewed policies

The National Qualifications and UNESCO Qualifications Passport policies were reviewed at the retreat.

Onboarding onto the NQD

Bringing institutions, qualifications and graduate records into the national system



COVER STORY

Vice-Chancellors, principals, registrars and sector regulators at the consultative meeting held at the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD), 1 September 2026.

UNIVERSITIES

KNQA steps up KNQF and NQD implementation with university leadership

Nairobi | 1 September 2026 — KNQA has stepped up engagement with university leadership to accelerate implementation of the Kenya National Qualifications Framework (KNQF) and the onboarding of universities, qualifications and graduate records onto the National Qualifications Database (NQD). The meeting brought together Vice-Chancellors, Deputy Vice-Chancellors, Principals, Deputy Principals and Registrars from public and private universities.

It was opened by Dr. Beatrice Inyangala, PS for Higher Education and Research, on behalf of Education CS Hon. Julius Migos Ogamba. She clarified that CUE and KNQA are complementary: CUE regulates and assures the quality of university education, while KNQA provides the overarching framework linking university qualifications with those from other pathways.

The KNQF, established under the KNQF Act, 2014, offers a ten-level reference point across the Academic, TVET, Professional and Skills sub-frameworks.

ACCREDITATION VS REGISTRATION

A key message

Dr. Alice Kande explained that KNQA is not seeking to reaccredit universities or duplicate the work of CUE. Registration gives an accredited qualification its place in the national system and ensures it is captured in the NQD.

How the process works

1. The sector regulator accredits or approves the institution and its programmes.
2. The approved qualifications are submitted to KNQA for registration.
3. Qualifications are classified and entered into the NQD.
4. Graduate records are submitted and maintained to support verification and national reporting.

The consultation reinforced that implementing the KNQF and NQD is a shared national responsibility requiring sustained collaboration among universities, regulators, government agencies, employers and other stakeholders.

SPOTLIGHT

The National Qualifications Database (NQD)

The official central digital repository for all qualifications, serving as the information management system for implementing the National Qualifications Framework. Through the NQD, KNQA and its partners:

- Give easy access to verified qualification information
- Enable anyone to search and verify qualifications and institutions
- Provide reliable, up-to-date national qualifications data
- Achieve transparency across the qualifications system
- Prevent fraud and misrepresentation of qualifications

nqd.knqa.go.ke

Registered and recognised

Awarding bodies and institutions joining the national qualifications system



The presentation of MMUST's Certificate of Registration as a QAB.

PARTNERSHIP

KNQA and MMUST deepen partnership on quality and lifelong learning

KNQA strengthened its partnership with Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (MMUST) during a high-level engagement at KNQA headquarters, led by Council Chairperson Hon. Stanley Kiptis and Director General/CEO Dr. Alice Kande, with MMUST represented by Vice Chancellor Prof. Solomon Igosangwa Shibairo.

A highlight was the presentation of MMUST's Certificate of Registration as a Qualification Awarding Body (QAB), confirming that its qualifications are recognised within the KNQF. The partners also explored Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), TVET capacity building, micro-credentials and joint research on qualifications systems.



Kabarak University, Nakuru County.

KABARAK UNIVERSITY

Kabarak registers 71 programmes as national qualifications

A three-day capacity-building workshop, 23 to 25 September 2026, supported Kabarak University's registration as a Qualification Awarding Body and the registration of its programmes, qualifications and graduate records on the NQD. Council Chair Hon. Stanley Kiptis graced the event, with Director Dr. Winnie Bulimo leading officers from Registration & Accreditation and the NQD departments.

So far **71 programmes across seven schools** have been registered as national qualifications.



KNQA officials with University of Embu management and staff.

UNIVERSITY OF EMBU

Embu registers 97 programmes and 11,000+ graduate records

From 29 September to 1 October 2026, KNQA officials and University of Embu management and staff strengthened understanding of the requirements for qualifications registration and management under the KNQF, facilitating the University's registration as a QAB.

The session saw the registration of up to **97 programmes and over 11,000 graduate records** on the NQD.



KNQA and NCIA leaders.

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

KNQA guides the National Criminal Investigations Academy

On 20 August 2026 KNQA, led by Deputy Director Mr. James Tegeret, met the National Criminal Investigations Academy (NCIA) at its offices to guide the registration and accreditation of its programmes under the KNQF, reviewing the legal instruments that establish NCIA and its TVET accreditation. NCIA Commandant Mr. Ibrahim Jillo called alignment with the KNQF a strategic milestone toward professionalising criminal investigations training.

Partnerships & Accountability

Protecting integrity, deepening cooperation, answering to Parliament



The KNQA delegation with the Public Service Commission team.

INTEGRITY

KNQA and PSC strengthen collaboration on verification

A KNQA delegation led by Council Chair Hon. Stanley Kiptis and Director General/CEO Dr. Alice Kande paid a courtesy call on the Public Service Commission, where they were received by Commission Secretary/CEO Mr. Paul Famba on 30 September 2026.

KNQA briefed the Commission on its mandate and the multi-agency composition of its Council, and called on the PSC to identify with the NQD as a one-stop destination for verifying the qualifications presented by applicants, strengthening integrity in public service recruitment.



Leaders of the German Chamber of Commerce and Industry at KNQA.

SKILLS MOBILITY

KNQA engages German stakeholders on qualification recognition

On 17 September 2026 KNQA hosted leaders from the German Chamber of Commerce and Industry to deepen understanding of each other's qualifications systems and explore collaboration on recognition and mobility between Kenya and Germany.

Areas for continued work include stronger mechanisms for recognition of individual qualifications by German authorities, and ways to verify historic qualifications where institutional records or archives are no longer available.



The CPC with officers from the EACC.

INTEGRITY

KNQA steps up corruption prevention and integrity mechanisms

The KNQA Corruption Prevention Committee (CPC), chaired by Dr. Alice Kande with Dr. Victor Nzomo, HSC as Secretary, and working with Internal Audit and Risk Assurance, held a three-day capacity-building workshop with the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC).

The workshop built capacity in bribery and corruption risk assessment, mitigation and prevention, and reviewed the Bribery and Corruption Risk Assessment and Mitigation Plan and monitoring of interventions, reflecting KNQA's zero tolerance to corruption.

PARLIAMENT

State Department for TVET presents 2025/2026 budget implementation report

Director General/CEO Dr. Alice Kande, with CEOs of State Agencies in the State Department for TVET, accompanied PS Dr. Esther Muoria when she appeared before the National Assembly Departmental Committee on Education to present the 2025/2026 Budget Implementation Status Report.

Dr. Muoria thanked the Committee for four years of support, noting that constructive oversight and policy guidance have contributed to the expansion and strengthening of TVET. KNQA appreciated the oversight engagements as reinforcing prudent management and effective delivery of its mandate.



Appearance before the Departmental Committee on Education.

TVET & Skills

Taking the KNQF to technical institutions and to communities



Speakers at the quarterly leadership meeting of the Kenya Association of Technical Training Institutions (KATTI).

TVET

KNQA champions TVET excellence at the KATTI leadership forum

KNQA reaffirmed its commitment to TVET as a catalyst for skills development, youth empowerment and economic transformation at the quarterly leadership meeting of the Kenya Association of Technical Training Institutions (KATTI), convened by the State Department for TVET as part of its ongoing stakeholder engagement programme. The forum was attended by Education CS Hon. Julius Migos Ogamba, TVET PS Dr. Esther Muoria, CEOs of TVET state agencies, principals and board chairpersons.

Dr. Alice Kande outlined KNQA's mandate in coordinating the KNQF and urged TVET institutions to register their qualifications on the NQD, which enhances credibility, simplifies verification for employers and eases recognition and mobility of graduates at home and abroad.

The CS called for stronger industry-based learning and flagship training and production enterprises aligned to regional opportunities, and assured leaders of continued Government investment in equipment. The PS urged accountable use of public resources, closer industry partnerships and shared use of specialised equipment.



A full house of TVET leaders at the KATTI forum.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Register TVET qualifications on the NQD
- Strengthen industry-based learning
- Build flagship training and production enterprises
- Share specialised equipment to widen access



Scenes from the Strategic NGAO & TVET Regional Consultative Forum, Meru National Polytechnic.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

NGAOs urged to champion TVET and skills recognition

At the forum, organised by the State Department for TVET and graced by PS Dr. Esther Muoria, Dr. Kande called on National Government Administrative Officers from Tharaka Nithi, Meru, Isiolo, Marsabit and Samburu to be ambassadors for TVET, skills recognition and lifelong learning. She highlighted three reforms: **standardising TVET qualifications** through modular learning, micro-credentials and KCATS; **RPL**, which gives artisans, mechanics and technicians nationally recognised qualifications; and **safeguarding integrity** through the NQD.

Before you enrol

Verify, then enrol

Dr. Kande urged prospective students and parents to confirm that an institution is accredited by TVETA and that qualifications are issued by a legally recognised Qualification Awarding Body registered with KNQA. NGAOs were asked to raise awareness of TVET and RPL in public forums and to protect communities from fraudulent training.

Showcasing the Framework

Exhibitions and panels that took the KNQF to the public



SKILL UP AFRICA SUMMIT 2026

Speakers and participants at the Skill Up Africa Summit 2026, KICC, Nairobi.

SUMMIT

KNQA showcases future-ready qualifications at Skill Up Africa Summit 2026

KNQA took part in the 4th Skill Up Africa Summit, held on 15–16 July 2026 at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC) in Nairobi to mark World Youth Skills Day 2026. The theme was *Future Skills, Innovation and Opportunity for Kenya's Youth*, and the Summit was opened by Labour and Social Protection CS Hon. Dr. Alfred Mutua.

At its interactive booth, KNQA engaged hundreds of students, graduates, educators, employers and policymakers on the Qualifications Alignment and Validation (QAV) Portal and the National Qualifications Database.

Progression Pathways drew the most attention, with many visitors seeking guidance on routes between levels, alongside growing interest in Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).

KNQA also contributed to the panel *Work-Based Learning for Labour Market Entry*, represented by Ms. Juliet Wekhulo of the Research and Policy Directorate. The Authority highlighted RPL and micro-credentials as tools for recognising skills gained through many pathways, and encouraged young people to embrace lifelong learning.



The KNQA exhibition stand at Kisii University.

EXHIBITION

KNQA exhibits at the Gusii Education Stakeholders Convention

At the convention, hosted at Kisii University, KNQA showcased the services and policies being implemented across the sector to transform education and training in the country.



A panel session at the International TVET Conference.

CONFERENCE

KNQA at the International TVET Conference

From 9 to 11 September 2026, Director General/CEO Dr. Alice Kande joined a panel on *Assessment and Qualifications Recognition: Making Skills Visible and Trusted*.

Media & Communication

Explaining the Framework to the public and coordinating government messaging



Dr. Kande during the Signs TV interview.

MEDIA

The Director General explains KNQA's role on Signs TV

In an interview on 26 August 2026, Dr. Alice Kande explained why Kenya's diverse education and training landscape needs a coordinated qualifications system, and how KNQA brings regulators, awarding bodies, institutions and industry together under one framework.

She underscored RPL as an inclusive pathway for workers, persons with disabilities, refugees and forcibly displaced persons, highlighted the NQD as a pillar of qualifications integrity, and updated viewers on the micro-credentials policy. The full session is available on the KNQA YouTube channel.

COMMUNICATION

KNQA joins government communicators' coordination forum

KNQA Corporate Communications joined over 250 government information and public communication officers at a Sensitization and Coordination Forum at KICD on 15–16 September 2026, opened by Mr. Stephen Isaboke, PS for Broadcasting & Telecommunications. The theme was *Strengthening Coordinated, Proactive and Responsive Government Communication*.

Sessions covered fake news, misinformation and disinformation (NDU-Kenya), the National Communication Policy 2026, the Access to Information Policy, the National Government Communication Strategy, the PR and Communication Management Policy and the National Communication Centre.



Government information and public communication officers at KICD.

THE QUARTER IN DATES

Events with confirmed dates, in order of occurrence

- **15–16 Jul**
Skill Up Africa Summit, KICC, Nairobi
- **28–30 Jul**
7th ACQF Forum, Nairobi
- **18 Aug**
Public notice on the KNQF (Amendment) Bill, 2026
- **20 Aug**
KNQA and NCIA meet on programme registration
- **26 Aug**
Director General on Signs TV
- **1 Sep**
University leadership consultative meeting, KICD
- **7–8 Sep**
5th IGAD Meeting on Refugee Inclusion, Addis Ababa
- **9–11 Sep**
International TVET Conference
- **14–18 Sep**
KNQA Council retreat, Naivasha
- **15–16 Sep**
Government communication forum, KICD
- **17 Sep**
German Chamber of Commerce and Industry meeting
- **23–25 Sep**
Kabarak University workshop; SADCQF Forum, Mahé
- **29 Sep–1 Oct**
University of Embu capacity-building engagement
- **30 Sep**
PSC courtesy call; National Assessment Standard meeting

COMING UP · 11–12 NOV

Second Evidence to Policy Research and Policy Symposium on refugee economic inclusion in East Africa, Nairobi.

Regional & Global

Kenya's voice in continental and international qualifications recognition



Delegates at the 4th UNESCO Qualifications Passport Technical Advisory Group meeting, Nairobi.

HOSTED IN NAIROBI

Kenya hosts 4th UNESCO Qualifications Passport Technical Advisory Group meeting

KNQA, in partnership with the UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa, hosted the 4th UNESCO Qualifications Passport (UQP) Technical Advisory Group meeting in Nairobi. The two-day meeting brought together regional and international experts, policymakers and development partners to strengthen recognition of qualifications for refugees and forcibly displaced persons.

Opening the meeting, Dr. Alice Kande said education is a universal human right that must not be interrupted by conflict, displacement or the loss of academic documents, and reaffirmed Kenya's commitment to institutionalising the Passport.

Delegates came from qualifications authorities including ZAQA (Zambia), SAQA (South Africa), UNEB (Uganda) and South Sudan, as well as COMESA, alongside Kenya's Ministry of Education, UNHCR Kenya, the International Rescue Committee, Global University Academy, the World Bank Africa and UNESCO.

Discussions linked the Passport with the African Continental Qualifications Framework (ACQF), RPL, the Kenya Credit Accumulation and Transfer System (KCATS) and national frameworks, stressing strong governance, harmonised standards and regional cooperation. Kenya also showcased progress in implementing the KNQF.

IN BRIEF: REFUGEE INCLUSION

IGAD meeting, Addis Ababa

KNQA participated in the 5th IGAD Meeting on Refugee Inclusion in National Education Systems, held 7–8 September 2026 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Pre-Symposium Policymakers' Dialogue

KNQA took part in the dialogue ahead of the second Evidence to Policy Research and Policy Symposium on refugee economic inclusion in East Africa (11–12 November 2026, Nairobi), co-convened by the IRC's Re:BUILD programme, IGAD, Innovations for Poverty Action and the World Bank Group.

Hosting the continent

The 7th African Continental Qualifications Framework (ACQF) Forum, Nairobi



Delegates at the 7th ACQF Forum, hosted by KNQA in Nairobi, 28–30 July 2026.

CONTINENTAL

Nairobi hosts landmark 7th ACQF Forum as Africa advances qualifications recognition and skills mobility

Nairobi | 28–30 July 2026 — KNQA successfully hosted the 7th African Continental Qualifications Framework (ACQF) Forum in Nairobi from 28 to 30 July 2026. It brought together qualifications authorities, policymakers, Regional Economic Communities, development partners, government officials and education experts from across the continent under the theme *Building Future-Ready Qualifications Systems for Africa*.

The Forum was opened by Dr. Esther Thaara Muoria, CBS, PS for the State Department for TVET, on behalf of the Cabinet Secretary for Education. She reaffirmed Kenya's commitment to the KNQF as a catalyst for industrialisation, skills recognition and sustainable development, and invited delegates to experience Kenya's "Education Safari" of institutions across the country.

Dr. Alice Kande, PhD chaired the opening session as part of the ACQF Presidency of Kenya, South Africa and Zambia, stressing continental collaboration to turn qualifications from policy aspirations into practical tools for economic integration and workforce mobility. Delegates were also addressed by KNQA Chairperson Hon. Stanley Kiptis and Vice Chairperson Jacqueline Mugo, with the African Union Commission and the European Union reaffirming their commitment.

Day One reviewed progress of the ACQF-II Project, green skills and qualifications, and policy approaches to micro-credentials. A highlight was the official launch of the Qualifications and Credentials Platform (QCP), a continental digital platform to enhance the transparency and verification of qualifications across Africa. Delegates also explored common multi-country occupational profiles to support labour mobility and mutual recognition of skills.

Day Two, chaired by Ms. Nadia Starr, CEO of the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA), moved from policy to implementation with the presentation and endorsement of ACQF Referencing Reports by national qualifications authorities, enabling national frameworks to be referenced against a common continental framework. A World Café plenary shared updates from the ACQF Technical Clusters on digitalisation, RPL, credit accumulation and transfer, and quality assurance.

Day Three, chaired by Ms. Mercy Ngoma, CEO of the Zambia Qualifications Authority (ZAQA), focused on the sustainability, governance, finance and institutionalisation of the ACQF Network, and on priorities for the ACQF Roadmap 2026–2027.

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

QCP launched

The continental Qualifications and Credentials Platform was officially launched to strengthen transparency and verification of qualifications across Africa.

Referencing Reports endorsed

National qualifications authorities presented reports referencing their frameworks to the ACQF.

Roadmap 2026–2027

Priorities include sustainable financing, stronger member participation and enhanced collaboration. KNQA thanked the ETF and the African Union Commission for their partnership.

Across the region

Southern and East African engagements



Leaders at the SADCQF Forum of CEOs of Qualifications Authorities, Mahé.

SADC

Kenya shares its RPL experience at the SADCQF Forum

Director General/CEO Dr. Alice Kande joined leaders of national qualifications authorities at the SADC Qualifications Framework (SADCQF) Forum of CEOs in Mahé, Seychelles, on 23–25 September 2026, hosted by the Seychelles Qualifications Authority (SQA). The session helped strengthen Kenya's contribution to regional dialogue on qualifications recognition, mobility and trust.

Dr. Kande delivered an address on *Innovation in Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and the Kenya Experience*. Held under the theme *Advancing Trust and Comparability in Qualifications and Qualifications Frameworks in the SADC Region*, the forum let qualifications authorities exchange experiences and explore practical approaches to interoperability and verification of qualifications across borders.

EAST AFRICA

EAC partner states validate draft TVET Qualifications Framework

KNQA participated in the East African Community (EAC) workshop in Dar es Salaam to validate the draft EAC TVET Qualifications Framework, convened by the EAC Secretariat with the support of the International Labour Organization and the ACQF-II team.

The Partner States (Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Burundi, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Somalia) aim to harmonise TVET systems to facilitate free movement of labour and improve employability, in line with Article 11 of the EAC Common Market Protocol on mutual recognition of academic and professional qualifications.



KNQA with delegates at the EAC validation workshop.

GET INVOLVED

Have your say

Submit your views on the KNQF (Amendment) Bill, 2026 through the National Assembly public participation process.

Register on the NQD

Institutions and awarding bodies can register qualifications and graduate records at nqd.knqa.go.ke.

Verify before you enrol or hire

Check institutions and qualifications on the NQD. Write to info@knqa.go.ke with any question.



KENYA NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

OUR SERVICES

AT A GLANCE



Registration of Qualifications on to the NQD

This is the formal process by which institutions offering education and training are formally recognized having met the standards outlined in the Kenya National Qualifications Framework (KNQF) Act and other relevant laws of Kenya.



Certificate of Qualifications Equivalence (CoQE)

This is awarded to an institution or an assessment or examination body that seeks to introduce and award a foreign Qualification in Kenya.



Alignment & Validation of Qualifications

The KNQA undertakes Alignment and Validation of Qualifications into the KNQF awarded by Foreign Universities and Qualifications Awarding Bodies (QABs) in accordance with Section 10 (1) of KNQF Regulations 2018.



Kenya National Qualifications Coding Standard (KNQCS)

The KNQCS was developed to coordinate and harmonize various levels of education and training by publishing manuals, codes and guidelines on national qualifications.



Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

RPL assesses an individual's informal training, work experience, and life skills against formal qualification standards, allowing prior learning to count toward an official certification. KNQA oversees and standardizes Kenya's education, training, assessment, and quality assurance system, ensuring all national qualifications including those earned via RPL meet unified standards.



Kenya Credit Accumulation and Transfer System (KCATS)

KCATS tracks student achievement across modular certificate, diploma, and degree programs to improve the recognition and transferability of course credits.

SPOTLIGHT ON NQD

THE NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS DATABASE

The NQD is the official central digital repository for all qualifications. It serves as the information management system to inform the implementation and maintenance of the National Qualifications Framework.

Through the NQD we:

- ✓ Get easy access to verified qualification information
- ✓ Can search and verify qualifications and institutions
- ✓ Get reliable, up-to-date national qualifications data
- ✓ Achieve transparency across the qualifications system
- ✓ Prevent fraud and misrepresentation of qualifications

nqd.knqa.go.ke



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ISO 9001:2015 Certified

Is that qualification registered? Check before you enrol or recruit.

Learners and parents

Confirm that the institution is accredited by its sector regulator and that the qualification is issued by a Qualification Awarding Body registered with KNQA.

Employers and recruiters

Search and verify qualifications and institutions on the National Qualifications Database before you hire.

Institutions and awarding bodies

Register your qualifications on the NQD, seek alignment and validation of foreign awards, and use RPL and KCATS to widen access.

Search and verify qualifications at nqd.knqa.go.ke



ABOUT KNQA

The Kenya National Qualifications Authority coordinates the implementation of the Kenya National Qualifications Framework (KNQF), maintains the National Qualifications Database, sets standards for qualifications and promotes the recognition of learning acquired formally, non-formally and informally.

OUR PROMISE

A qualifications system that is credible, transparent, inclusive, responsive and aligned to the needs of the labour market and national development.

ABOUT THIS ISSUE

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Shaping the future of Kenya

Get in touch

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