KENYA’S NATIONAL ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

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1.0 Kenya’s National Education System

- The current system of education in Kenya is referred to as 8–4–4

- It has four main levels designed to provide eight years of primary education, four years of secondary education and four years of University/Tertially institutions.

- However, the country is implementing a new curriculum and consequently shifting to a new system of 2–6–6 with effect from next year/
Education in Kenya should:

- 2.1 Foster nationalism, patriotism, and promote national unity;
- 2.2 Promote social, economic, technological and industrial needs for national development;
- 2.3 Promote individual development and self fulfilment;
- 2.4 Promote sound moral and religious values;
- 2.5 Promote social equity and responsibility;
- 2.6 Promote respect for and development of Kenya’s rich and varied cultures;
- 2.7 Promote international consciousness and foster positive attitudes towards other Nations;
- 2.8 Promote positive attitudes towards good health and environmental protection.
3.0  Levels of Education in Kenya

3.1 Primary  8 years
3.2 Secondary  4 years;
3.3 Tertiary/university  4 years

N/B

a) Before joining primary school, children spend 2–3 years in pre-school programme
b) Tertiary education vary between 1 year and 4 years
4.0 Learning assessment mechanisms in Kenya

- There are basically three large-scale learning assessments carried out in Kenya:

  4.1 Regional assessment
  - The Southern and Eastern Africa Consortium for Monitoring Educational Quality (SEACMEQ)

  4.2 National assessments
  - National Assessment System for Monitoring Learning Achievement by (NASMLA), and
  - Uwezo
4.3 Learning assessment mechanisms in Kenya (Examinations)

- Examinations administered by the national examining board – The Kenya National Examinations Council (KNEC) which include:
  - Kenyan Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE), the results of which are used to determine placement at secondary schools.
  - At the end of the secondary cycle, students sit for the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) examination.
  - At the tertiary level, assessment is more of unit based though some courses are examined nationally by KNEC.
5.0 Structure, Tools and Indicators

- KNEC administer all its examinations through agency system managed by County Education Officers (CDEs);
- CDEs register candidates in their areas of jurisdiction and administer examinations on behalf of KNEC.
- Tools used include tests, observation schedules, check lists, orals, aural, projects, practical skills, practicum.
- Indicators are grades acquired by the examinees
6.0 Challenges and Opportunities

Challenges

- Disconnect between learning and assessment;
- Funding by the government is inadequate to run the national examinations;
- Donor funding for the regional assessment programmes is limited
- Limited capacity of teachers, curriculum developers, examination officials to handle assessment
- Time constrain in delivering results in real time
- Interpretation and utilization of examination results
Opportunities

- Political goodwill from the government to embrace and improve assessment;
- Availability of students to be assessed;
- Willingness by teachers and other education stakeholders to be trained on assessment issues;
- Availability of power and ICT infrastructure in the country.
THANK YOU.