



## In This Issue:

RPL Roll-out

**KNQA Embraces Malaysian Qualifications Agency to Foster International Quality of Credentials**

**Authority Inspects Qualifications Awarding Institutions ahead of National Launch of RPL**

## Quote of the Month

“

Remember nothing is totally permanent.  
Remember to reflect always on your actions and make the best of your time.

**-Dr. Alice Kande, PHD  
Ag. Director General/CEO-KNQA**



# ***Editor's Note***

Dear colleagues,

Welcome to our first issue of the KNQA Briefs. This newsletter highlights activities that take place at the Authority and relevant activities within the education and training sector.

In this edition, our team brings you up to speed with the latest from the Qualifications arena.

## **Editorial Team**

Ivey Koin

Ouma Wanzala

Albert Induli

Fiona Baraza

Dianarose Nasipwoni

## **Upcoming Events**

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

“

It is with profound joy that I join you once again to encourage you as you proceed with your daily engagement. Henry Ford said, “Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; and working together is success”. As we strive to support each other in our workstations let’s remember that our success as an Authority will be determined by the concerted individual efforts. God bless you, God bless KNQA, God bless Kenya.

”

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



“

Dear Colleagues, allow me to say Jambo as we thank God for every milestone that that we have achieved both individually and as a team. It is said that, if you want to go fast, walk alone and if you want to go far, walk together with others. I encourage us all to embrace teamwork. As we celebrate the achievements made to date, let us remember that it is normally easier to reach at the top than to sustain success. I urge us to be very deliberate in our workspaces and ensure that our time and effort is directed towards achievement of KNQA’s objectives. Let’s have our eyes on the GOAL! Thank you and I wish you well in all your endeavors.

”

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



## Recent Events



KNQA Acting Director General Dr Alice Kande in a group photo after attending the release of a Report on Presidential working party on Education reforms to President William Ruto at State House, Nairobi on 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2023.



At Nyeri National Polytechnic, KNOA Officers from Planning Research Outreach and Policy- Ms Juliet Wekulo and Ms Tabitha Mburu on an inspection mission to assess the level of preparedness for the upcoming YAW RPL piloting. The team assessed the capacity of the institutions in terms of human resource (trained RPL Practitioners), infrastructure (labs, workshops and equipment), Execution tools (RPL policy, forms, office, and committees), Marketing Strategies and challenges encountered.



From Left: Mr. Mengech Rono (Director Vocational Education and Tertiary Affairs), Mr. John K. Tuwei (Ag. Director DTE), Dr. Alice Kande (Ag. Director General KNOA), David Mwangi (Chief Principal Nyeri NP and Chairperson KATTI and Mr. Stanley Maindi (DTS KNOA) during the workshop to review RPL Policy and Tools. Mr. Tuwei represented the Principal Secretary TVET Dr. Esther Muoria who pledged her support to the committee and the forthcoming National RPL Launch in the speech read by the Ag. Director.



KNQA acting Director General Dr. Alice Kande (in yellow), PS Industry Dr. Juma Mukhwana (on her right), Mr. Andrew Ness (left) and other participants after attending an Industry engagement forum in Kisumu on August 17, 2023 and which was organized by Young Africa Works. The theme was strengthening and sustaining linkages with industry and TVET systems.

---



KNQA interns keenly follow proceedings during a Business Process Re-Engineering Workshop in Naivasha.

---



KNQA acting Director General Dr. Alice Kande (center), Mr. Horst Bernard (on her left), Mr. Reinhard Brazda (on her right) both from VACE Education Projects in Austria, KNQA officers and representatives of the State Department for TVET pose for a group photo at the KNQA boardroom during a courtesy call at the Authority's offices.

Dr. Kande highlighted the KNQA's commitment to maintaining standards, quality, and relevance throughout Kenya's education and training sector. The Kenya National Qualifications Framework (KNQF), established and maintained by the Authority, facilitates articulation, classification, registration, quality assurance, and monitoring of national qualifications in alignment with the KNQF Act.

One of the main objectives of the KNQF is to ensure a seamless transition of TVET learners into the labor market, fostering both vertical and horizontal mobility within the education and training sector. Dr. Kande noted that the Authority's collaboration with TVET and the industry safeguards against fake credentials infiltrating the labor market, bolstering industry's confidence in recruiting skilled professionals.



KNQA Ag. Director General Dr. Alice Kande (center), with representatives of the Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA) led by Deputy Vice Chancellor Dr. George Kimathi (fourth from right) in a group photo during a courtesy call at KNQA offices in Nairobi.



Hon. Stanley Kiptis (in a white cap), KNQA officers, Council of Governors officers and Kenya Forest Service officers plant a tree during a tree planting session at the Eldoret Arboretum. The exercise was presided over by H.E President William Ruto. KNQA partnered with the two organizations to implement the Presidential directive on tree planting.



KNQA Council Chair Hon. Stanley Kiptis (Seated in grey Suite), Ag. Dg. Dr. Alice Kande (in Blue) with the Ad hoc committee appointed by the Ministry of Education which comprises of multisectoral agencies during a one-week workshop to review the RPL Policy framework and tools that took place at Lake Naivasha Resort recently. The team was tasked with aligning the tools to the BETA manifesto, incorporating findings from the extended piloting, and incorporating the ongoing global reforms on skills.





At the Kenya Coast National Polytechnic, KNQA represented by the Planning and Strategy Officer Alfrick Biegon and RAD Officer Clare Barasa inspected the institution in readiness for piloting of the YAW-K-TVET-02 (Recognition of Prior Learning) Project funded by MasterCard Foundation. The project aims to certify the skills of 10,000 youths Not in Employment, Education & Training (NEET). Registrar Academics/RPL Coordinator Ms. Esther Mbutia (left in the front) who represented the Chief- Principal of KCNP, assured the Commitment to successful piloting and the goal of assisting youths not only in the coast region but also in other parts of the country. The KCNP has developed RPL Tools and Instruments, focusing on the Cruise Animation Level 4 for the piloting phase scheduled in August/September 2023.



The Project Coordinator African Continental Qualifications Framework (ACQF) Project- II Ms. Eduarda Castel Branco met with KNQA DTS Stanley Maindi, during the Validation Workshop for the ACQF Policy document and launch of Project ACQF - II that was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia recently. The Event saw over 100 participants from 33 African countries taking part in the exercise focused much on qualifications quality and Standards. Kenya has been selected to host the first training workshop of the ACQF Project- II in October 2023. A total of 150 participants from 35 African Countries are expected to be in attendance.

Mr. Maindi confirms that, during the workshop, Kenya was acknowledged for her impressive Achievements in the implementation of the National Qualifications Framework & RPL. In this regard, KNQA has become one of the case studies to support and model the development of NQFs in African countries that are at development stages.



Dr. Meshack Opwora (seated in the middle) represented the Cabinet Secretary for Education- Hon. Ezekiel Machogu at the RPL workshop to review RPL Policy and Tools in Naivasha. "By recognizing and validating the skills and experiences of our citizens, we create a workforce that is diverse, resilient, and adaptable, prepared to face the challenges of a rapidly changing world. As you work on tying the loose ends of the frameworks that had been initially submitted, we should be able to visualize up-to-date systems and policies that capture the emerging global trends. Besides our own BETA, Vision 2030, and the SDGs it is important to incorporate emerging occupational needs like the Environmental Sustainability Skills for a greener future," observed the CS in his Speech read by Dr. Opwora. Also present was Dr. Alice Kande the Ag. Director General KNQA (seated in a checked scuff) with the RPL Ad hoc Committee.

According to the RPL Experts, in the absence of recognized qualifications, a large proportion of people face severe disadvantages in getting decent jobs, migrating to other regions, and accessing further education, even though they might have the necessary knowledge and skills. The Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) process can help these individuals acquire a formal qualification that matches their knowledge and skills, and thereby contribute to improving their employability, mobility, lifelong learning, social inclusion and self-esteem.

This increased prospect for inclusion in the labor market is a win-win situation for all as employers will also have access to skilled personnel and better match them with suitable jobs, while simultaneously increasing productivity. Governments will further have better assurances of increased competitiveness and economic growth, as well as social inclusion and equity.



KNQA Acting AG. HOD PROP Dr. Peter Wekesa and SAQA Officer Ms. Agnetta Waigwa with the Kitale National Polytechnic team from left- Jacqueline Wasike, Abel Bamai Edwin Keter, Mutongwa, Paul Kwoba, Muturi Muiruri, Dr Onger Lucas, Mercy Nyongesa, Fred Simiyu, Stella Khaemba, (RPL coordinator) Jimmy Wafula and Ainea Masai

## KNQA Embraces Malaysian Qualifications Agency to Foster International Comparability of Qualifications

The Kenya National Qualifications Authority on Tuesday 25th July hosted officials from the Malaysian Qualifications Agency at the KNQA headquarters, NACOSTI building in Nairobi. During a meeting chaired by Hon. Stanley Kiptis Chairperson KNQA Council and MQA represented by Prof. Dr. Mohammed Shatan Sabran from the Malaysian Qualifications Agency. The two institutions agreed on partnership, student scholarship and mobility. Malaysian Qualifications Agency, collaboration and partnership took centre stage of the discussion.



“KNQA prides itself in creating an enabling environment for lifelong learning, fostering quality qualifications and enhancing international recognition of qualifications. In the international space, KNQA is aligning the Kenyan Qualifications awarding process with those other regions, including Southern Africa Development Cooperation (SADC), Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), East African Quality Assurance Network (AfriQAN) and the African Qualification Verification Network (AQVN),” observed KNQA Ag. Director General, Dr. Alice Kande during the discourse.

“This initiative which will be refined through strategic cooperation networks is expected to attract more international students especially from the African continent to continue their studies in Malaysia,” alluded Prof. Shatan who is also the CEO Malaysian Qualifications Authority. It is worth noting that Kenya is transforming its education sector to enhance access, equity, relevance and quality of education and training. The country has realized several milestones towards this goal.



**Council Chair-Hon. Stanley Kiptis receives a token from the Malaysian Qualifications Authority**



**Director General, Alice Kande, receives a token from the Malaysian Qualifications Authority**

Kenya is experiencing increasing unemployment rates among the youth, and this can be attributed to the present qualifications awarding system which is so fragmented resulting in ill-prepared graduates who are unable to respond to employers’ expectations. Further, skills mismatch has led to educated unemployment in a country that at the same time has jobs without skilled people. To address this, the Kenya National Qualifications Authority (KNQA) was set up through the Kenya National Qualifications Framework (KNQF) Act no. 22 of 2014 to enhance the relevance and quality of skills produced through education and training. Among other functions, KNQA is mandated to develop a system for assessing national qualifications in the country with a focus on enhancing the quality of qualifications. KNQA has therefore developed these standards and guidelines to guide the process of developing, assessing, and awarding national qualifications, and it is with great pleasure that the ‘Standards for Assessment of National Qualifications’ have been finalized through a participatory approach involving key stakeholders. These Standards form the backbone that the Authority, regulators, qualification awarding institutions, and assessment bodies will apply in administering the assessment, accrediting, monitoring, and auditing qualifications awarding systems and processes to ensure they continually comply with quality standards.

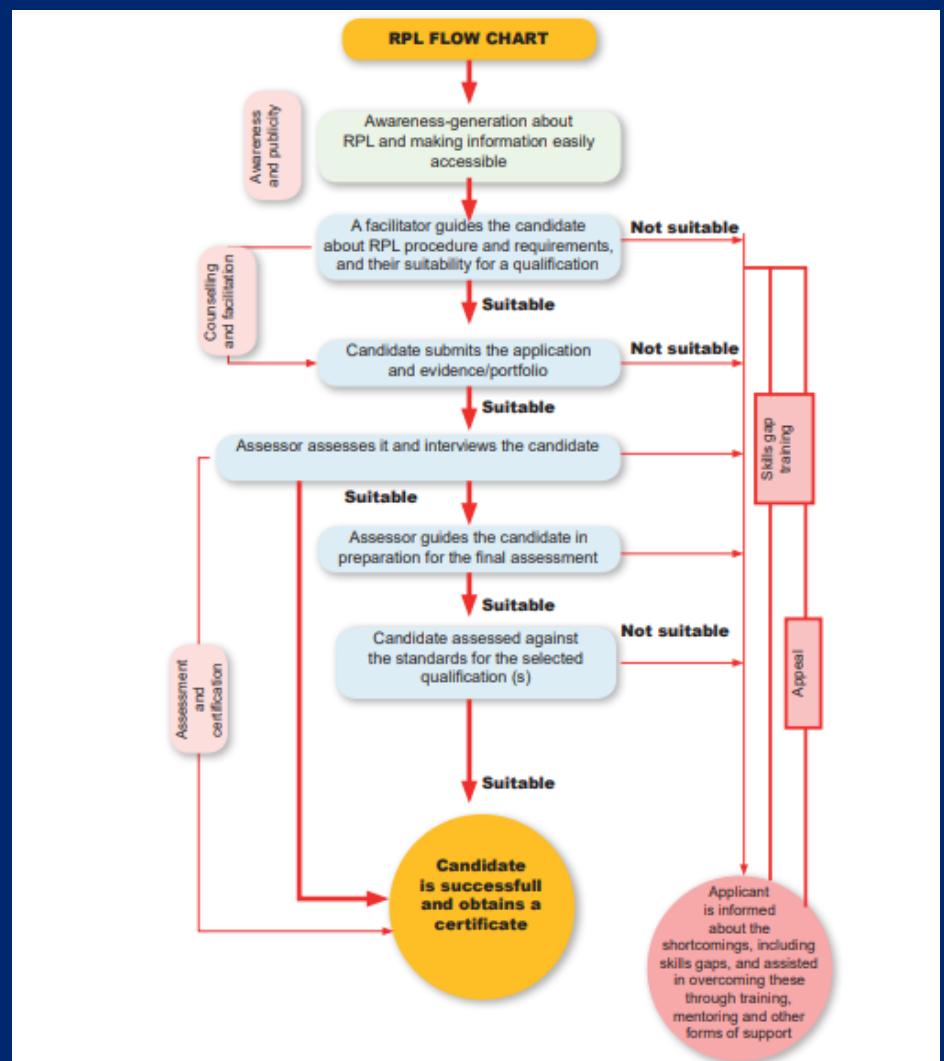
In the same vein, the standards have been developed to ensure that the national assessment process meets the principles of assessment which include validity, reliability, transparency, practicability, effectiveness, equitability, and accessibility. It is expected that all qualifications awarding institutions understand these standards, the KNQF Regulations, and the KNQA Act and undertake internal quality assurance to ensure adherence to quality standards, as a continuous improvement practice, and before considering External Assessment by the KNQA for accreditation.

In the same meeting that was attended by KNQA's Deputy Director Standards, Assessment and Quality Assurance (SAQA) Dr. Winnie Bulimo, and Qualifications, Alignment and Validation (QAV) Officer Ms. Mercy Kasembeli, matters of support to international students were highlighted to promote and cement a long-lasting relationship between the two countries.

## Authority's Move to Inspect Qualification Awarding Institutions Ahead of National Roll Out and Launch of RPL Policy

KNQA together with other stakeholders is set to launch the national policy framework on Recognition of Prior Learning. The launch will also see more than 100 people who were assessed through RPL graduate. The graduands were assessed by NITA during an extended piloting exercise that was held between November and December 2022. A team from the Authority has been assessing the preparedness of RPL pilot in various Qualification Awarding Institutions across the country; In Kitale National Polytechnic, KNQA's Acting HOD Planning, Research, Outreach and Policy Dr. Peter Wekesa with SAQA officer and Ms. Agnetta Waigwa

interacted with staff going around various departments as they assessed all requirement as per the Authorities standards. According to Dr. Wekesa, the institution has improved in most areas and is ready to provide Standard qualifications. He added that, the institution is ready to venture in other areas of Poultry Management, Automotive engineering among others. In the meantime, the Authority tries to unpack the process of RPL in the following stages;





**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**



# CALL FOR COMMENTS AND INVITATION FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON THE DRAFT KENYA NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK REGULATIONS, 2023

## ABOUT SUBMISSION

Comments, views, representation and any written memoranda may be forwarded to the acting Director General, using the provided template not later than!



**AUGUST 16TH**  
2023

through our email:  
[info@knqa.go.ke](mailto:info@knqa.go.ke)

The Kenya National Qualifications Authority (KNQA) is a State Corporation established under Section 6 of the Kenya National Qualifications Framework Act. No. 22 of 2014. The Authority was established with an aim of creating a harmonized and well-coordinated national accreditation system, quality assurance, assessment and examination system to ensure that Kenyan qualifications are of high quality and meet national and global standards. The Authority is also responsible for strengthening quality assurance of the qualifications awarding system in Kenya.

In view of the above and compliance with Article 10 of the Kenyan Constitution, Kenya National Qualifications Authority invites members of the public, stakeholders and organizations to submit any comments, views or make presentations regarding the proposed KNQF draft Regulations, 2023 available on [www.knqa.go.ke](http://www.knqa.go.ke).

A publication of Kenya National Qualifications Authority

NACOSTI Headquarters,

Upper Kabete, off Waiyaki Way Nairobi

P.O Box 72635 - 00200 NBI

Phone: 0202100272

Email: [info@knqa.go.ke](mailto:info@knqa.go.ke)

Website: [www.knqa.go.ke](http://www.knqa.go.ke)



+254-020-2100272



[info@knqa.go.ke](mailto:info@knqa.go.ke)



[www.knqa.go.ke](http://www.knqa.go.ke)