

Speech by Prof. B. Wanjala Kerre, PhD
Chairman, KNQA
Delivered on 9th May 2017, during the official launch of KNQA

The Cabinet Secretary for Education
Hon. Fred Matiangi
The PS, Hon Dinah Mwinzi,
All Vice-Chancellors, CEOs and Heads of Institutions,
Members of the KNQA Council
All the Stakeholders in the education and training sectors,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to welcome all of you to this momentous occasion as we gather together to reflect on how to improve and sustain quality education and training in our beloved nation Kenya.

I want to thank each one of you for sparing your invaluable time to be with us and most especially Dr. Matian'gi, the Cabinet Secretary for Education, for taking time off your busy schedules to be here today. This yet again demonstrates your passion and desire for the development and provision of quality education and training in Kenya.

The education sector in Kenya has come from far and has made great strides and contributions in the development of our economy and the nation at large. We are highly ranked amongst the leading countries in Africa in the provision of education and training.

However, a lot still has to be done for us to achieve our real potential. We have occasionally grappled with negative cases such as: forgery of academic certificates, failure to meet all the academic requirements before graduation, awarding certificates to undeserving students, poor learning conditions, among other undesirable incidents.

It is, therefore, indisputable that many people in Kenya and even across the African continent, as was the case reported in Tanzania recently, have acquired and are using fake academic certificates to access certain coveted privileges or postings. The tragedy is that most of these fraudsters, who have cunningly acquired jobs and positions unfairly, have failed miserably in the process of discharging the specific mandates of those positions.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In Kenya today, wananchi have realized the value of education and training and its contribution to personal and societal wellbeing. As a result, the number of those seeking higher education and training opportunities is much greater. It is therefore our duty to ensure that we provide good quality education at every stage of learning.

It is for the above reasons and many others pertaining to quality assurance in the education and training sectors that the Kenya National Qualifications Framework (KNQF) Act 22 of 2014 was promulgated. This Authority has a Council with wide representation from the education and training sectors, employers (FKE), employees (COTU), professional associations, among others.

The objects of the ACT are:

- (a) establish the Kenya National Qualifications Authority;
- (b) establish standards for recognising qualifications obtained in Kenya and outside Kenya;
- (c) develop a system of competence, life-long learning and attainment of national qualifications;
- (d) align the qualifications obtained in Kenya with the global benchmarks in order to promote national and trans-national mobility of workers;
- (e) strengthen the national quality assurance systems for national qualifications;
- (f) facilitate mobility and progression within education, training and career paths.

The primary objective of the Kenya National Qualifications Framework (KNQF) is the creation of a single integrated national framework for learning achievements, enhancing the quality of the education and training system in Kenya so that it embraces the concept of life-long learning for all.

One of the features of a quality system such as the KNQF is the ability to manage and report information about the system accurately.

This Authority is working on establishing a national data base where all people who hold genuine certificates will be enlisted. This will tell you where one went to school and/or college, the year they sat for exams and the grades obtained. We are working closely with the stakeholders, mainly learning institutions and examining bodies, to gather the true information about everyone who has gone through our learning institutions.

This information will then be shared with employers and other relevant bodies in order to eradicate cheating through fake certificates. We are working on a digital system where an employer will be able to determine someone's academic qualifications by inputting details of a specific individual in their system and the true qualifications will emerge. Even bodies

such as Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), where proof of one's academic achievement is required, will use KNQA services to ascertain the true qualifications of political aspirants.

KNQA will also set standards and benchmarks for qualifications and competencies including skills, knowledge, attitudes and values.

As the Chairman of the Kenya National Qualifications Authority (KNQA), I want to assure you that we shall endeavor through our mandate to create communities of trust and work with all stakeholders at various levels including education and training providers, quality assurance agencies for each sub-sector and employment and labour fraternities to ensure that the quality of our education and training systems is high and comparable to the best practices at regional and international levels.

I wish to call upon all of you, as stakeholders in the education and training sector, to examine, interrogate and give us your contributions to enable this country to provide the best quality education to its citizens.

Thank You.

Prof. B. Wanjala Kerre
Chairman KNQA