

**PRESS STATEMENT ON THE RELEASE OF THE
2020 KCPE EXAMINATION RESULTS BY PROF
GEORGE A. O. MAGOHA, EGH, CABINET
SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, ON
APRIL 15, 2021 AT KNEC OFFICES, DENIS
PRITT ROAD, NAIROBI**

- Chief Administrative Officers: Dr. Sarah Ruto, Mumina Bonaya and Hassan Noor;
- Principal Secretaries at the Ministry of Education: Drs. Julius Jwan and Margaret Mwakima, Mr. Alfred Cheruiyot;
- Chairperson, Kenya National Examinations Council, Dr. John Onsati;
- Chief Executive Officer, Teachers Service Commission, Dr. Nancy Macharia;

- Chief Executive Officer, Kenya National Examinations Council, Dr. Mercy Karogo;
- KNEC Council Members;
- Senior Officers from the Ministry of Education;
- Representatives from Teachers' Unions: KNUT and KUPPET, the Kenya Private Schools Association, the Kenya National Parents and Teachers Associations and the Heads of Associations for primary and secondary;

- Members of the Media Fraternity;
- Ladies and Gentlemen;

I start by thanking God the Almighty for enabling us to hold today's ceremony. I cannot take for granted His abundance, His gift of life and His enormous blessings to our country and all of our citizens that has made it possible to sit here and celebrate the hard work of our **1,179,192** million Kenya Certificate of Primary Education

Examinations candidates. This looked like an unimaginable dream a few months ago.

It is indeed a special moment for all of us – both in its timing and atmosphere. It is the first time that we are releasing results of the KCPE in April. And it is the first time we are releasing the results when our country is busy managing the effects and

spread of the COVID-19, a virus that is foreign to the whole world.

When the COVID-19 pandemic befell the country in March 2020, the education sector was one that got completely disoriented. The future of our 15 million basic education learners seemed thrown deep into turmoil. We were simply at a crossroads. Because we were fighting a disease, which confounded even

top grade medics, I being one of them, we did not know how long our schools would remain shut following the extended closure that was meant to help the country to manage the pandemic. Indeed, many people predicted doom and gloom for the education sector.

But after months of soul searching, and following extensive consultations with our education sector players, we decided to bite the bullet – by adopting

a phased reopening of schools that gave priority to Grade Four, Standard Eight and Form Four candidates. Although this selective reopening was informed by science and drew from the advice of the Ministry of Health, there were those who castigated us for the move, claiming that we were putting the lives of our children in jeopardy, making them guinea pigs.

My sector players stood firm and put their trust in God, agreeing that “we all stood to be damned for all our painful but necessary decisions, and that we were still going to be damned if we didn’t do anything”. We chose to make decisions for which we were prepared to take full responsibility for.

Thanks to the Grace of God, our schools remained safe allowing us to be here today to celebrate the results of our risky decisions.

I wish to thank His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta for his wise leadership and for trusting me and my education sector stakeholders. Over the challenging one year, the President has given unfettered priority to the education sector, always

guiding and supporting us to ensure the gains made in guaranteeing a bright future for the Kenyan child are not lost. I also thank Teachers Service Commission CEO, Dr Nancy Macharia for effective management of the teachers who braved the COVID-19 pandemic to return to schools and former Early Learning and Basic Education Principal Secretary Dr. Belio Kipsang.

I wish to commend the efforts of the entire Government officers who work under the Multi-Agency Examination Monitoring Team, anchored on the firm leadership of my colleagues at the Ministries of Interior and National Coordination of Government Dr. Fred Matiang'i and ICT Joe Mucheru.

OPENING OF SCHOOLS FOR THIRD TERM

As part of our efforts to recover the lost time following the long closure due to COVID-19 last year, we reorganised term dates for schools in a manner that would help us recover the lost time.

As a result, we are scheduled to reopen schools for Third Term on **May 10th 2021** for all classes except Grade Four and Form One. We are hopeful that we will open as scheduled although we

continue monitoring the country's COVID-19 situation and the schools' preparedness to adhere to all Ministry of Health guidelines of managing the virus.

This morning, His Excellency the President has directed that all teachers and support staff in our schools be allowed to take up the COVID-19

vaccination as part of the measures to ensure that our schools are safe from the virus.

At the same time, the Ministry will immediately start preparations to mount the 2021 KCPE and KCSE examinations, which will be administered early next year.

PERFORMANCE OF CANDIDATES IN THE 2020 KCPE

Many doomsayers predicted that candidates of the 2020 KCPE Examination will perform dismally. The good news, however, is that performance of candidates in the 2020 KCPE is commendable and has shown no remarkable difference from the performance of the past years. I wish to commend teachers who worked hard to prepare the

candidates for the examinations in the most difficult circumstances ever seen in our country. I also thank the **Government of President Uhuru Kenyatta for working with development partners to avail us a Sh1.1 billion COVID-19 recovery fund part of which enabled KNEC to conduct an entry assessment** as soon as the candidates reopened. The assessment provided useful indicators to teachers on the knowledge

levels of the Standard Eight candidates once they resumed school after their long break. I wish to commend the teachers for utilising the assessment results to prepare the candidates ahead of the examinations, a move that has led to the impressive results that we are celebrating today. Indeed, as we traversed the country during the monitoring exercise of the examination, we came face to face with confident and cheerful students

who appeared to have been prepared well. This wonderful class have defied all the challenges they went through last year to post impressive results in their KCPE examinations.

THE 100 PER CENT TRANSITION TO FORM ONE

All the **1,179,192** candidates whose results we are releasing today will be admitted to secondary schools under the **Government's 100 per cent transition policy**. I wish to assure the country that the Ministry has already conducted an audit of all new and existing vacancies in all our private and public schools to enable us to admit all learners

under the Free Day Secondary Education programme.

We are determined to work with the relevant agencies to ensure that no candidate misses a place in secondary school.

In the meantime, I urge all parents and guardians to take good care of their children so that all of

them are able to take up their Form One spaces in the schools that they will be admitted to.

FORM ONE SELECTION EXERCISE

To ensure that all candidates are placed in schools of their choice – based on performance and available vacancies - the Ministry of Education will employ a water-tight system that will be both credible and of high integrity. **The actual Form**

One selection exercise for all categories of schools will take place from May 28th, 2021.

ELIMU SCHOLARSHIP

For a second year running, **the Government will offer 9,000 scholarships under the Elimu Scholarship Programme**, which was initiated in 2019. Reports from all our public schools show that

the 2019 KCPE candidates who benefitted from the programme are doing exceptionally well in the schools they were admitted to. I wish to sincerely thank His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta for his intervention that enabled us to extend the scholarship programme to cover candidates from informal settlements in urban areas, which were initially not covered under the programme.

I also thank the Equity Bank Management led by Dr James Mwangi for working with the Ministry to effectively manage the scholarship programme.

The Ministry will soon announce details of the process of applying for the scholarship programme, which is meant for candidates from needy and vulnerable households.

EXAMINATION IRREGULARITIES

In the administration of the 2020 KCPE Examinations, the Government sustained its robust security arrangements through the Multi-Sectoral Examinations Monitoring Team. These measures ensured that cases of irregularities during the sitting of the examinations, and during the marking process, were either stamped out or nipped in the bud before they could happen. For example, **five** cases of impersonation were detected during the

examination process while **seven** candidates were found in possession of pre-prepared notes in examination rooms.

CANDIDATURE DETAILS FOR THE 2020 KCPE

As I have noted, we are today releasing results for **1,179,192** candidates who sat the examination in **28,460** centres across the country. All these candidates have qualified to be admitted to secondary schools. I congratulate them for this success.

Of these candidates, **590,450 (50.07%)** were boys and **588,742 (49.93%)** girls. In the 2019 KCPE, 1,083,456 candidates sat the examination. It means the number of candidates who sat increased by **95,736 (8.84%)** in **2020** when compared to 2019. Male and female candidates increased by **46,868 (8.62%)** and **48,868 (9.25%)** respectively.

According to the data, the following **20** counties registered more female than male candidates: **Isiolo, Meru, Vihiga, Kakamega, Busia, Nairobi, Kwale, Elgeyo Marakwet, Siaya, Tharaka Nithi, Kisii, Kisumu, Bungoma, Kilifi, Lamu, Bomet, Mombasa, Uasin Gishu, Makeni and Migori.** This is an increase from **18** counties that registered more female than male candidates in 2019.

The number of candidates who were absent slightly increased from **6,272 (0.58%)** in the year 2019 to **12,424 (1.04%)** in the year 2020 KCPE examination.

CANDIDATES' AGE PROFILES

The number of registered candidates who were 12 years and below increased from **20,086 (1.84%)** in 2019 to **26,378 (2.21%)** in 2020.

The counties which had the highest entry for candidates who were 12 years and below for the year 2020 KCPE examination were: **West Pokot (999), Bomet (1,595), Baringo (1,013), Kericho (1,469), and Bungoma (2,556).**

The highest number of candidates were in the appropriate age bracket of **13-14 years, (806,720; 67.70%)**, a trend which has been replicated in the last five years.

The counties which had the highest cases of candidates who were 19 years and above were **Turkana (3,062), Garissa (1,680), Kwale (2,441); Kilifi (3,672), and Busia (1,692).**

PERFORMANCE OF CANDIDATES

In the 2020 KCPE examination, overall performance improved compared to 2019. Although the mark of the highest candidate dropped from **440 to 433 in 2020**, the mean average performance and quality of grades for all candidates is higher. For example, whereas **1,393** candidates scored between **01 and 99 marks** in the 2019 KCPE, that number

went down to only **307** in the 2020 KCPE. This was an indicator that most candidates scored better grades than the previous year.

In particular, I am impressed that public schools have shone in the 2020 KCPE, scooping 10 of the top 15 overall slots in the Examination. Additionally, of the top 15 places, female candidates have taken eight places, including the first three overall slots as follows:

NO	INDEX NO	GE	NAME	School Name	Category	TOT	RANK
1	18348138009	F	MUMO FAITH KAWEE	KARI- MWAILU	Public	433	1
2	19326216005	F	WESONGA YVETTE NANZALA	CHOGORIA GIRLS	Public	432	2
3	39737053001	F	MURIITHI ANGEL GAKENIA	MASENO GIRLS BOARDING	Public	432	2
4	36602147002	M	WANYONYI SAMUEL MAKHANU	NZOIA SUGAR CO.	Public	431	4
5	28575140003	M	CASTRO WILLIAMS	CRYSTAL HILL ACADEMY	Private	431	4
6	29540138003	F	TARUS CHEPKEMBOI LAUREEN	ST MATHEW'S SEPTONOK	Public	431	4
7	29541139027	M	KIPKIRUI ABIUD	LESSOS HILLS ADVENTIST	Public	430	7
8	08217211091	F	MWANGI MARGARET WARUGURU	KARATINA D.E.B	Public	429	8

NO	INDEX NO	GE	NAME	School Name	Category	TOT	RANK
9	20406005150	F	BERNICE CHECED OMONDI	NAIROBI PRIMARY	Public	429	8
10	19326216006	F	KIOGORA JOY NKATHA	CHOGORIA GIRLS	Public	429	8
11	28575140005	M	DANIEL CHRIS MBOYA	CRYSTAL HILL ACADEMY	Private	428	11
12	18307150012	M	NJENGA LOWELL MWAGAMBO	EMMANUEL SPRINGS ACADEMY	Private	428	11
13	15304229013	M	JEFF MUTUGI	FRED'S ACADEMY	Private	428	11
14	41743220004	M	POLYCUP KIYONDI OMBONGI	OBER BOYS	Public	428	11
15	18307150002	F	DEBRAH ZAWADI	EMMANUEL SPRINGS ACADEMY	Private	428	11

PERFORMANCE PER SUBJECT

I am happy to announce that five papers recorded an improvement in performance in the year 2020 when compared to 2019. These are: **English Composition, Kiswahili Lugha, Kenyan Sign Language Objective, Mathematics** and **Religious Education.**

Five other papers, **English Language, Kiswahili Insha, Kenyan Sign Language Composition, Science** and **Social Studies**, recorded a drop in performance in the year 2020 when compared 2019.

In terms of gender, female candidates performed slightly better than their male counterparts in

English, Kiswahili and Kenyan Sign Language.

Male candidates performed slightly better than their female counterparts in **Mathematics, Science and Social Studies and Religious Education.**

I wish to commend all the teachers, parents and

candidates for this good performance achieved during a very difficult period.

The summary of grades is as follows:

Standard Mark Range	Year and Candidature					
	2020		2019		2018	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
400 – 500	8,091	0.68%	9,673	0.89%	11,559	1.09%
300 – 399	282,090	23.67%	242,821	22.30%	223,862	21.10%
200 – 299	589,027	49.43%	566,069	51.98%	574,173	54.13%
100 – 199	299,677	25.15%	263,500	24.20%	240,178	22.64%
001 – 099	307	0.03%	1,393	0.13%	2,592	0.24%
Number Sat	1,179,192	98.96%	1,083,456	99.49%	1,052,364	99.21%
Absent	12,424	1.04%	5,530	0.51%	8,347	0.79%
Total Entry (Registered Candidates)	1,191,616		1,088,986		1,060,711	

Standard Mark Range	Year and Candidature		
	2020	2019	2018
Highest mark (out of 500)	433	440	453

CANDIDATES WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

The Ministry remains committed to assisting learners with special needs to do well in their studies.

The number of candidates with Special Needs was higher in the year 2020 (**2,675**) when compared to that of 2019 (**2,407**). The categories with the highest number of candidates with special needs in the 2020 KCPE examination were those with physical disabilities (**1,201**), followed by those with hearing impairment (**738**).

The highest SNE candidate scored **420 marks**

compared with the top candidate who scored **414 marks** in 2019 KCPE out of the possible 500 marks. This improvement further underscores the fact that performance in the 2020 KCPE was commendable and that SNE children, given a fair and conducive environment, can excel. Overall performance for SNE candidates was as follows:

Mark Range	Year and Candidature					
	2020		2019		2018	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
400 – 500	9	0.34%	11	0.46%	8	0.32%

Mark Range	Year and Candidature						
	2020		2019		2018		
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
300 – 399	318	11.89%	211	8.77%	209	8.38%	
200 – 299	897	33.53%	726	30.16%	713	28.58%	
100 – 199	1,356	50.69%	1,350	56.09%	1,412	56.59%	
001 – 099	11	0.41%	45	1.87%	76	3.05%	
6.	Number Sat	2,591	96.86%	2,343	97.34 %	2,418	96.91 %
7.	Absent	84	3.14%	64	2.66%	77	3.09%
8.	Total Entry (Registered Candidates)	2,675		2,407		2,495	
9.	Highest mark (out of 500)	420		414		447	

The list of SNE candidates with 400 marks and above are as follows:

2020 K C P E SNE CANDIDATES WITH OVER 400 MARKS NATIONALLY

NO	INDEX NO	G	NAME	School Name	Category	TOT	RANK
1	40745180001	M	BRANDON OTUNDO	SET GREEN HILL ACADEMY	Private	420	1
2	36612138001	M	KIBET GIPSON NDIEMA	NALONDO C.B.M	Public	411	2
3	12316102026	M	KIOKO JOSEPH KYALO	KANGUNDO D.E.B	Public	409	3
4	37616022017	F	ISABWA BLESSINGS MONICAH	MUKUMU GIRLS	Public	409	3
5	27564134001	F	NAOMI YVONNE OMARE	ST LWANGA NJORO CATHOLIC	Private	409	3

NO	INDEX NO	G	NAME	School Name	Category	TOT	RANK
6	20408202010	F	JOSEPH MUIA RITA	YOUNG ACHIEVERS SCHOOL	Private	407	6
7	45801103003	F	IFRAH MAHAMUD SHURIYE	YOUNG MUSLIM ACADEMY	Private	405	7
8	40703148011	M	FIDEL ODERA OUMA	KARI D E B	Public	402	8
9	23503414001	M	KAITAH EDGAR WILSON	LUKHUNA	Public	400	9

The number of candidates who sat the KCPE examination under special circumstances, including those who sat the examination in hospitals,

increased from **1,176** in the year 2019 to **1,255** in 2020.

I particularly wish to mention a unique case of a candidate by the name **Titus Musili from Kaunguni primary school in Kitui County** whom I was informed had been sent home from school over flimsy grounds. He ended up missing the English Composition paper. I had to intervene

and order that he return to the examination room and I can assure the country that he completed his examinations and he is among the candidates who will receive their examinations today.

ACCESSING THE 2021 KCPE EXAMINATION RESULTS

As is our tradition, the KCPE Examination results will be collected by respective schools from the Sub

County Education offices. Candidates should therefore collect their results from their respective examination centres. Individual candidates' results can also be accessed by sending a candidate's index number followed by the initials KCPE through a Short Message Service (SMS) to 20076. This service will be available immediately after this event.

Head teachers will be required to download and print the on-line results slips for candidates in their schools and authenticate the same before they are released to parents, guardians or candidates.

It is now my pleasure to declare the 2020 KCPE examination results officially released and wish all candidates success in their future endeavours.

PROF GEORGE A. O. MAGOHA, EGH
CABINET SECRETARY,
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
Thursday, 15th April, 2021