



OFFICE OF THE
DEPUTY PRESIDENT

**SPEECH OF H.E RIGATHI GACHAGUA, EGH, DEPUTY
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA, DURING THE
LAUNCH OF THE RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING
POLICY AND GRADUATION OF COHORT 1 AT KICC ON
MARCH 22, 2024 AT 12:00PM**

- **The Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi;**
- **The Cabinet Secretary for Education Ezekiel Machogu;**
- **The Cabinet Secretary for Labour Florence Bore;**
- **The Principal Secretary for TVET Dr. Esther Muoria;**
- **Nairobi Governor Johnson Sakaja;**
- **Chairpersons of Parliamentary Committees on Education;**

- **Our Development Partners;**
- **Other Leaders;**
- **Graduands;**

It is a very significant day in our Education System as we launch the Recognition of Prior Learning Policy and witness confirmation of the skills and expertise of 900 Cohort 1 Graduands.

On behalf of our President H.E Dr. William Ruto, I congratulate the Cohort, the Ministry of Education, the other Education Sector stakeholders including Development Partners, for making this a reality.

In recognition and confirmation of the ability of our artisans, who are the bedrock of our economy, we have elevated their profession and dignified them for what they do best- not the paper they lacked.

Indeed, today, hardworking, dedicated, focused and qualified Kenyans- who could never have bagged a certificate, will walk home with a promise of a job and a bright future for themselves and their families.

In these certificates, we are giving them the key and empowering them access to unlimited opportunities in the formal sector- locally and internationally.

For instance, Linet Imbosa, who has worked as a car mechanic in Nairobi for over five years, can apply for employment in an automotive assembly.

This work, which is an outcome of the Radical Reforms in the Education Sector that the Ruto Administration is undertaking, elevates Kenya to one of the few African countries which have acknowledged and embraced Recognition of Prior Learning as a qualification for joining the formal and informal workforce.

In this regard, we are sowing and growing seeds of equity and equality as envisioned under the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda.

Graduands, Ladies and Gentlemen;

Out of the 19.1 million people in the labour force in our country, about 16 million work in the informal sector, which includes self-employment and casual labour.

Despite their skills and expertise, the wheels to facilitate transition from the Jua Kali to the formal sector of the economy has been missing. We have now sealed that gap.

The Ruto Administration has done so because under the Bottom-Up Transformation Agenda (BETA), we have given priority to job creation for the millions of unemployed Kenyans working in the Jua Kali Sector.

Our decision is informed by the fact that these skilled people acquired competencies through informal and non-formal means, but they have been discriminated against for lack of a paper to prove qualification.

The impact has been severe. They cannot secure formal jobs, and if they do, they have limited latitude to negotiate for higher pay equivalent to the service.

With the launch of the Recognition of Prior Learning, today, we have removed the barriers and opened the gate for consideration of knowledge, skills and expertise in employment.

Henceforth, our skilled artisans will no longer use folders with pictures of their handiwork to prove knowledge and skills.

We are ensuring end-to-end linkages in connecting graduands with employment opportunities.

Graduands, Ladies and Gentlemen;

Recognition of Prior Learning will play a critical role in tapping the massive knowledge, skills and competences at the bottom of the Kenyan economy.

Subsequently, Ministries have been directed to implement a continuous system for information sharing with the State Department for TVET, which is responsible for Recognition of Prior Learning for quick turnaround from accreditation-to-employment.

We count on this group of experts to support implementation of the Kenya Kwanza Plan. In return, they will also earn a livelihood.

For example, job opportunities for skilled artisans are plenty in the Affordable Housing Programme, New Markets, Stadia Construction, Shipping and Maritime, among other areas of transformation.

This is in addition to the Diaspora jobs, which our President is negotiating with other countries.

A comprehensive advertisement detailing the accreditation institution, location for Affordable Housing Projects, New Markets and locations for Sports Stadia has been availed.

Additionally, the advert includes a link for all skilled artisan international jobs.

This is through the National Employment Agency under the Ministry of Labour, as well as Shipping and Maritime jobs under the Ministry of Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs.

Recognition of Prior Learning cannot fail; Recognition of Prior Learning will not fail; Recognition of Prior Learning is impactful.

Graduands, Ladies and Gentlemen;

This is a gamechanger as established by the Presidential Working Party on Educational Reforms, which submitted its report to the President in June, 2023.

These Education Sector Reforms have defined the intentions of Sessional Paper No. 1 of 2019 on Reforming Education, Training, and Research.

The Sessional Paper emphasises quality, relevance, inclusive education and training for sustainable development.

Graduands, Ladies and Gentlemen;

As we make and mark this great leap, I would like to ask employers to also align job description requirements to accommodate the experts.

Today, we acknowledge that they are qualified as confirmed by the relevant authorities.

The Kenya National Qualifications Authority has demonstrated that expertise is not gained only from formal learning institutions.

It actually complements our Competency-Based System, the CBC.

**ONCE MORE, hats off to the first Graduands of the
Recognition of Prior Learning Programme.**

ASANTENI SANA