



OFFICE OF THE
DEPUTY PRESIDENT

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS OF H.E RIGATHI GACHAGUA, EGH,
DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA,
DURING THE 47TH KENYA SECONDARY SCHOOLS HEADS
ASSOCIATION (KESSHA) ANNUAL NATIONAL
CONFERENCE AT SHEIKH ZAYED SCHOOL, MOMBASA
COUNTY, ON JUNE 26, 2024 AT 1:00PM**

Cabinet Secretary for Education Ezekiel Machogu;

Cabinet Secretary for The National Treasury Prof Njuguna Ndung'u;

Principal Secretary for TVETs Dr Esther Muoria;

**Principal Secretary for Early Learning and Basic Education
Dr Belio Kipsang;**

Teachers Service Commission Chairman Jamleck Muturi;

Auditor General FCPA Nancy Gathungu;

Mombasa Governor Sheriff Nassir;

Senate Committee on Education Chair Joe Nyutu;

**National Assembly Committee on Education Chair Julius
Melly;**

KCB Group CEO Paul Russo;

KESHA National Chairman Mwangi Kuria;

Principals, Teachers, Distinguished Delegates;

It is a great pleasure joining you, Teachers, this afternoon for this year's Kenya Secondary Schools Heads Association (KESSHA) National Conference.

This Conference is a critical Conversation platform. It takes place when the Government is implementing Radical Reforms in the Education Sector to align academic outcomes with development needs of our Nation.

On behalf of our President, H.E Dr. William Ruto, I congratulate you for the apt theme, *Future Pathways for Learning and Learners in Kenya.*

It speaks to the Agenda of the Ruto Administration in delivering an Education that will support and sustain the socio-economic transformation of our Nation, as underlined by the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).

This audience of key decision-makers from schools is giving State Agencies resourceful information, to guide strategic interventions as we implement the CBC System.

In particular, it is very important as we prepare to roll out the Senior School - a key component of the CBC System.

Distinguished Teachers;

We are excited that in contributing to the holistic approach to the reforms, this Conference is focused on the three Pathways of the CBC:

Social Sciences;

Arts and Sports; and

Science and Technology Engineering and Mathematics.

Under the Ruto Administration, the Sector receives the lion share of the national allocation because we understand that Quality Education requires Quantity investment.

With a particular focus on the Three Pathways, we want an Education that generates job creators, not job seekers.

We want an Education that profiles and polishes talent of students in what they do best, not bombarding them with material they least need in their career Pathway to stardom.

We want an education that sparks, nurtures nascent scientists and other experts, to drive Manufacturing as we strive to stimulate value addition in our produce, to fetch more for our farmers, who are the pillars in the production chain.

Esteemed Teachers;

We have identified Junior Secondary School and Senior Secondary School as the crucial stepping stone of moulding the student to the professional they desire to be.

That is why we have heavy representation from the National Government, in better preparations for the roll-out of Senior Secondary School. In this regard, engagement with Principals, who determine the performance and excellence of our schools, is paramount.

We insist on strategic and transformative leadership in secondary schools to produce the best, beyond the definition of the syllabus.

We appreciate that more teachers are advancing in education. We urge them to consider programmes that respond to the CBC adjustments, as per the Three Pathways.

Let me throw this challenge to you, Headteachers – please lead by example in sprucing up your skills.

You cannot manage someone who understands the assignment more than you. Strategic management demands that you remain one or more steps ahead of your team.

Distinguished Teachers;

On the other hand, we are investing more to increase TVETs across the country. It is one of the ways of complementing universities in successive transition from secondary, for students who are firmly established and focused in their Pathways of choice.

Because we want the TVETs to deliver, we set out to employ 2,000 more tutors in the 2023/2024 fiscal year to bridge the capacity gap.

We have continued to invest in the TVETs because of their potential to create jobs, especially in the Informal Sector of our economy, which is employing more than 83% of our workforce.

In looking for more opportunities beyond our borders, cutting-edge skills are the passport. Therefore, there must be seamless transition from Senior Secondary Schools to tertiary institutions, as per the Pathways.

We have also incorporated Recognition of Prior Learning under TVETs as a strategy of increasing employment prospects for people who already have the requisite skills, but lack validating documents.

Distinguished Teachers;

As we undertake these reforms, which have long-term and far-reaching implications, the demand for more financial and technical resources cannot be overlooked.

The National Treasury, led by Professor Ndung'u, is listening to these discussions for insights that will guide structural review of the Education Financing Framework.

We acknowledge KESSHA for direct engagement with key agencies, including Parliament and the Ministry of Education, especially on funding. The Government continues to receive and gradually incorporate feedback from critical actors to minimise disruptions. We are streamlining systems for timely release of funds.

Even as the Government allocates more resources to Education, taxpayers must gain from this investment.

We call for prudent management of resources for our schools to have the requisite capacity to deliver, our wealth is directly proportional to the investment in our children. Their success is the measure of our dedication to offer them the best.

Allow me to underscore the critical role of teachers associations such as KUPPET, KNUT and Kenya Union of Special Needs Education Teachers, among others, on their continuous contribution to good governance in the Education Sector.

We consider you critical in the roll-out of the CBC system, in pushing for results from your members. Demand better results with the same valour you demand better pay.

Esteemed Teachers;

One of the key drawbacks to universal access to education is abuse of alcohol, drugs and other substance. We have made tremendous progress in the war on this menace.

We invite KESSHA, KUPPET, KNUT, KUSNET, and other associations to complement our efforts. In particular, I appeal to you, at individual level, to also take up this challenge.

We cannot transform our Nation when the critical population- Teens and Youth- drink themselves to destruction.

We count on your support because you are part of the Education Sector System.

In addition, teachers, especially from the arid and semi-arid areas, understand better that last year, the prolonged drought negatively impacted learning.

In the same way, enhanced rains later interrupted schooling. I make a passionate appeal to you to join us in planting more seedlings, especially food trees to boost our climate resilience.

Distinguished Teachers;

It is our assurance that the Government, through relevant agencies, is keenly awaiting output of this 47th Conference.

We are listening because we want success. We need success. We must succeed.

I, therefore, invite you to a robust discussion for a student-centred approach to implementation of the Reforms.

To this end, it is now my pleasure to declare the 47th Kenya Secondary Schools Heads Association Annual National Conference, Officially Open.

ASANTENI SANA