

**SPEECH BY HON. EZEKIEL MACHOGU, CBS, CABINET SECRETARY OF EDUCATION, DURING THE LAUNCH OF THE NATIONAL DISTRIBUTION EXERCISE OF GRADE 7 BOOKS TO SCHOOLS IN KENYA HELD AT THE KENYA INSTITUTE OF CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT (KICD) AT 10 A.M.**

**Principal Secretary, State Department for Basic**

**Education,**

**Director General of Education,**

**Director, KICD**

**Senior Ministry of Education officials**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It gives me great pleasure to preside over this occasion of the launch of the distribution of the Grade 7 curriculum designs and textbooks to Kenyan public schools countrywide ahead of the reporting of the first cohort of

the Junior Secondary School learners on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2023.

The start of the distribution of the Grade 7 textbooks that will cost the Government a total of **Ksh.3,164,365,856** follows the completion of the assessment exercise of all primary schools to ascertain their readiness to host the Junior Secondary School learners. With the books expected in all schools that have been found suitable to admit Grade 7 learners, the Government is now proud to launch the distribution exercise, which is expected to be completed next week.

This is testimony that the Government is committed to ensure that all Grade 7 learners have adequate teaching and learning materials as directed by His Excellency President Samoei William Ruto.

I must emphasize that the Ministry of Education has consistently distributed CBC textbooks for learners in Grades 1 to 6 annually to ensure the policy of one book for each learner in every subject is met. The Ministry is determined to sustain this tradition of effective and efficient textbook tradition to all our Junior and Senior Secondary School levels as we seek to ensure quality teaching and

learning that allows all our learners to complete the basic education as provided for in our Constitution.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I now urge all parents and guardians of Grade 7 to ensure the children report to schools on Monday to start off their next level of learning promptly.

As you are aware, the Ministry has released comprehensive interim guidelines to all schools and our field officers to guarantee a smooth start of the Junior Secondary School

Education learning. The Ministry has also sent out a circular that provides the context of implementing the guidelines.

All the meticulous steps of rolling out the CBC attest to the Government's commitment to provide accessible, quality and relevant education and training to its citizens through credible academic reforms. This is in line with the various policies on education and training. The curriculum reforms are being undertaken within the national legislation framework as informed by Article 53 of the Constitution which recognises free and compulsory basic education as a right of every child.

## **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The approval of the Grade 7 materials was achieved through a rigorous evaluation process by the KICD that involved several stakeholders.

The evaluation of the textbooks was carried out by the KICD in April 2022. Apart from the list of the books that have been procured by the Government of Kenya, several titles have been approved for each learning area to provide variety for the learning institutions. These will serve as additional reference materials for use in and out of school. These titles are listed in *the Orange Book*, which is the

official reference point of all books that KICD has approved for use in schools.

I wish to reiterate that each of the learners at Grade 7 in Kenyan public schools will be issued a textbook in each of the core learning areas at Junior Secondary School and the optional subjects that they will choose. As a result, we are today launching the distribution of a total of **17,893,270** copies of Learner's Books and **423,514** copies of Teacher's Guides for Grade 7. The distribution schedule will run between 30<sup>th</sup> January and 17<sup>th</sup> February 2023 and targets all the schools that have been identified to host Junior

Secondary school after the conclusion of the recent assessment by the Ministry.

The curriculum designs and books for regular learners have been adapted by KICD to suit learners with various Special Needs. Similarly, appropriate texts have been developed for Special Needs Education (SNE) learners following the Stage-Based Pathway.

The public is hereby notified that all public and private schools are expected to use only the books that have been approved by KICD. This is because the rigorous evaluation

process ensures that the approved books cover the curriculum designs adequately and contain acceptable content, language and illustrations. The list of approved textbooks and all curriculum designs for all the learning areas/subjects for all grades are available on the KICD website. Accordingly, I wish to caution all parents and guardians not to buy any books that have not been approved by the KICD.

Additionally, I wish to advise headteachers to check the numbers of books supplied to their schools. Any school that may have variances between the number of books

delivered in relation to the number of learners in Grade 7 should report to the Sub County Education office. The Sub County Education officers should also move with speed to rationalise any variances in the schools within the Sub County and report promptly to the Director, Secondary Education, by 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

As I conclude, I urge all the schools to maintain and make maximum use of the textbooks that will be supplied to the learning institutions. Schools are also advised to take good care of the books because there will be no further supplies of the same books until after another four years.

I am also aware that KICD, in collaboration with the publishers, has already embarked on the development process of the Grade 8 textbooks. This began with the training of publishers on the interpretation of the Grade 8 curriculum designs in all learning areas. Thereafter, the books will be submitted to KICD for evaluation and approval. We plan to ensure that the Grade 8 books are distributed to schools by December 2023.

At this point, before we launch the distribution, let me acknowledge the publishers who have been contracted to

print and distribute the textbooks for Grade 7 for various subjects.

These are as follows:

<b>PUBLISHER</b>	<b>LEARNING AREA</b>
Storymoja Publishers	Agriculture
Mountain Top Publishers	Business studies
	Home Science
	Performing Arts
Jomo Kenyatta Foundation	Christian Religious Education
	Visual Arts
Moran Publishers	English
	Life Skills

<b>PUBLISHER</b>	<b>LEARNING AREA</b>
Spotlight Publishers	Health Education
	Physical Education and Sports
Oxford University Press	Integrated Science
Kenya Literature Bureau	Islamic Religious Education
	Kiswahili
	Pretechnical Studies
East African Educational Publishers	Mathematics
	Social Studies
Longhorn Publishers	Computer Science
	French

**Thank you and God bless you all.**