



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

SPEECH BY DR. BELIO KIPSANG, PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, STATE DEPARTMENT FOR BASIC EDUCATION ON ENHANCING EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY OF EDUCATION IN KENYA DURING THE 46TH KCB/KESSHA ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON 28TH JUNE, 2023 AT SHEIKH ZAYED HALL, MOMBASA.

Salutations

The Cabinet Secretary,

Distinguished guests,

Principals

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am happy to join all of you in this conference. You are meeting at a time when changes with far reaching ramifications on society are happening. Schools and society have high expectations and

regard for principals for the work you do to shape the lives of our youth. Good principals know that the position is not about power and privileges but rather, it is a calling to inspire a teaching fraternity, to nurture future generations in order to lay strong foundations for our nation,

The Government takes Education as a strong pillar in the development of the nation. You are all aware that H.E. the President Dr. William Ruto appointed a Presidential working Party on Education Reforms which is finalising on the report and shall have changes in Education. Some of the changes will have enormous implications on education.

I believe that this conference presents a perfect opportunity for you to take stock of some of the global changes that are likely to affect the sector. You will no doubt discuss how best to take advantage of these opportunities to discuss how schools can tackle the challenges these changes present and how to minimise the risks they are likely to have on education and schooling altogether. It is also an opportunity to share and learn best practices that will improve leadership in our schools.

The mandate of education is to provide for children's right to free and compulsory basic education, including quality services, and to access education institutions and facilities for persons with special needs, prepare the young for future with core knowledge and skills, and the habits of

learning, that enable them to learn continuously throughout their lives, lead decent lives and also become responsible persons in the society.

Enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of education is a crucial goal to ensure that learners receive the best possible learning outcomes while making the most efficient use of available resources. I would like to look at some strategies and approaches that can contribute to achieving this objective:

If there is one skill that is mostly revered across all organizations and institutions, it is leadership. Being in a position of power is not enough to make you a good leader. Effective leadership comes from the impact you have on people, the respect you garner and how you manage to walk the talk. If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are an effective leader.

Effective communication and listening skills have seen leaders become even greater leaders. For you to become a great leader, you need to be able to communicate clearly and be a good listener. The success of you as a leader relies heavily on effective communication.

Trustworthiness is critical to effective leadership and is built upon integrity and character. People trust and follow leaders

when those leaders exude the types of behaviours, they value themselves. Leaders establish trust with candour, transparency and credit. Building trust can take time and is no easy task, but it is a valuable effort to make, if sincere. When the school community trust the principal and value his/her integrity, they tend to be more open to new ideas and exude a willingness to embrace change.

Effective leaders should have the ability to inspire, empower, motivate and encourage others to unlock their full potential and become greater. An effective principal should instil in the teachers and students a hope for success and a belief in them.

Positive leaders empower people to accomplish their goals. It is imperative to make sure everybody in the school has great opportunities, and that they feel they're having a meaningful impact and are contributing to the good of school towards achieving the goals that have been set. With your ideologies, passion, compassion and working styles, you always keep inspiring others.

A principal with a vision is a very powerful leader as he/she works to achieve the vision. What is your goal? What is your vision? What is your purpose? Where do you see the school 10 years from today? Every school should have goals it is working towards achieving. The very essence of leadership is that you have to have a vision. You can't blow an uncertain trumpet. It is important to often reiterated the school's vision and set clear, achievable and persuasive goals. Having a

uniting vision for the school will move the teachers and students to the same direction hence goals are attained.

School infrastructure is a very important component in ensuring effective education. It is a fact that schools vary in the kinds of infrastructure they have put in place to enable learning for quality Education. Adequate infrastructure in academic and co-curricular activities is essential in providing a conducive environment for teaching and learning in the school.

Learners should not be denied their right to play in pursuit of excellent grades.

You are charged with school finances. You oversee school budgets. Keen and professional interest in school finance, planning, and prudence financial management ensures provision of all that the school requires to provide the tuition facilities and the environment for effective delivery of the curriculum.

Overall discipline in the school is paramount for ultimate performance and should be given the seriousness it deserves. Concerns from the students, teachers and support staff should be investigated fairly and dealt with.

The school students' councils or prefects should be strengthened and supported to help the school administration to know what is happening in the school. Children with learning difficulties need assistance from none other than the Principal to ensure they do not lapse to indiscipline.

Leveraging on learning technologies combined with traditional face-to face instruction allows the students to access educational materials anytime and anywhere, promotes self-paced learning and enables the teachers to provide targeted support interventions.

The Competency-Based Curriculum has shifted Education from a time-based system to a competency-based model, focusing on mastery of specific skills and knowledge. Students advance upon demonstrating proficiency, ensuring that they are well-prepared for the next level without being constrained by traditional grade levels. I expect every principal to start preparing the school fraternity for this change.

Lastly the school principal is responsible for Evaluating the teachers' performance based on the guidelines given by the Ministry of Education. The role is set to assume importance with the introduction of School Based Quality Assurance systems where the principal is the Chief Quality Assurance and

Standards guru overseeing the delivery of the curriculum and other aspects of the school relevant to delivery of quality education to learners.

It is your duty to develop, implement, and evaluate school programs and also ensure compliance with Ministry of Education policies, regulations, standards and initiatives.

A school principal oversees safety and security at the school level and manages the school's overall operations. The principal is the custodian of the safety of children once the parents and guardians safely hand them over to the school.

Effective, efficient and quality education in schools ends up sending to the world young men and women with the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values the larger society requires for its safety and wellbeing and that become global citizens.

I wish you the very best in all your deliberations.

AHSANTENI NA MBARIKIWE