

Press Release

Kenya institute of Curriculum Development (KUCD)

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Education Reforms long overdue and better for learners.

Review of the 8-4-4 system of education was long overdue, given that it has never been reviewed, for the last 14 years, Curriculum developers have said.

The curriculum ought to be re-looked at after every five years to ensure it meets emerging national and global standards.

"Kenya has not reviewed its curriculum since 2003, to see how it responds to changes across the world," Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) director, Dr Julius Jwan said.

He spoke on Monday during the 42nd Kenya Secondary Schools Headteachers Association (KSSHA) conference at WildWaters, Mombasa.

Dr Jwan said the focus is to change organisation of learning to align it to the constitution and emerging trends in the education sector nationally and globally.

"What we are doing should not be viewed as merely changing 8-4-4 but, organising learning that fits our current societal needs," Dr Jwan said.

He said the proposed curriculum emphasises less on content and more on competence to prepare learners who are all rounded to think beyond just passing examinations.

"We can't enhance creativity if we load learners with so much content," Dr Jwan said.

"The new curriculum emphasises more on what learners can perform and not just what they can remember."

Dr Jwan added that the ongoing piloting of the proposed curriculum is in line with national and global requirements.

The piloting phase, he told the headteachers, will move to the next level as from August, where they will train all teachers handling early years of education.

Last week, 2000 teachers from 470 schools in the pilot programme were taken through a mentorship program where they interacted with the new curriculum in a classroom set up.

Dr Jwan said the new curriculum focuses on continuous assessment of the learners, as opposed to one of examinations.

"We can do better without subjecting learners to an elimination method that leaves those who fail examinations hopeless yet they possess untapped talents," he said.

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