



KENYA INSTITUTE OF CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

PRESS RELEASE

30TH MAY 2014

NAIROBI, KENYA:

KICD starts process to review basic education curriculum

The Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) has initiated the much anticipated curriculum reform process intended to make education relevant to the needs of the country.

The reform process will begin with needs assessment, which is set to kick off once the data gathering tools have been shared with stakeholders and agreed upon.

KICD Director Dr. Lydia Nzomo announced that education stakeholders are set to deliberate on the data gathering tools on 4th June 2014 at a forum to be held at the Institute. Education Cabinet Secretary Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi will be the Chief Guest.

“Needs assessment will provide the data that will reveal the status of education and give insights into the curriculum reforms,” said Dr. Nzomo.

The process will kick off immediately tools for data collection have been discussed and agreed upon by stakeholders adding that “the process is participatory and the public will be required to give their input on the views to be incorporated”.

The assessment will help establish the societal needs to be addressed by the curriculum as well as determine the desired skills which will be developed by the curriculum. Also to be determined are the appropriate subjects, suitable competencies, appropriate assessment modes, preferred topics, suitable pedagogical approaches and learning experiences.

The survey will also establish appropriate resources, talents to be nurtured, preferred structure of education and identify challenges which impede effective implementation of the curriculum.

“The Institute shall seek the opinions of the public on the subjects to add and the subjects to remove in the curriculum, the skills to be incorporated, and the ways to deliver the information,” said Dr. Nzomo.

The curriculum reform comes in the wake of sustained calls by education stakeholders and the public in general on the need to revise the curriculum which is a major contributor to the quality of education. The intended curriculum reform is timely, noting that the current curriculum was last revised in 2002 contrary to International set standards that require that the curriculum be revised every five years.

The anticipated reforms will see the emerging issues since 2002 incorporated in the curriculum. Some of the emerging issues include the values specified in the Constitution which was promulgated in 2010, dictates of Vision 2030 blue print, the establishment of the East Africa protocol amongst others.

Curriculum therefore should be designed to equip all learners with the relevant knowledge, skills, competencies and values. KICD had carried out a summative evaluation in 2009 on implementation of primary and secondary school curricular.

The evaluation identified gaps in the current curriculum that it is objective and not competence based. This current curriculum does not allocate enough weight to values, attitudes and patriotism.

The evaluation at the same time noted that the cognitive domain has been over emphasized at the expense of affective and psychomotor domains thus curriculum relegates practical skills necessary for economic development to non-examinable subjects.

Other stages of curriculum development process include policy formulation, curriculum design, syllabus development and approval, development and approval of curriculum support materials, preparation of curriculum implementers, piloting, national implementation and monitoring and evaluation.

In the needs assessment stage, the Institute seeks to identify what will be incorporated in the curriculum by collecting views from various stakeholders including members of the public.

During the exercise, several learning institutions comprising early childhood, primary schools, secondary schools, teacher training colleges, technical and vocational institutions will be targeted. Other institutions and organizations such as the faith based organizations, associations, trade unions, employers, industrialists, manufacturers and the general public will also be targeted.

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