**EDUCATION | Heavy rains reported in various parts of the country as Form Four candidates start papers**

KneC airlifts papers to Turkana as candidates countrywide begin to tackle the final secondary school test

BY NATION TEAM

The Form Four national examination has begun smoothly except in Turkana East.

The Kenya National Examination Council (KneC) airlifted a fresh batch of papers to Kapeto Mixed Secondary School following a bandit attack on a van ferrying question papers to the school on Monday.

KneC acting secretary Joseph Kivilu said 25 candidates in the school may have to be relocated, while security officers were increased in the region.

**Without any attack**

Mr Daniel Namunwa, the school's principal, led the candidates, examination officials and teachers in prayers ahead of their first paper yesterday.

"Our prayer is that our candidates complete their examination without any attack and that teachers counsel and leading them in revision be secure," he said.

In Nairobi, few incidents were reported, despite many areas around the city experiencing downpours. Police were posted to schools and minimal transport hitches were reported.

However, 18 students at Faith Academy in Huruma were shocked to learn that they had not been listed as candidates. Although the headteacher said the students had not paid the exam fees, they insisted they had.

It is the second time the headteacher is involved in such a case. In Ruiru, Kiambu County, a 30-year-old former matatu driver is among 132 candidates at Ruiru Boys Secondary School.

Mr Charles Karuga is sitting for the examination seven years after he first admitted to Form One, according to the school principal, Mr Joseph Miano.

In Baringo County, the examination started with minimal hitches despite heavy rains.

Examination materials were delivered in time to Barpello, Chamaolngot, Tangulbe and Churo in Tato Sub-county, which is prone to attacks. Sub-county commissioner Daniel Kurui said plans had been put in place to ensure that the materials are stored near the centers to minimise transport problems due to the rains. He said his office was working with Turkana County officials to intensively patrol the porous Kapedo border, where armed bandits attacked and set ablaze a vehicle ferrying examination materials on Monday.

Meanwhile, security was beefed up in schools on the West Pokot-Turkana border.

In Romet, no incidents were reported. Education officials told the Nation that the examination started smoothly in the county's 172 centres despite heavy rains.

Similar security was maintained in Mombasa County, where the examination started without irregularity or hitches.

The situation was similar in all the 19 centres in Lamu County. Lamu county started without irregularity or hitches.

The number of KCSE candidates this year is 485,547.

County Commissioner Njengi Mili said additional police officers were posted to all schools, especially in areas that were mostly affected by the June-July attacks in which more than 70 people were killed.

At the Naivasha Maximum Security Prison in Nakuru County, 18 inmates are candidates. They include one deal row inmate, six life prisoners and 11 others serving sentences.

**Humanitarian Development Africa summit will be held in Nairobi, Kenya at Tribe Hotel from October 30-31, 2014.**

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**Varisty council picks Mbithi for VC's post**

BY NATION REPORTER

The University of Nairobi council has placed Prof Peter Muchhalp top among candidates interviewed to succeed Prof George Magoha as vice-chancellor.

In a report the council presented to Education Cabinet Secretary Jacob Kaimenyi (below), yesterday, Prof Agnes Mwang'ombe is ranked second while Prof Isaac Mbeche and Prof Lucy Irungu are third and fourth respectively.

Council chairman Idie Farah asked the university community to give the minister time to make the appointment. This followed concerns from both the students and the teaching staff that Prof Kaimenyi preferred a candidate who did not rank highest in the interviews.

The minister worked with all the top candidates at the university before his appointment to the Cabinet last year.

"It is premature to make such conclusions. I kindly ask the university community to remain calm," he said.

Dr Farah's remarks followed brief press briefings by students and lecturers' union when they accused the minister of interfering with the process.

"The university needs a qualified vice-chancellor. We are warning against any attempts to politicise the appointment," Academic Staff Union chairman Samuel Nyandemo said.

**Paralyse activities**

"We dare the Cabinet Secretary to appoint an unqualified candidate. We will paralyse all activities at the university," he warned.

However, Prof Kaimenyi, who spoke at the university, denied the accusations.

"I received the information this morning and I have to study the report before making the appointment. No one will tell me how to go about it. I will consult the government as I am empowered to do so by the Constitution," he said.

Don laments poor quality of education

BY NATION REPORTER

Schools and colleges are producing graduates who can hardly communicate in any language even after spending many year in school.

Professor of history and former MoU University chancellor Bethwel Ogot therefore challenges the government to ensure high quality of education in learning institutions.

"We have to ensure that education meets the required standards. It is sad that some students still cannot communicate in any language," said Prof Ogot.

The former chancellor was speaking at the University of Nairobi during roundtable consultations to mark 50 years of Kenya-UNESCO cooperation.

**Pay them well**

The theme was "Perspectives on sustainable education for the 21st Century" and was presided over by Education Cabinet Secretary Jacob Kaimenyi.

Unesco was formed in 1945 with the objective of promoting peace and sustainable development.

Prof Ogot urged the government to ensure those who do not transit from primary school to secondary schools have access to youth polytechnics and on to university.

He asked the government to hire more teachers and pay them well, citing the brain drain Kenya suffers when educated citizens migrate.