

East Afr. Post.  
No. 28256

CO.  
28256 147  
Rel? many or  
Ref

Individual.  
240  
19089  
July  
Previous Paper.  
28032

(Subject.)

Native Languages.

(Minutes.)

Mr. Brad

These proposals are simple and I think, satisfactory. It is, I am sure, right to make a grammar of Swahili compulsory. Bonuses are to be given for higher Swahili, the single exam in native dialects - presumably we shall add Qindustani under certain conditions (see oag/2002 herewith). The proposals do not however quite fall in with an desp. of 21 June, where it was held that an officer ought to learn the language of his district. If, however, we are only to have one obligatory exam., it should surely be in Swahili - (see oag/2002/49 herewith).

of Copy draft Uganda 204. 5 Sept

2/20/24  
3653

11

It is questionable whether we ought to  
~~consider~~ ~~these~~ men to be re-examined; but  
as it is the Ptes' own suggestion ~~and~~  
~~the~~ ~~main~~ ~~reason~~ ~~for~~ ~~the~~ ~~proposition~~  
I daresay that the difficulty raised  
by the Gov. Up. (in paper just referred  
to) will not arise in S.A.P. ~~the~~  
~~objection~~ ~~is~~ ~~to~~ ~~be~~ ~~made~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~  
~~proposed~~ ~~exam~~ ~~however~~ ~~inclined~~ ~~to~~ ~~think~~ ~~that~~  
any ~~over~~ ~~power~~ ~~should~~ ~~be~~ ~~given~~ ~~to~~ ~~exempt~~  
the Gov. shd. be given power to exempt  
men of considerable service, whom it  
wd. be undesirable to have entering  
~~into~~ ~~for~~ ~~an~~ ~~exam~~, ~~with~~ ~~out~~ ~~exception~~,  
either because they are so proficient  
or because they might take with shame  
a lower place than their juniors.

The 10 years suggestion & the  
grant of bonuses only to Gov. officers  
seem all right.

There appears to be no reason why  
temp. officers should not qualify  
as proposed, so long as they do not  
claim benefit abt. as a consequence.

Local awards shd. be made for  
the exams - June - Dec. seem un-  
objectionable, as far as we can tell  
for the Troviki; but it might be well  
to suggest that Gov. shd. communicate with  
Gov. Up. to see if they can make the  
Troviki exam<sup>s</sup> identical -

o? approve as above & send copy  
only of records for info to all ~~of~~

Mc  
at  
H

It is questionable whether we ought to  
~~consider~~ ~~the~~ ~~idea~~ ~~now~~ ~~to~~ ~~be~~ ~~re-examined~~, but  
as it is the Ptes own suggestion ~~and~~

~~to~~ ~~be~~ ~~re-examined~~  
I do say that the difficulty raised  
by the Gov. (in paper just referred  
to) will not arise in East.

~~My~~ ~~objection~~ ~~is~~ ~~to~~ ~~the~~ ~~idea~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~examination~~  
I am, <sup>however</sup> inclined to think that  
any ~~over~~ ~~the~~ ~~power~~ ~~to~~ ~~exempt~~  
the Gov. should be given power to exempt  
men of considerable service, whom it  
would be undesirable to have entering  
into for an exam, ~~with~~ ~~the~~ ~~same~~ ~~point~~,  
either because they are so proficient  
or because they might take with shame  
a lower place than their juniors.

The Corporals suggestion & the  
grant of bonuses only to Eur. officers  
seem all right.

There appears to be no reason why  
temp. officers should not qualify  
as proposed, so long as they do not  
claim benefit abts as a consequence.

Local arrangements should be made for  
the exams - June - Dec. seem un-  
objectionable, as far as we can tell  
for the Durahili, but it might be well  
to suggest that Gov. should communicate with  
Gov. of India if they can make the  
Durahili exams identical -

approve as above & send copy  
to the Gov. for info & all other

OK  
at 11

C. O.  
28256  
23 AUG 09

Governor's Office,

Nairobi,

July 21st 1909.

148

AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

No. 400.

(Incl. S.)

My Lord,

*4/20*  
*16575*  
Circular  
I & II.

With reference to Your Lordship's despatch No. 394 of the 21st ultimo respecting examinations in Native languages I have the honour to transmit herewith copies of a circular on the subject and of lists of languages drawn up by the Secretary of Native Affairs. These documents will perhaps tend to elucidate the proposals made in my despatch No. 210 of April 24th.

2. Briefly it is proposed that Swahili should be recognised as the principal language of every district. It is already the lingua franca of the whole Protectorate and its use is constantly spreading. A fair general knowledge of it, known as the Lower Standard, is demanded

Principal Secretary of State  
for the Colonies,  
Downing Street,  
LONDON, S.W.

of every officer, whether or no he intends to proceed to the Higher Standard or to take up any of the languages for knowledge of which a bonus is given. No bonus is proposed for the Lower Standard but a pass in it is an indispensable preliminary condition to earning one in any other language.

3. The Secretary for Native Affairs does not consider it possible to differentiate between the Higher and Lower Standards in any other language except Swahili.

4. Your Lordship will therefore perceive that it will still remain obligatory for an officer to pass in one native language viz: Lower Standard Swahili and that no officer will receive a bonus until he has passed a second examination either in Higher Standard Swahili or in one of the other native languages of the Protectorate.

5. I regret that these points were not more fully

brought

brought out in my previous despatch.

I have the honour to be,

With the highest respect,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient,

humble ser ant,

J. J. Falconer

30  
28256

ENCLOSURE No. 23 AUG 09  
In Despatch No. 449 of July 1909

Governor's Office,  
Nairobi,  
March 11th 1909.

151

M.P.No.1263/09

**CIRCULAR**

Sir,

I am directed to inform you that His Excellency has decided as follows in reference to examinations in African languages.

The Lower Standard Examination in Swahili will be compulsory for officers in all Departments, and except in very special cases promotion will be withheld from those who fail to qualify. The examination will be oral and the standard required will be the possession by the officer of sufficient ability to dispense with the services of a native interpreter in dealing with the ordinary business of his office or Court.

No bonus in any native language will be given to officers who have not first passed the Lower Standard Swahili examination.

Bonus will be given

(1) For the Higher Standard Swahili test.

Written papers will be set and candidates will be expected to show a thorough knowledge of the grammar and idioms of the language. Marks will also be given for ability to write and read the Arabic Character.

The



The previous examinations in Swahili, though described as Higher Standard, did not demand so complete a knowledge of the language as is now required, and no officer can claim a bonus for Swahili in respect of having passed such an examination prior to December 1908. Any officer, who has not served for 10 years in the country, may now however sit for the new Higher Swahili Standard provided that he has at any time passed the Lower Standard or the old Higher Standard, and a bonus will be given to successful candidates. This refers to Gazette<sup>d</sup> European officers only, with the exception of military officers. Clerks are not eligible for the bonus but may sit for the examination if they wish.

(2) Bonuses will also be given for the other African languages spoken in the Protectorate, as specified in the attached list.

The standard required will be the capacity to act as an efficient interpreter and the possession of a thorough working knowledge of the language. Officers who have qualified will be gazetted and will, subject to the exigencies of the service, be posted when possible to districts where the language, of which they are interpreters, is spoken.

Officers holding temporary appointments who have passed the Lower Standard Swahili examination may qualify for bonuses but will not receive them until their appointments are made permanent.

Examinations



Examinations in Swahili will ordinarily be held twice yearly in June and December in other languages, as occasion arises.

This Circular should be taken as supplementing and, in cases where they conflict, superseding those previously issued.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,



Lieutenant Governor.

INCL. Sure No. 2  
In Despatch No. *1000 of July 21st*

C.O.  
28256

REC'D  
23 AUG 00

154

LIST OF LANGUAGES SPOKEN IN THE EAST  
AFRICA PROTECTORATE FOR WHICH A BONUS OF £50  
WILL BE PAID TO OFFICERS WHO ARE GA-  
ZETTED AS INTERPRETERS.

Somali

Galla, or Boni, Sanya, or Rendile

Nyika Group (including Gyriama, Kaama, Ohonyi, Jibana,  
Kambe, Ribe, Rabai, Duruma and Digo.)

Kamba

Taita or Taveta

Kikuyu, or Embu, Suka, or Emberre

Meru Group (including Tharaka, Mwinbi and Igoji)

Masai or Samburu

Nandi-Lumbwa Group (including Kamasia, Elgeyo, Buret,  
and Sotik) or Suk, Dorobo, or the lan-  
guages akin to Nandi spoken on Mount  
Elgon.

Turkana

Bantu Kavirondo, or Kisii, Subs, or the Bantu  
languages spoken on Mount Elgon

Nilotic Kavirondo.

C. O.  
28256

23 AUG 00

LIST II.

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List of the principal languages spoken in the East Africa Protectorate for which a bonus of £50 will be paid to Officers who are gazetted as Interpreters.

-----00000-----

Somali  
Galla  
Nyika  
Kamba  
Taita  
Kikuyu  
Meru  
Masai  
Nandi-Lumbwa or Suk  
Turkana  
Bantu Kavirondo  
Nilotic Kavirondo.

day / 20256

cont.

~~14~~

DRAFT.

ent. N<sup>o</sup> 530

1537  
20256

day

3 Sept 1919

Mr

MINUTE.

- Mr. Parkhurst
- Mr. Read 31
- Mr. Fiddes
- Mr. Just
- Mr. Cox
- Sir C. Lucas
- Sir F. Hopwood
- Col. Seely
- Lord Crewe

*[Handwritten signature]*

Sir,

I have the honour to  
ack: the receipt of your  
desp. N<sup>o</sup> 400 of the 21<sup>st</sup> July,  
on the subject of examination  
in Native Languages,  
& to inform you that  
I concur generally in  
your proposals set  
forth in that desp., &  
also in the suggestion  
made in your desp. N<sup>o</sup>  
362 of the 2<sup>nd</sup> July  
that

for insertion

Copy in ... for inf.  
to Mr. ...

apl 28 4. 8 Sept

004 / 20256

2009

~~14~~

DRAFT.

Est. N<sup>o</sup>. 530

And 36531

004.

3 Sept 1909.

Dear Sir

MINUTE.

- Mr. Parkhurst
- Mr. Read 31
- Mr. Fiddes
- Mr. Just
- Mr. Cox
- Sir C. Lucas
- Sir F. Hopwood
- Col. Seely
- Lord Crewe

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& to inform you that  
I concur generally in  
your proposals, set  
forth in that desp., &  
also in the suggestion  
made in your desp. N<sup>o</sup>.  
362 of the 2<sup>nd</sup> July,  
that

for comment

copy in light for inf.  
to Mr. Updell

apl 25/9 8 Sept

use of Swahili, I am of  
opinion that, as long  
as only one language  
is regarded as made  
obligatory, the 1st  
language should be  
Swahili. I cannot,  
however, fully concur  
in the regulation requiring  
an officer to be recommended  
who draws a bonus  
for proficiency in  
Swahili, virtue of  
the old Higher Standard  
Exam<sup>n</sup> held prior to  
Dec 1908.

~~My opinion is that~~  
~~it is undesirable~~  
~~to make such officers~~  
~~eligible for a bonus;~~  
~~but I am not prepared~~  
~~to press this point.~~

I am inclined to think  
that it is undesirable  
to make <sup>these</sup> such officers  
eligible for a bonus;  
but I am not prepared  
to press this point.

~~My opinion is that~~  
~~it is undesirable~~  
~~to make such officers~~  
~~eligible for a bonus;~~  
~~but I am not prepared~~  
~~to press this point.~~

... your ...  
... officers, who  
... stages, & experience  
... must  
... have acquired <sup>such</sup> ~~some~~ <sup>as can</sup>  
... or some a knowledge  
of Swahili as would be  
demanded by the new  
Higher Standard,

there must be  
the same of

and I consider  
you should exempt  
such officers at  
your discretion.

3. With ref<sup>s</sup> to the  
qualification for awards  
by officers holding  
Temporary abt<sup>s</sup>, it  
should be made clear  
that no claim to permanence  
can be based on the  
fact that they have so  
qualified.

4. You are doubtless  
aware that in Uganda  
a knowledge of Swahili  
is insisted on in preference  
to that of any other language,  
an acquaintance with which  
may also be  
necessary for an officer;  
and I have to suggest that  
you do not enter into competition  
with the ... of that ...  
order that arrangements may  
be made if possible for the  
... in Swahili to be identical.

to show a ...  
of this def. has  
sent