

Primary school's new examination format for Standard Seven to add value to learners

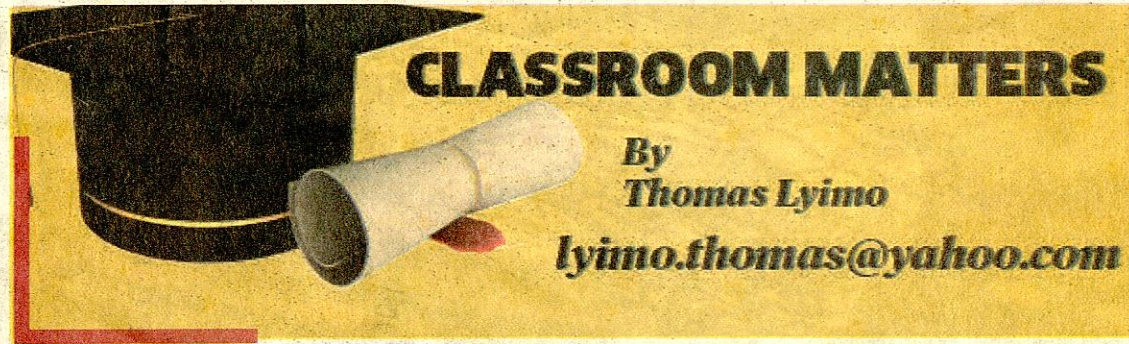
CHANGES in the education sector have now become a custom. It is said that if you do not change the change will change you. To change or to be changed all produce changes.

The wisdom of thinkers emphasize that we better prepare to change than waiting for changes to change us. The cost of correcting the weaknesses after the change has changed you is huge.

Recent introduction of the new format for primary school leaving examination is a proof that changes are necessary in our education sector to restore or embrace some qualities which will make our education better enough to take us where we want to be. The current format which if the changes will be implemented would have ended last year was subject to criticism in some ways.

We have been taught and emphasized on constructive criticism. Good academicians are those who consider reality and cling to objectivity rather than subjectivity. It has been something which does not give someone a sleep as critical thinkers sees multiple choice questions in mathematics examination as a challenge.

The new format which comes into



force this year eliminates multiple choices in mathematics and reduces the number of the same to a reasonable degree in other subjects, criticism from positive thinkers may be reduced to the tolerable degree.

The need to improve our education has been like a song in our country because what is expected from education has not been seen in a degree that is satisfactory. Despite having a lot of graduates, academic progress in the country still does not impress citizens. Critics still see areas of weakness in the education sector.

Graduates have been criticized of being unable to think extra mile thus posing a lot of burden to the government by

blaming it though it has given them education which is a key for life. It becomes a promising step for the National Examination Council of Tanzania (NECTA) to come up with the new format which may help to eliminate some weaknesses in our education sector, hence producing competent graduates who can fit in local and international labour markets.

The new format which NECTA has proposed will demand learners to write their own answer than choosing from the given ones. The new format will be beneficial in the following ways;

One of the benefits is promoting critical thinking. As learners think to write answers for the questions, critical thinking develops. Critical thinking cannot

develop unless the learner has been given a situation that can make them think. Those learners who will pass the examination of the new format will be considered as critical thinkers because the new format will not give learners an opportunity to relax in an examination and pass. It will be a seeking of excellence and recognition battle.

Another benefit is having much reliable evaluation. There have been some complaints by secondary school teachers that they receive learners who cannot read and write. This may be the defect of having an examination which has a lot of multiple choice questions where a learner can guess answers and pass the examination.

Teachers can be blamed for what they are not concerned. With the new format where it is only those who know can pass the Standard Seven final examination will join secondary school. This will make teachers relax and value the education foundation that primary school teachers have built. Wrong evaluation may lead to some annoying statements which mock primary school teachers in some ways.

The new format will also stimulate serious teaching. For learners to pass well

in the examination under the new format they must be taught well. Teachers put much effort in the teaching process to produce learners who are competent and hence capable of facing the challenges of the modern world. Claims by some people that teachers teach examination questions instead of contents will no longer be heard. The new format forces teachers to teach contents and not examination questions.

Again the new format is beneficial in the sense that it enables learners to be expressive. Among the qualities of a good graduate is expression. If a graduate is not expressive he may fail to bring impact to the society.

People cannot do what they have not understood. They need to be convinced sometimes. The ability to convince is made possible through clear expression. We can expect much good from the new format as the graduates who will be expressive will add a value to the education system.

For any major changes to take place there must be a time for research and evaluation. Improvement is the product of time. When changes occur in the society is when what was sufficient and adequate in the past becomes inadequate. Teaching is producing learners who can describe and not guessing.

D/N ew 3/14 March 2024

What teachers' support programme launch means

By SOPHIA KUMKANA

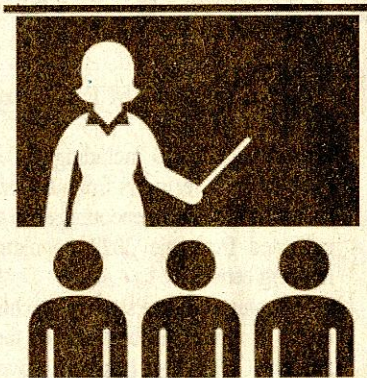
EFFORTS to improve teaching quality in the country got fresh impetus yesterday with the launch of the Global Partnership for Education Teachers Support Programme (GPE-TSP).

Officiating the launching in Dar es Salaam, on behalf of President Dr Samia Suluhu Hassan, the Deputy Prime Minister, Doto Biteko said the government wishes to see investment in the education sector positively impact on teachers.

Dr Biteko said the newly launched programme aims to improve the teachers' performance, quality as well as working infrastructure and accommodation.

"The government's aim is to continue investing in the teaching staff with the aim of ensuring that we provide quality and productive education for the development of our nation," Dr Biteko said.

Dr Biteko further said through the new programme, the govern-



ment has planned to improve some of the priority areas related to the teaching staff, including the construction of teachers' houses in peripheral councils that are in dire need of more teachers and teachers' houses.

He also said the government will also improve system for providing incentives to teachers in order retain them in the teaching profession and increase responsibility at the school level by strengthening the teaching and learning environment.

“The government's aim is to continue investing in the teaching staff with the aim of ensuring that we provide quality and productive education for the development of our nation.”
Dr Biteko

He added that the government recognises the importance of teachers in preparing human resources for country's development in the social and economic fields.

"Due to the good work done by teachers in this country, the number of students who passed in the Standard Seven exams increased from 907,802 in 2021 to 1,092,984 in 2023 which is an increase of 20.4 percent," he said.

Moreover, Dr Biteko said that from the year 2014 to 2018, GPE provided 94.8 million US dollars equivalent to 241.5bn/- and from 2019 to 2023, the partnership provided 127.7 million US dollars equivalent to 325.3bn/-.

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According to Dr Biteko, from 2023/24 to 2026/27, the partnership has provided three funding opportunities worth 171.69 million US dollars equivalent to 438.67bn/- in order to solve education challenges in the country, noting that so far the government has received 84.66 million US dollars equivalent to 211.65bn/- as the first phase of GPE-TSP implementation.

For his side, former president Dr Jakaya Kikwete, who is also Chairperson of GPE Board of Directors, said that GPE was established by the world's advanced economies countries to stimulate the development of education in developing countries, especially lower-income and lower middle-income countries including Tanzania

He said the GPE is the largest partnership and fund dedicated solely to advance quality education in developing countries with the target of ensuring that no child misses education because of gender, poverty, physical disability or environmental hardship.

"It is in 89 countries in the world, of which 44 are in Africa and three-quarters of the money has been invested in Africa, more than 6 billion US dollars have been invested to develop education systems in Africa where Tanzania has already received 330 million US dollars," Dr Kikwete said

According to Dr Kik-

wete, the partnership deals with basic education including early childhood, primary and secondary school.

He said Tanzania has been implementing development plans with positive results in the education system which has achieved various successes including the increase in girls who join secondary education.

However, he said GPE congratulates Tanzania for making changes in the education policy, including allowing a female student who became pregnant to continue with studies immediately after giving birth, "I promise that GPE will always be there for the government of Tanzania"

Minister for Education, Science and Technology Professor Adolph Mkenda said that the programme is in line with the country's education policy which emphasises on the teacher's development by empowering them.

He said in the current education policy, new teachers will be interviewed before being hired to meet the criteria of position rather than hiring a teacher just because of a teaching certificate.

Speaking earlier, Swedish Ambassador to Tanzania, Ms Charlotta Ozaki Macias said that Sweden in collaboration with other stakeholders will continue cooperation with the Tanzanian government to ensure that programme achieve great success.

HABARI LEO 21/03/2024

Tahasusi 49 zatangazwa waliomaliza kidato 4

Na Zena Chande

SERIKALI imetangaza dirisha la kubadilisha tahasusi kwa wanafunzi waliomaliza kidato cha nne mwaka jana.

Dirisha hilo linahusu tahasusi mpya 49 kutoka 16 za awali na litafungwa Aprili 30, mwaka huu.

Wahitimu hao wamepata fursa ya kubadili machaguo ya tahasusi za kidato cha tano na kozi za vyuo vya ualimu, vyuo vya kati na elimu ya ufundi kwenye mfumo wa kielektroniki.

Waziri wa Nchi Ofisi ya Rais Tawala za Mikoa na Serikali za Mitaa (Tamise-mi), Mohamed Mchengerwa alisema Dar es Salaam jana kuwa dirisha hilo ni maandalizi ya awali ya uchaguzi wa wanafunzi watakaojiun-

ga kidato cha tano na vyuo vya serikali mwaka huu.

Mchengerwa aliwaeleza waandishi wa habari kuwa kupitia Ofisi ya Rais – Tamisemi serikali imekamilisha kazi ya kuingiza kwenye kanzidata taarifa zilizo kwenye fomu za uchaguzi za wanafunzi kama zilivyojajwa na wanafunzi wakiwa shuleni.

Alisema Rais Samia Suluhu Hassan ametoa kibali cha kuajiri walimu 10,300 hivyo hata baada ya mabadiliko hayo kutakuwa na walimu wa kutosha.

Utaratibu huo unafanyika kutekeleza mabadiliko ya sera ya elimu na mafunzo ya mwaka 2014 toleo la mwaka 2023 na mitaala ya elimu kwa kidato cha tano na utekelezaji huo umehusisha uanzishaji wa tahasusi mpya

49, kutoka 16 za awali na kufanya kufikia tahasusi 65.

Tahasusi hizo mpya zitakazoanza kutekelezwa Julai mwaka huu zipo katika makundi saba ambayo ni tahasusi za Sayansi ya Jamii, Lugha, Masomo ya Biashara, Sayansi, Michezo, Sanaa na elimu ya dini.

“Kukamilika kwa zoezi hili kunatoa fursa kwa wanafunzi kufanya mabadiliko ya machaguo kwa njia ya mtandao...baada ya kufanya marekebisho yao, kanzidata hiyo ndiyo itakayotumika kuwachagua na kuwapangia nafasi za kidato cha tano na kozi mbalimbali katika vyuo vya kati na vya elimu ya ufundi kwa kuzingatia sifa za ufaulu na machaguo yao,” alisema.

Mchengerwa alihi-miza wanafunzi kufanya

marekebisho ya tahasusi kuingia kwenye mfumo wa uchaguzi wa wanafunzi wa selfform.tamisemi.go.tz na ili kuingia mhitimu itabidi kuingiza namba ya mtihami wa kuhitimu kidato cha nne mwaka 2023.

Uchaguzi serikali za mitaa

Mchengerwa alisema serikali imejiandaa vizuri kwa ajili ya uchaguzi wa serikali za mitaa na ina fedha za kutosha na maandalizi yamekamilika kwa kiasi kikubwa.

“Fedha hizi zinatoka kwa serikali yenyewe hatuendi kumuomba mtu. Kalenda ya uchaguzi wa serikali za mitaa huwa ni ya mwaka mzima ambayo tumeianza Oktoba 2023 na tutakwenda nayo mpaka Novemba 2024....” alisema.

Stakeholders question readiness in teaching of new combinations

By Guardian Reporters

EDUCATION stakeholders have described the government's move to increase the number of combinations to be taught in advanced secondary school from 16 to 65 as well intended but questioned readiness to effectively implement it, especially availability of teachers and books for the new subjects.

In different interviews yesterday, some who spoke said that it was important for the government to engage education stakeholders when deciding to add more combinations instead of doing so unilaterally.

Richard Mabala, a renowned Tanzanian author said teaching and learning becomes successful by having enough teachers and books which cater to the needs of combinations.

"Do we have enough teachers and books for these new combinations? It is important to urgently hire private authors to support this in order to produce enough teaching and learning materials," he said.

Mabala said the government should have engaged stakeholders when planning this because the

impact of this move can be huge in the coming years.

According to him, there are some combinations which involve foreign languages such as Chinese and Arabic which also need enough and competent teachers along with materials in order to meet the set goals.

Suzan Lyimo, a retired teacher, said efforts made by the government to improve the education sector were good and that the new combinations offer pupils the opportunity to specialize in areas that are in line with the current job market and future trends. "Adding the combinations from 16 to 65 is good because the country is struggling with unemployment crisis. The new system will enable pupils to acquire knowledge and skills that will enable them to get employed or establish their own income generating projects," she said.

She however raised concern on the availability of teachers and books to facilitate teaching and learning of the new combinations.

The new combinations which will commence in July 2024 are grouped into seven categories

based on subject areas as Social Sciences whose subjects are History, Geography and Economics.

Other categories are Languages (Kiswahili, English, French, Arabic, Chinese); Business and Mathematics (Economics, Business Studies, Accountancy and Computer Science); Sciences (Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Computer Science, Agriculture, Food and Human Nutrition).

There are also Sports as well as Arts under which there are Theatre Arts, Music and Fine Arts as subjects while in Religious Studies category there are two subjects namely Islamic Knowledge and Divinity.

Addressing reporters in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday, Mohamed Mchengerwa, Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government) said that this was part of implementation of changes in Education Training Policy of 2024.

According to him, the initiative is part of the government's commitment to enhancing the quality of education and ensuring that pupils are well-prepared for the challenges of the future.

Serikali: Mitaala mipya ya elimu italeta mageuzi

Na Rahma Suleiman,
ZANZIBAR

WAZIRI wa Elimu na Mafunzo ya Amali Zanzibar, Lela Muhammed Mussa amesema utekelezaji wa mitaala mipya ya elimu itatengeneza msingi madhubuti wa kufika malengo ya mageuzi ya mifumo ya elimu nchini.

Aliyasema hayo jana wakati akiifungua mkutano wa saba wa tathmini ya sekta ya elimu visiwani hapa.

Alisema utekelezaji wa mitaala pamoja na dhama nzima ya mageuzi inahitaji miundombinu ya kisasa na ya kutosha.

Waziri Lela alisema kwa kulitambua hilo na kwa kuzingatia changamoto ya msongamano wa wanafunzi kwa darasa moja na uendeshaji wa shule, serikali imedhamiria kuondosha kadhia hiyo ili watoto wapate elimu katika mazingira bora.

Aidha, alisema katika kipindi cha miaka mitatu ya uongozi wa Rais Hussein Ali Mwinyi, serikali imefanikiwa kujenga madarasa 2,273 pamoja na vyoo 2,189.

Alisema sambamba na ujenzi wa madarasa serikali pia imejenga maabara na nyumba za walimu ambapo kasi hiyo ya uimarishaji wa miundombinu itasadia kuondokana na changamoto ya msongamano wa wanafunzi madarasanini.

"Serikali imefanikiwa kujenga ofisi maalum za walimu za wilaya ambapo jumla ya ofisi saba zimejengwa na imepanga kumaliza ofisi nne ili kila wilaya kuwa na ofisi" alisema.

Alisema wakati juhudi za uimarishaji wa miundombinu zikiendelea serikali nayo ipo katika hatua za mwisho za ukamilishaji wa mpango wa utekelezaji wa mageuzi ya elimu unaotekelezwa kwa kipindi cha miaka saba hadi mwaka 2030.

Alisema kukamilika kwa mpan-

go huo kutatoa fursa ya kufuatilia kwa ufanisi utekelezaji wa mapendekezo waliyokubaliana katika mkutano wa sita wa tathmini ya elimu.

Hata hivyo, alisema serikali imetoa mkazo katika uimarishaji wa ujuzi kwa wanafunzi, hivyo suala la elimu ya ufundi na mafunzo ya amali litakuwa na nafasi kubwa katika utekelezaji wa mpango huo.

Alisema serikali inatambua kuwa pamoja na kuwa na mpango huo, ni lazima mchakato wa mapitio wa sera na sheria ya elimu uwe umekamilika ili kuandaa mazingira bora ya utekelezaji.

Naye Katibu Mkuu Wizara hiyo, Khamis Abdallah Said, alisema wizara itahakikisha inaendelea mikutano ya tathmini inayofanyika kila mwaka, ili kufanikisha sekta ya elimu kupata maendeleo zaidi.

Aidha, alisema katika kufanikisha tathmini ya elimu wizara imefanikisha wadau kuzitembelea taasisi mbalimbali ikiwemo shule

ili kutathmini sekta hiyo ambapo taasisi 24 zimetembelewa Unguja na Pemba.

Alisema kuwa wizara hiyo inaendelea kutekeleza maagizo ya Rais kuunga mkono juhudi za wadau kufanikisha sekta ya elimu nchini.

Mwenyekiti Mtandao Elimu kwa wote Zanzibar, Salim Ali Sali, alipongeza Serikali kuthamini juhudi za asasi za kiraia kwa lengo la kuhakikisha sekta ya elimu inaimarika.

Aidha, alitaka serikali kueleza fedha za kutosha katika bajeti ya mwaka ujao sambamba na kuondoa tozo ya kibiashara katika sekta binafsi ya elimu ili kusaidia kutimiza wajibu wake katika huduma ya kutoa elimu.

Mkurugenzi wa Taasisi ya Zanzibar Milele Foundation, Khadija Ameir Sharif, alisema serikali imechangia kwa kiasi kikubwa kujenga miundombinu rafiki ya ufundishaji, hivyo inapaswa kuweka kipaumbele kwa walimu.

How mentorship programme helps girl-child in career development

By DAILY NEWS
Reporter

HADIJA Kisatu, one of the Geita Gold Mining Limited (GGML) female employees is a live testimony of how the mining sector once known to be the domain of men is now giving priority to the women-folk.

Through her GGML-Ladies, she narrated how the mentorship programme initiated by the company in 2021 has made great impacts in their lives.

During a visit with her team to Kalangalala Secondary School in the Geita Region recently, she noted that its relevant in equipping women, especially those living in poverty with the knowledge that they need to believe in themselves and seize any opportunity without fear.

Citing it as model in changing the mindset of women to think of ascending into leadership positions, because the women working at the mine are at the forefront of advocating for the importance of women's status in society, especially the liberation of women involved in mining or in the value chain in the mining sector, it becomes a motivating factor in their midst.

Here, for instance many girls, especially in their final years of studies or after completing secondary school, experience a challenge of not understanding the future of the course(s) they were studying and the reality of what awaits them in higher education or later in the job market. But, with the GGML-Ladies Mentorship Programme, they

are tipped of what is ahead.

Being re-launched after a one-year hiatus, the programme is expanding beyond Kalangalala Secondary School to other Geita Region Secondary Schools with the aim of motivating and mobilising the girl-child to study disciplines, which will land them in acquiring employment in the mining sector.

Elaborating, Ms Kisatu said: "The initiative began when the group identified shortage of mining experts for employment, especially from those hailing from Geita Region and Lake Zone areas.

"It is important to visit students to help them understand the work that GGML as investor is doing in the country and as well to discover their talents and determine which subjects they should study," she said.

In quick analysis, the mentorship programme is aimed at promoting academic excellence for all students given that every child has equal opportunities in life, regardless of one's their gender.

In addition to explaining the various jobs and departments at the mine, Ms Kisatu, advised the students to be fully committed and dedicated in whichever career path they choose.

She added: "The management of GGML, thought it would be good to organise this mentorship programme so that those who want to choose different career fields and even become miners or executives in gold mining companies like GGML can realise their dreams by seeing the women of GGML who

are successful in their professions."

The mentors, who come from various departments of the mine: health, safety, environment and training to engineering, human resources and geology, not only impart knowledge to the students but also show them that through hard work, discipline and with support and guidance, they can succeed in their careers.

Reached for a comment, GGML Senior Training Officer from the Human Resources Department, Lina Sitta explained the benefits of the mentorship programme to the students as helping in identifying their strengths and weaknesses and using the same weaknesses to improve their strengths.

On implementing the programme, she said that they put the students into groups based on their interests, thereafter and two mentors are assigned to them for mentorship.

On her part, GGML Resource Evaluation Manager, Janeth Luponelo said: "Mentoring is a useful tool for both professional and personal development. It allows the mentees to learn from seasoned professionals, who have travelled long journeys in different fields, bridging gaps with knowledge and experience."

She said the goal of the "GGML-Ladies Mentorship Programme" is to help young women realise their full potentials by providing them with supportive relationships and assistance.

"Through pairing with seasoned GGM workers, such high school students also build a network of support

that encourages development, resiliency, and self-assurance. By sharing their knowledge, expertise, and experiences, these mentors will assist the mentees to overcome obstacles, explore careers as alternatives, and develop critical life skills," she pointed out.

Terry Strong, Senior Vice-President - Africa Business Unit said "Our commitment to sustainability extends beyond our operations. By investing in mentorship, we invest in the future of Geita. These young women will become leaders, entrepreneurs and change-makers."

Simon Shayo, Vice-President - Sustainability and Corporate Affairs (Africa) added that, "The 'GGM Ladies Mentorship Programme' exemplifies the dedication to gender equality and community development. We are proud to support the aspirations of Geita's young women."

Adam Jonas, a Form V student at Kalangalala Secondary School, being one of the beneficiaries of the mentorship programme said: "I realised that apart from a career in geology, one can also consider a career in law and teaching. I would like to ask GGML to continue with this programme in different schools so that students can learn to see the opportunities that lie ahead of them."

On his part, Jasmin Jacob, a Form III student at the institution studying business studies said: "With our mentors explaining to us what is ahead after finishing our studies, we get encouraged and in away forewarned to study hard."



GGML Finance Officer, Joscar Rumanyika during mentorship programme talks to Kalangalala Secondary School students on careers' development and life in the mine.