



## **2024 KEPSA Education Sector Board Retreat Concept Note:**

### ***Theme: Positioning Kenya as an Education Hub***

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*16th - 18th October 2024 Abai Lodges & Spa, Sagana*

#### **Preamble**

In recent years, Kenya has been making strides in positioning itself as a prominent education hub in Africa. The government in collaboration with private sector players, has played a vital role in advancing this agenda aiming to position Kenya as a leading center for academic excellence and research. This change has been marked by substantial investments in educational infrastructure, innovations in curriculum development, investments in e-learning, development of research and innovation hubs and the enhancement of higher education institutions. In the TVET sub-sector, the government gave a directive that from September 2023, TVET institutions to transition to competency-based education training (CBET) which is aimed at creating a skilled workforce and to meet industry needs for increased productivity and competitiveness. There has also been the establishment of over 30 research and innovation centers.

The KEPSA Education Sector Board Retreat 2024, aims to foster discussions and collaboration towards ensuring the sustainability and competitiveness of education in Kenya. By continuing to build on these achievements, addressing the challenges, developing policy recommendations, exploring opportunities, and strategizing for the future, this retreat will contribute to the enhancement of the education sector positioning Kenya as a premier education destination in Africa.

#### **Background**

In October 2023, the Cabinet Secretary for Education appointed a committee to implement the reforms proposed in the Presidential Working Party on Education Reforms (PWPER) Report. This committee was tasked with translating the recommendations of the PWPER into legislative frameworks aimed at reforming the education sector. By March 2024, the committee had prepared 12 draft bills covering various key areas of the education system, including:

1. The Basic Education Bill,
2. The Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) Bill,
3. The Kenya National Examinations Council (KNEC) Bill,
4. The Scholarships and Bursaries,
5. Universities Bill,
6. The Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Bill,
7. The Education Appeals Tribunal Bill,
8. The Placement and Funding Bill,
9. The Kenya National Qualifications Framework (KNQF) Bill,
10. The Kenya Literature Bureau (KLB) Bill,
11. The Teachers Service Commission (TSC) Bill, and
12. The Science, Technology, and Innovation (ST&I) Bill.

A call for submissions from stakeholders was published alongside these draft bills. The Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA) made submissions in line with its advocacy objectives through its BMOs.



In August 2024, following a change in leadership at the Ministry of Education, the PWPER Implementation Committee briefed the incoming Cabinet Secretary on the progress of the legal reforms. The 12 draft bills were formally handed over to the new Cabinet Secretary on 19th August 2024. The new CS has since begun the process of tabling some of these bills before Cabinet for discussion and approval, incorporating provisions within these bills to facilitate the creation of regulations necessary for operationalization. However, the new Cabinet Secretary has withheld three key bills—Basic Education, TVET, and TSC—for further stakeholder engagement, recognizing the need for broader consultations to ensure these reforms are aligned with the interests of all relevant parties.

Furthermore, in line with the President's directive to enhance collaboration between commissions and ministries, a mechanism for engagement between bodies such as the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) and the Ministry of Education has been established. This engagement framework is expected to streamline communication and foster a more coordinated approach to implementing these reforms across the education sector.

## **Concept for Engagement: Transforming Kenya into an Education Hub through Legal and Policy Collaboration**

### **Introduction**

The private sector in education is committed to working with the Government through the Presidential Working Party on Education Reforms (PWPER) Implementation Committee to ensure that the legal and policy frameworks being developed create an environment conducive to transforming Kenya into the education hub of Africa. To achieve the success seen in Singapore and Malaysia, and to position Kenya as Africa's premier education hub, it is essential for the private sector to establish immediate and continuous engagement of the PWPER Implementation Committee. This engagement will ensure that Kenya's legal and policy framework supports the internationalization of education and the influx of FDI, leading to long-term sustainable development.

This partnership aligns with key national goals, including Vision 2030, the Kenya Kwanza Education Charter, MTP IV, NESSP and the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA). The proposed engagement will help attract foreign direct investment (FDI), concretize the growth of education as an export service and internationalize the Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC).

With the PWPER Implementation Committee actively developing education sector laws and policies, this is the most opportune time for the private sector to collaborate and contribute to ensuring that the legislation is inclusive of all key stakeholders.

### **Alignment with National Goals**

This engagement is fully aligned with Kenya's national development frameworks:

- **Vision 2030:** By promoting Kenya as a regional education hub, the country will attract investment and talent that will drive economic development.



- **Kenya Kwanza Education Charter:** The private sector's input can help ensure the sustainability and international competitiveness of Kenya's education system.
- **Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (MTP IV and NESSP):** Enhancing education as a key export service will create jobs, foster innovation, and contribute to equitable economic growth.

### Engagement Scope

1. **Basic Education, TVET, and University Levels:** The collaboration will encompass all levels of education, from basic education to TVET and universities, ensuring a holistic approach to reform.
2. **Legislative and Policy Recommendations:** The private sector will present evidence-based proposals to support key legislative and policy changes that foster an environment conducive to growth, investment, and internationalization.
3. **Stakeholder Collaboration:** Involvement of private education players, investors, and educators will provide practical insights and real-world applications to the legal committee's work, ensuring the legislation is both aspirational and feasible.

### KEPSA Education Sector Board.

The KEPSA Education Sector Board serves as a thought leader in its subject matter, leading engagements on behalf of the private sector. Through Public Private Dialogues, the sector board has not only addressed problems but also developed policy and recommendations that have enhanced sustainability in the sector.

The board comprises of three sub sectors which contribute to the NBA IV agenda as follows:

- i. **Basic Education Subsector:** covers the first twelve years of children and lays the foundation of competitiveness, values and attitudes of the human capital. It includes Early Childhood Development (ECDE), Primary and Secondary Education.
- ii. **Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Subsector:** develop competencies and skills for productive and gainful employment.
- iii. **University and Post Skills Subsector:** Develop novel approaches for advancing knowledge, competencies, continuous development, research and innovation.

### The Education Sector Board Retreat

The KEPSA Education Sector Board has continuously engaged with the line Ministry of Education and relevant government agencies guided by a policy dialogue matrix (with collated and harmonized issues) aligned to the KEPSA National Business Agenda and additional input from members. The continued engagement has over time yielded success that has had a positive impact on the sector with the most recent being the reforms on education which were greatly influenced by the sector board's input.

Each year, since 2020, the Education Sector Board has held an Annual Retreat to provide an opportunity for members to reflect and review the Sector's vision, plans and set realistic work plans, structures and mechanisms for achieving the sector goals. In addition, the sector board retreat has further promoted cohesiveness, improved collaboration and communications among the members and other KEPSA sector Boards.



The Sector Board Retreat this year will be held on 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> October, with a focus on re-engineering the strategic approach of the private sector, positioning Kenya as a continental Education Hub. It will also offer an opportunity to review approaches for coordinated framework for education sector public private partnership and policy dialogues.

### Objectives

The Retreat aims to address the sustainability of private education in Kenya by focusing on the following objectives:

- i. To identify critical legal and policy reforms that would realize an enabling environment for the growth of the education sector by:
  - a. **Positioning Kenya as Africa's Education Hub:** Kenya can leverage its strategic position to attract students from across Africa and beyond, offering competitive, high-quality education in a stable and conducive environment. By ensuring that the legal and policy framework supports international education standards and competitiveness, Kenya can attract global educational institutions and organizations, making it a prime location for headquarters of global and African corporates.
  - b. **Boost Education as an Export Service:** The education sector in Kenya has the potential to be a key export service, bringing international students, educators, and programs into the country. Additionally, with a rising regional and global demand for quality education, Kenya has the potential to develop a high-quality cadre of leading education players, investors, and educators against whom we can optimize to fill the regional and global demands in education. A robust legislative framework can enhance the regulatory environment, making Kenya a premier destination for quality education, similar to the success seen in Singapore and Malaysia.
  - c. **Support the Internationalization and Africanization of the CBC:** The CBC system, tailored to Kenya's specific needs, can be exported and adopted across the continent. Legislation should not only support the local context but also ensure that the CBC curriculum can be africanized/internationalized and then used as a curriculum of instruction in Africa and beyond. By Africanizing and internationalizing CBC, Kenya can become the regional and global leader in competency-based education.
- ii. To enhance the education sector's competitive edge in Kenya by fostering strategic collaboration and inter-sectoral co-dependence, leveraging on the emerging opportunities and innovations.

### Expected outcomes.

Expected outcomes of the 2024 Education Sector Board Retreat include:

- i. **Legal and Policy Recommendations:** Formulation of policy recommendations and advocacy strategies that can support a conducive regulatory and operational environment for private education, ensuring its long-term sustainability.
- ii. **Engagement and Networking** - Enhanced peer-to-peer interactions, learning, and networking opportunities that enables sector players to share knowledge, leadership insights, and advocate for collective interests.
- iii. **Strategic Partnerships and Collaborations:** Development of a strategic plan outlining potential collaboration opportunities and partnerships between private education institutions and other sectors, aiming to enhance sustainability and address common challenges.
- iv. **Actionable Roadmap:** A clear and actionable roadmap for implementing proposed solutions,



collaborating with other sectors, and addressing challenges to foster the sustainability of private education in Kenya over the short, medium, and long term.

- v. **Capacity Building:** Development and enhancement of leadership skills that would drive meaningful progress within the education sector.



## Retreat Agenda

### KEPSA EDUCATION SECTOR BOARD RETREAT AGENDA; 16<sup>TH</sup> – 18<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2024

Time	Activity	Session Facilitator	Moderator
Wednesday 16, 2024	Arrivals	All	Patience Karanja
<b>Thursday 17, 2024</b>			
8.30am – 9.00am	Registration	Patience Karanja	Patience Karanja
9.00am – 9.30am	Introduction and Conference Objectives	Priscilla Kerebi	Priscilla Kerebi
9.30 am –10.00am	<p><b>Welcoming Remarks:</b> Dr. Vincent Gaitho, Chairperson KEPSA Education Sector Board</p> <p><b>Opening Remarks:</b> Ms. Mutheu Kasanga, KEPSA Education Sector Board Director</p>		
10: 00 am -10:45 am	<p><i>Presentation:</i></p> <p><b><i>Leveraging on the Opportunities within KEPSA for the Education Sector</i></b>  <i>KEPSA's diverse membership across various sectors offers a unique platform for cross-sectoral collaboration, driving Kenya's global competitiveness. By uniting expertise from different industries, KEPSA enables the private sector to tackle emerging challenges, including the evolving future of work. This collaborative approach strengthens individual sectors and fosters a shared vision for sustainable economic growth. In this session, we will explore key opportunities within KEPSA for the education sector to engage, innovate, and thrive.</i></p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Ms. Doris Olutende – KEPSA Public Private Dialogue Manager            Q&amp;A Session 15 min</p>		
11:00 am – 11:30 am	<b>Health Break and Group Photo</b>		
11.30am –1.00pm	<p><b>Positioning Kenya as an Education Hub: Overview, Challenges and Opportunities</b>  <i>Kenya has emerged as a leading education hub in the region, offering both local and international learning opportunities from basic to higher education. Despite policy, legal, and regulatory challenges, there is vast potential for growth, creating numerous opportunities for the private sector. This session will focus on addressing key challenges shaping policy recommendations, and exploring growth opportunities to further strengthen Kenya's position as a top education destination.</i></p> <p><b>Panel Discussion:</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Sharon Cheramboss, Director Policy &amp; Partnerships, Bridge Kenya</p> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Mutheu Kasanga, KEPSA Education Sector Board Director and DVC Lukenya University</li> <li>• Dr. Vincent Gaitho, Chairperson KEPSA Education Sector Board and Pro-Chancellor MKU</li> <li>• Jane Mwangi, Head of Secretariat, Kenya Association of International Schools (KAIS)</li> </ul>		



	<p><b>Reflections from successful case studies</b></p> <p><i>Kenya's vision for its education sector is to attain global competitiveness in education, training and research &amp; Innovation which creates an exciting opportunity to enhance academic standards and attract talent from across the globe. By examining successful case studies from other nations, we can identify effective strategies and best practices that can be adapted to Kenya's unique context. This session will highlight key lessons learned and innovative approaches that can drive sustainable development in Kenya's education sector.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Rob Williams, Executive Director, Braeburn Schools Limited</li> <li>• Mr. Ralph Bistany, CEO SABIS</li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A Session – 30 min</p>
<p><b>1.00pm – 2.00pm</b></p>	<p><b>Lunch Break</b></p>
<p><b>2.00pm – 5.00pm</b></p>	<p><b>Sub- Sector Briefings</b></p> <p><i>This session aims to provide insights into current challenges and opportunities within the various sub-sectors, highlighting the importance of collaboration among stakeholders. Additionally, discussed will be innovative practices and best experiences that enhance educational outcomes.</i></p> <p><b>Presenters:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hon. Secretary Rosebella Owanga, KPSA- Basic education</li> <li>• Prof. Gateru, NRF &amp; Rev. Prof. Mbugua, VC CUEA - Collaboration among education institutions (universities and TVETS) for joint research and innovation</li> <li>• Ms. Lynda Kasina, TVET Advisory Committee Member, AHK - TVET</li> </ul>
<p><b>Friday 18, 2024</b></p>	
<p><b>9.00am – 10.00am</b></p>	<p><b>Fire Side Chat:</b></p> <p><b>The Role of ICT in Transforming Private Sector Education</b></p> <p><i>ICT has become an essential tool in shaping education, enhancing accessibility and fostering innovative learning environments. By integrating technology into educational practices, institutions can provide personalized learning experiences, enhance skill development and broaden their reach to diverse student populations. This discussion will explore how ICT improves educational outcomes and equips students with crucial skills for the modern workforce, and the specific role of the private education sector in ultimately driving economic growth and development.</i></p> <p><b>Presenters:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Classera</b> Leveraging on ICT to enhance private sector growth, a case study of Singapore/Malaysia</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Ehud Gachugu, Global Director Youth and Jobs, KEPSA</b> Leveraging on ICT to enhance private sector growth in Kenya</li> <li>• <b>Davis Waithaka, AI Champion KEPSA Education Sector Board</b> Leveraging on AI to enhance development in the education sector.</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Evelyn Kasina</p>



	Q&A Session – 30 min
<b>10:00 am – 11:00 am</b>	<p><b>Sector Skills Committee</b></p> <p><i>The challenge of unemployment has long been a global issue, prompting various policy proposals from different governments to address the situation. A significant reduction in unemployment has been observed through the deliberate upskilling of the youthful population and specifically the incorporation of a dual training model. For dual training to be successful and serve as a good investment for the future, the system must integrate the expertise and interests of all stakeholders, facilitating the transition from learning to employment and address the skills needs of the labor market. This session will therefore, delve into the strides the KEPSA Education Sector Board has taken to address this gap and advance the agenda.</i></p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Ms. Priscilla Kerebi, Vice Chairperson, KEPSA Education Sector Board</p> <p>Q&amp;A Session - 20 min</p>
<b>11:00 am – 11:30 am</b>	<b>Health Break</b>
<b>11:30 am – 1:00 pm</b>	<p><b>Presentation:</b></p> <p><b><i>Transforming Kenya into an African Education Hub: A case for legal and policy reforms</i></b></p> <p><i>The policy space in the education sector has often been riddled with inconsistent legislative frameworks and critical gaps between policy and practice. To bridge this gap the President in 2023, established a Presidential Working Party on Education Reforms and thereafter an implementation committee, that is focused on developing legislation pieces that would upscale the sector. This session therefore, offers a valuable opportunity for the private sector to get a status update on the Presidential Working Party and Committee as well as to collaborate and contribute, ensuring that the legislation includes input of all key stakeholders.</i></p> <p><b>Presenters:</b></p> <p><b>Key Note Presenter:</b> Prof Collins Odote, Member Presidential Working Party on Education Reforms - PWP Reforms</p> <p>Q&amp;A Session – 45 min</p>
<b>1.00pm – 2.00pm</b>	<b>Lunch Break</b>
<b>2.30pm – 3.00pm</b>	<p>Way Forward and Wrap Up,</p> <p><b>Dr. Vincent Gaitho, Chairperson KEPSA Education Sector Board</b></p>