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Korea donates. The government of the Republic of Korea has donated \$50,000 to support victims and restoration of infrastructure destroyed by the earthquake that hit Kagera region in Tanzania in September. The donation, issued in Dar es Salaam by the ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Tanzania, Song Geum-Young, was received by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Ambassador Augustine Mahiga, on behalf of the Prime Minister, Mr Kassim Majaliwa. [Agencies]



Significant drop recorded in 2016 KCSE performance, says Uhuru

Directive. President Kenyatta directed the ministry of Education to put in place effective plans to institutionalise the ongoing reforms in the sector.

BY PETER LEFTIE
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KENYA. There was a significant drop in performance in this year's Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) examination compared to last year.

Speaking after receiving a comprehensive report of the 2016 results from Education Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiang'i ahead of their official release, President Kenyatta confirmed that there was a significant drop in performance this year.

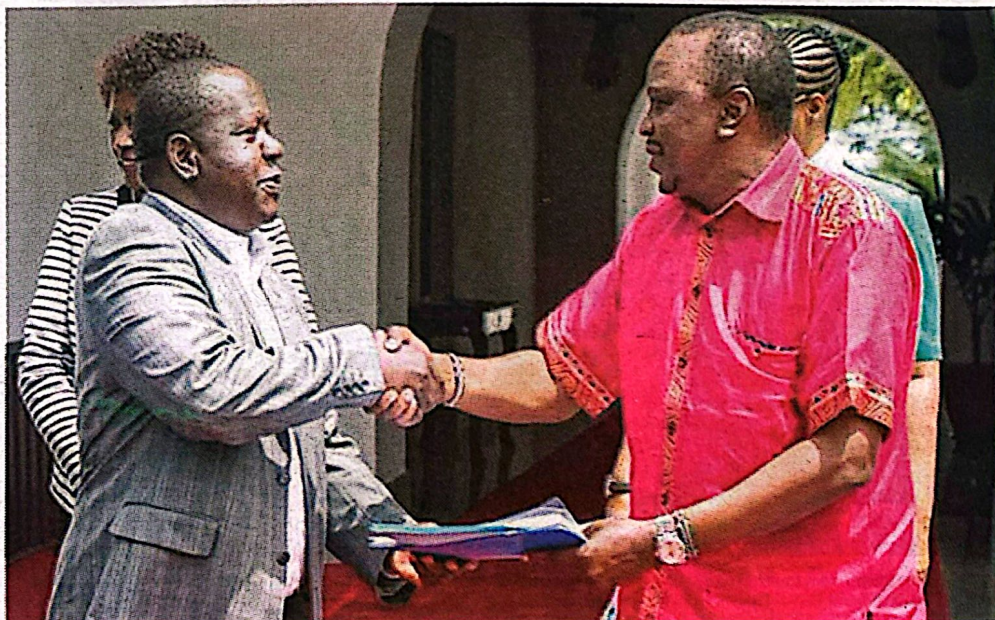
President Kenyatta however maintained that notwithstanding the drop in performance, the results by and large indicated a normal performance curve, a clear indication that both the examination marking and final results are credible.

The drop in performance comes barely a month after the Kenya National Examinations Council (KNEC) warned that there will be a drop in the number of As posted during the examination as compared to previous years.

Performance

Speaking in Kisumu last month, KNEC boss George Magoha warned that the number of students who get the grade will reduce because of tighter quality controls.

This he said would be a result of tighter monitoring and supervision of the 2016 examination. "The reason why you have seen a lot of Government involvement is because we



The report. Mr Fred Matiang'i presents the report to president Uhuru Kenyatta at State House, Mombasa, yesterday. COURTESY PHOTO

have gotten into a stage where Kenyan examination papers are being questioned elsewhere and holders even re-examined elsewhere. That is to say that our certificates papers are about to become worthless," he revealed.

He added that in any population, the 'A materials' fall between five and 10 per cent, and therefore Kenya being a normal country cannot keep producing so many A's that surpass what would be in a normal distribution curve.

Speaking after receiving the report from Dr Matiang'i yesterday, President Kenyatta directed the Ministry of Education to put

in place effective plans to institutionalise the ongoing reforms in the sector to ensure sustainability and entrenchment. He emphasised that there was no room for sliding back on the ongoing reforms, saying no effort should be spared in ensuring the Ministry moves to the next parts of the sector to safeguard proper utilisation of exchequer resources, eradicate wastage and bureaucratic inertia that often lead to failure in the achievement of set targets.

To enhance efficiency in the utilisation of resources, the President directed the ministry to speed up the implementation of the Education Information Management System

planned to ensure that education data in the country is accurate, current and available to facilitate accurate decision making and deployment of resources.

Unique identifiers

The President directed that with effect from 2017, the Kenya National Examinations Council should cease the use of index numbers and instead ensure all registered examination candidates have unique personal identifiers (UPIs) in Student Registration Numbers (SRNs) that they will use throughout their presence, at all levels, in the Kenya education system.