



Office of the Chairperson

Ref. PSC/ADM/13(42)

22nd May, 2023

All Authorized Officers

All Chief Executive Officers of State Corporations

RE: AUTHENTICATION OF ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATES IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

The Public Service Commission, through letter Ref. PSC/ADM/13 of 19th October, 2022 issued a framework which required all Authorized Officers to:

- Undertake an audit of academic and professional certificates of all newly appointed officers in the last ten years in Ministries, Departments, Agencies and State Corporations (MDAs) and submit a report of the exercise by 1st January 2023;
- Dismiss from the service in accordance with the provisions of the Public Service Commission Act, 2017, the Public Officer Ethics Act, 2003 and the Leadership and Integrity Act, 2012 any officer found in possession of forged certificates; and
- Continuously validate academic and professional certificates prior to appointments and promotions and file the same through the Compliance and Quality Assurance quarterly (M&E) and annual reports to the Commission.

The Commission has considered interim reports that have been received and observed the following:

- i. Most MDAs have requested for an extension of the set submission timelines to allow for authentication feedback from respective institutions that issued the certificates.
- ii. There are verified cases of forged academic certificates and submission of fraudulently obtained certificates for the award of appointment, promotions or re-designation in the Public Service.



- iii. Some MDAs with verified cases of forged or fraudulently obtained certificates have instituted disciplinary action including termination of service and terminal dismissal to the affected officers in accordance with the provisions of the Public Service Commission Act, 2017, the Public Officer Ethics Act, 2003 and the Leadership and Integrity Act, 2012 while others have not taken any action.
- iv. MDAs with numerous KNEC certificates to authenticate have budgetary challenges owing to the cost involved and have therefore requested the Commission to intervene and negotiate for a waiver or reduction in authentication charges.

In view of the above:

- a) Respective MDAs have been granted the requested extension up to and including 30th June 2023 by which date finalized reports should have been received at the Commission;
- b) The Commission has requested the Ministry of Education to consider waiving the authentication charges on KNEC Certificates;
- c) In addition to being dismissed from the service in accordance with the provisions of the Public Service Commission Act, the Public Officer Ethics Act and the Leadership and Integrity Act, the Commission will consider taking appropriate legal and administrative action against any public officer found in possession of forged certificates including bringing on board relevant investigative agencies.



A.M. MUCHIRI, (AMB.)
CHAIRPERSON

Copy to:

Hon. Aisha Jumwa Katana
Cabinet Secretary
Ministry of Public Service,
Gender and Affirmative Action
NAIROBI

Mr. Ezekiel Machogu
Cabinet Secretary
Ministry of Education
NAIROBI.

Mr. Felix K. Koskei

Chief of Staff and Head of the Public Service
Office of the President

NAIROBI

Prof. Mike Kuria

Chief Executive Officer
Commission for University Education

NAIROBI

Dr. David Njengere

The Council Secretary/ Chief Executive
Kenya National Examinations Council

NAIROBI

**All Heads of Human Resource Management
Ministries/State Departments/Agencies**