Kenya Swahili Braille Code

**Derived from the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development’s Swahili Braille Manual: “Mwongozo wa Breli Ya Kiswahili”;**

**Graded in line with the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development’s**

**Curriculum Designs for Kiswahili Braille;**

**Adopted at a Stakeholders Workshop held at the Swiss Lenana Mount Hotel on 25th August 2022.**

**List of participating stakeholders:**

1. Ministry of Education – Directorate of Special Needs Education
2. Ministry of Education – Directorate of Quality Assurance and Standards
3. Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development
4. Kenya Institute of Special Education
5. Kenya Institute for the Blind
6. Kenya Union of the Blind
7. Kilimanjaro Blind Trust Africa
8. Thika Primary School for the Blind
9. African Braille Centre
10. Inclusion Resources for Africa
11. International Council for the Education of People with Visual Impairment – Africa

**Recommendations from Stakeholders**

1. The Code to be known as the “Kenya Swahili Braille Code” or “Swahili (Kenya)
2. Any other existing Swahili codes associated with Kenya to be replaced with the proposed code.
3. Any other Swahili Braille codes to remain but to be distinguished from the proposed code.
4. The Kenya Swahili Braille code to consist of 6 Grades as categorized below.

# Grade 1

## Alphabet

1 a

12 b

14 c

145 d

15 e

124 f

1245 g

125 h

25 i

245 j

13 k

123 l

134 m

1345 n

135 o

1234 p

1235 r

124 s

2345 t

136 u

1236 v

2456 w

13456 y

1356 z

## Numbers

3456 Numeral Sign

1 1

12 2

14 3

145 4

15 5

124 6

1245 7

125 8

25 9

245 0

## Punctuations

256 Fullstop

2 Comma

23 Semi-Colon

25 Full Colon

235 Exclamations mark

236 Question mark) huakilishwa na nukta nundu 2, 3 na 6 au H ya chini.

3 Apostrophe

36 Hyphen

36 36 Dash

236 Double opening quotation mark

356 Double closing quotation mark

6 236 Single opening quotation mark

356 3 Single closing quotation mark

2356 Parandesi/Bracket

46 Italic sign (Used at the beginning of the word without spacing. If two consecutive words are in italics, the sign is put before each word. If more than two words are in italics, a double italic is put at the beginning of the words and a single italic sign followed by dot 3 put at the end of the last word)

456 34 Oblique stroke

6 2356 Opening square bracket

2356 3 Olosing square bracket

36 36 Elipsis

36 36 36 Long Dash

6 Capital letter sign

6 6 Capital sign used when all the following letters are capitalized. Used for one or two consecutive capitalized words

6 6 6 Capiltal letter sign used when three or more consectuve words are capitalized

6 3 Used to close capitalization of three or more consecutive words

56 Letter sign (used before a letter to demote Roman numbering, to enumerate sections or to denote a person or place)

# Grade 1.2

## Single Character Word Signs Part 1

The following characters represent words commonly used in Swahili language. They represent these words when they stand alone, that is, when they are preceeded and followed by a space.

b bora

c chai

d dawa

e elfu

f fora

g gogo

h homa

i imani

j jambo

k kilimo

l ladha

m maji

n neno

o orodha

p pilipili

kw kwamba

r roho

s somo

t taarifa

(u ushirika – to be checked as it could be confused with word “u”)

v vyema

w wizara

mb mbegu

y yai

z ziwa

# Grade 1.3

## Single Cell Contractions

1246 nd

156 tw

12345 kw

346 ng

12456 ny

16 ch

126 gh

12356 sw

146 sh

1456 th

2346 dh

34 st

12346 end

1346 mb

123456 mw

23456 nz

## Double Letter Contractions

These double-letter contractions are used at all places, that is, at the beiginning, middle and end of a word.

345 aa

26 ee

35 ii

246 oo

1256 uu

## Contractions That Represent Whole Words

These contractions are used to represent whole words. When used, they should not be followed by another letter ore word. However, they can be preceeded or followed by punctuations.

mw mwanafunzi

sw swali

ch chama

gh ghali

sh shule

th thabiti

nd ndani

st starehe

ng ngoma

ny nyama

dh dhahabu

tw twende

# Grade 1.4

## Contractions Using Dot 5 Followed by a Single Letter or Single Cell Contraction

When dot 5 is followed by a single letter, the two create a contraction as follows:

5b bibi

5c changa

5d -dini

5e embe

5f fungu

5g ganda

5h hapa

5j jiji

5k kata

5l lala

5m mimi

5n nyinyi

5o ona

5p pamba

5r rudi

5s sisi

5t taka

5u unda

5v vita

5w wazi

5y yawe

5z zuri

5ch changamoto

5sh sheria

5th theluji

5mw mwalimu

5dh dhati

5sw Swahili

## Contractions Using Dots 456 Followed by a Single Letter or Single Cell Conraction

The contractions are created using dots 456 imediately preceeding the first letter of the word. They can be used anywhere in the word.

456b baba

456d dada

456j jibu

46k kaka

456m mama

456n nyanya

456s sema

456y yeye

456sh shangazi

# Grade 1.5

## Contractions Using Dots 46 and Dots 56

46e ote

56e enye

46d ond

56g ong

46l lia

56l lea

**Notes**

1. The contractions for ‘ote‘ ‘enye‘ ‘ond‘ and ‘ong‘ cannot be used at the beginning of a word, that is, there cannot be a space before the conractions.
2. The contractions for ‘lea‘ and ‘lia‘ cannot be used as complete words, that is, there cannot be a space before and after the conractions.

# Grade 2

## Word Short Forms

These contractions are created when the word is standing alone. The word can be preceeded or followed by a punctuation. If the word contraction consists of characters that can be contracted, the character contraction also applies.

afadhali afdh

ahadi ahd

alama alm

amani am

anwani anw

asante as

asubuhi asb

baadaye bdy

badala bdl

bahati bht

barabara brb

barua br

barua-pepe brp

basi bs

bila bl

bonyeza bnyz

bwana bw

chakula chkl

cheti cht

chini chn

chora chr

chumba chmb

daftari dft

daima dm

dakika dk

daktari dkt

darasa drs

dawati dwt

desturi dst

dijitali djt

dirisha drsh

dogo dg

dondoo dnd

ekari ekr

elektroniki elkt

elimu el

eneo en

eropleni erp

fafanua ffn

fahamu fhm

faida fd

fedha fdh

fimbo fmb

fulani fln

furaha frh

gani gn

gari gr

gazeti gzt

ghasia ghs

ghafla ghfl

gharama ghrm

hasa hs

habari hbr

hadithi hdth

haja hj

hakuna hkn

halafu hlf

haraka hrk

harakati hrkt

haramu hrm

hasara hsr

hatari htr

hekima hkm

hesabu hsb

heshima hshm

himiza hmz

hisabati hsbt

hospitali hspt

hoteli htl

huru hr

ibuka ibk

imara imr

ishara ishr

ingawa ingw

isipokuwa ispk

itifaki itfk

itikadi itkd

jumla jml

jamhuri jmhr

jawabu jwb

jemedari jmdr

jeshi jsh

jimbo jmb

jinsia jns

juhudi jhd

jukumu jkm

jumlisha jmlsh

jumuia jm

kazi kz

kabati kbt

kabisa kbs

kama km

kamati kmt

kanisa kns

karatasi krts

karibu krb

kaskazini kskz

kati kt

katika ktk

kidato kdt

kijana kjn

kila kl

kipakatalishi kpktsh

kitabu ktb

kuliko klk

kusini ksn

kwa mfano qmf labda lbd

lahaja lhj

lakini lkn

lawama lwm

lazima lzm

lingana lngn

linganisha lngnsh

lugha lgh

mbali mbl

madhumuni mdhmn

magharibi mghb

mahali mhl

maisha msh

mara mr

mashariki mshk

mbalimbali mblmb

mfano mf

mjadala mjdl

moja mj

mpira mpr

msichana msch

msikiti mskt

mtandao mtnd

muhimu mhm

nafasi nfs

namna nmn

nini nn

nukta nkt

omba omb

okoa ok

ogopa ogp

ofisi ofs

omboleza omblz

pamoja pmj

pasipo psp

peleleza plz

pole pl

polepole plp

refu rf

rafiki rfk

raha rh

ramani rmn

raslimali rsl

ratiba rtb

runinga rnng

rununu rnn

sana sn

sababu sbb

salamu slm

samahani smhn

sambaza smbz

sasa ss

sawa sw

sawasawa sws

sehemu shm

serikali srkl

shabaha shbh

shughuli shghl

shukkrani shkrn

siku sk

simu sm

taratibu trt

tafadhali tfdh

tarakilishi trksh

tarehe trh

tayari tyr

teknolojia tknj

tena tn

thamani thmn

tofauti tft

tovuti tvt

ukurasa ukr

ujamaa ujm

umoja umj

upesi ups

utandawazi utndz

uhuru uhr

vijana vjn

vema vm

vile vl

vilevile vlv

virusi vrs

vitabu vtb

vizuri vzr

vuguvugu vgv

wasiwasi wsw

wakati wkt

wakili wkl

wala wl

walakini wlkn

wimbo wmb

yaliyomo ylm

yaani yn

yamkini ymk

yule yl

yuleyule yly

zima zm

zaidi zd

zamani zmn

zawadi zwd