WEEKLY
KSG Bulletin
KENYA SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT

August 5-11, 2023

KSG sets pace in implementation of AGPO Program

KSG meets with AGPO representatives to deliberate on a research that will inform improvement of the AGPO program. KSG team was led by the Director General, Prof. Ludeki Chweya, Prof. Tabitha Kiriti Ng'ang'a led the team of representatives from the National Treasury, AGPO and the University of Nairobi.

BY BETH MUIGAI

The Kenya School of Government (KSG) has been identified as one of the government agencies that is keen on implementing the Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) program in its procurement processes.

AGPO is a program founded on Article 227 of Constitution of Kenya 2010, Article 55 on Affirmative Action and the Procurement and Asset Disposal Act 2015, with the aim to facilitate the enterprises owned by women, youth and persons with disabilities to enable them participate in Government opportunities. A legal provision is made that ensures that 30% of all government tenders are allocated to the stated groups.

In the Financial Year 2021/22, according to the National Treasury and Public Procurement Regulatory Authority, KSG awarded the highest volume of tenders to women among all academic and research institutions. Building on this, University of Nairobi Women Economic Empowerment in partnership with the National Treasury, the AGPO Secretariat, and Public Procurement Regulatory Authority, in a research study on 'Accessing what works in the Implementation of AGPO program: Making AGPO Program work for the targeted group', held a consultative meeting with KSG in order to get a broader perspective of the AGPO program. The core

HIGHLIGHTS

KSG sets pace in implementation of AGPO Program

objective of the research study is to delve deeper into the program implementation and identify strategies to enable the full uptake of the program by women, youths and PWDs and how best to improve it. This is especially on the allocation of tenders, the challenges and opportunities in order to better the program.

The consultative meeting took place on Wednesday, August 2, 2023, at the School in Lower Kabete. Led by Director General, Prof. Ludeki Chweya, the KSG team comprised Ag. Director Margaret Kenyatta Institute of Gender and Social Development, Ms. Lynette Otwori, Chief Finance Manager, Ms. Everline Wahome and Procurement Manager Mr. Muktar Mohammed while Prof. Tabitha Kiriti Ng'ang'a led the team of representatives from the National Treasury, AGPO and the University of Nairobi.

In his remarks, Prof. Chweya expressed his appreciation of the program that has given opportunities to historically disadvantaged groups to participate in economic activities. He noted that before the establishment of AGPO, institutions would favor established firms over emerging business owners within these groups emphasizing the importance of creating a level playing field for all, ensuring that all entrepreneurs irrespective of gender have fair and equal occasion to grow their businesses and contribute to the economy.

The Director General reported that KSG has allocated up to 95% of its tenders to AGPO, 65% more than is required; embracing the 'leave no one and no place behind' slogan. Further to this, the School has conducted free training for groups recognized by AGPO, to enable them understand the tender processes and how they can register with AGPO.

However, he has expressed concern that even though women have made significant strides in participating in tenders for delivery of various items, the School is yet to see a representation of women who have undertaken large-scale projects, such as construction. Whereas the opportunities are open for all, women rarely take up such projects with capital being the major inhibitor suggesting creation of an AGPO fund that would address the primary obstacle of lack of access to capital.

Ms. Lynette Otwori, Ag. Director Margaret Kenyatta Institute pointed out that understanding the procurement document is a major challenge given that English is the primary language used in the documents. Translation to Kiswahili would facilitate a larger turn-out out of Women, Youth and PDWs in remote areas. In the spirit of supporting youth in AGPO, there is a gap in educating and guiding them on how to utilize available opportunities.

Procurement Manager Mr. Muktar Mohammed confirmed that in the Financial Year 2022/23, KSG prioritized women in the allocation of tenders, across all Campuses, an indication of its commitment to support them. The School also conducts a sensitization program annually to equip the groups on procurement processes enabling them to better bid and have all that is required for the process to be successful.

Ms. Everline Wahome, Chief Finance Manager emphasized on the importance of compliance to statutory regulations such as tax obligations, permits, registration forms, as she encouraged integrity of the procurement process; significant factors that may hinder the School from offering tenders to women and other special groups.

The fruitful discussion should create part of research that will enrich the program to realize its objective to support local enterprises, transfer of technology, and equipping women, youth and the PWDs in the society.

Ms. Lynette Otwori, (l) Ag. Director MKI, Ms. Everline Wahome, Chief Finance Manager and Mr. Muktar Mohamed (r), Procurement Manager at the meeting.

Training at KSG: A Step-by-Step Guide for Enrollment

BY PAULINE NGURUKIE

The Kenya School of Government (KSG) has the statutory mandate to develop the knowledge, skills and competencies for a transformed public service. In addition the School provides expert consultancy and research services designed to inform public policy, and promote national development, raise standards of proficiency, and integrity in the workforce. Further, the School aims to promote continuous learning for public service excellence, facilitate creation of professional networks and think tanks in order to develop and improve public sector leaders.

As such, the School offers a wide range of courses, to government officials and the private sector individuals responding to their capacity needs and requirements in Kenya and in the region. Interested practitioners from the private sector and non-Governmental organizations are also welcome to our programs

Individuals interested in expanding their competency skills and knowledge through training programs offered at the School can go through the enrollment process which is simple and convenient. This article will provide you with a step by step guide on how to apply for courses at the Kenya School of Government.

Step 1: Create an account and verify your email

To begin the enrollment process visit the Kenya School of Government website at www.ksg.ac.ke and create an account. Fill in all the required information, including your name, email address and contact details. Once your account has been successfully created you will receive a verification link in your mailbox. Do not forget to check your spam folder as sometimes confirmation emails can be filtered there. Click on the verification link to confirm your account.

Step 2: Apply for your course

After confirming your account, log in to the portal on the School's website. Take a look at the list of courses and select one that aligns with your interests and career aspirations. Throughout the application process you will need to choose one of the following campuses; Baringo Campus in the Rift valley region, Embu Campus in the Central region, Matuga and Mombasa Campus in the coastal region, or Lower Kabete in Nairobi. Additionally, you will be asked to indicate your preferred dates, to attend the course that best suits your convenience.

Step 3: Generate the proforma invoice

Upon successful submission of your course application, the system will automatically generate a proforma invoice that contains details of the course you applied for: tuition fees, and either residential or non-residential rates, total fees, and payment instructions. The proforma invoice will be saved in the participant portal; you can access it using your account credentials.

Step 4: Print or download the proforma invoice

Once you have received the proforma invoice, it is essential to keep a copy for your records and further processing. You have the option to either print the invoice or download it as a PDF file.

During the admissions process at the Kenya School of Government (KSG), there are certain don'ts that applicants should keep in mind to ensure a smooth and successful application. Let's explore the important guidelines:

♦ Do not postpone verification after obtaining the verification link in your email. Activate it as soon as possible for the application.
Don't apply for multiple courses: While it might be tempting to apply for multiple courses, it is essential to focus on the course most relevant to you. Applying for multiple courses may complicate the admissions process and result in confusion.

♦ Don't forget to check your portal: Regularly check your participant portal for any updates or additional requirements. Missing important notifications may lead to missed opportunities.
Don't share your account credentials: Keep your account login details confidential and avoid sharing them with others. This will secure your application.

♦ Don't ignore payment deadlines: Once you are accepted into the course, there will be payment deadlines that you should adhere to secure your slot.

Use of encryption in data privacy

In the rapidly growing digital era, where online communication has become the norm, the security of our data and information has also become of paramount concern. Picture the vast amount of personal data transmitted daily through platforms such as WhatsApp—documents, audio messages, passport, and national identity card numbers, phone numbers, and other sensitive information. It is no wonder that protecting this kind of data from prying eyes becomes a top priority.

Perhaps you have come across a reassuring message on WhatsApp or other online communication platforms, declaring that your messages are "end-to-end encrypted." What does this really mean?

Encryption is a fundamental concept in cybersecurity that is primarily used to secure sensitive information from unwanted access, alteration, and interception while it is being sent or stored. It also ensures the confidentiality, integrity, and validity of the data.

At the heart of encryption, two major components are involved; encryption algorithm and the encryption key. An encryption algorithm is a set of mathematical rules and operations that transform plain data into ciphertext, where plain text appears incomprehensible and in scrambled code.

An encryption key is a unique piece of information used in conjunction with the encryption algorithm. In simpler terms, an encryption key is a secret key that is used to lock and unlock a box. To keep your messages or files protected, you put them inside the box and only the key can open and only someone with the same key can open the box and access its contents.

End-to-End encryption then is intended to build trust between you and your communication platform in that all information and data shared between you and your intended recipient cannot be viewed by any third party including the service provider. This way your data remains solely within your control and that of your recipient, adding an extra layer of assurance of the privacy of your data.

Encryption safeguards sensitive information during communication over networks. For instance, when browsing on the internet, encryption ensures that your login credentials, personal information, and other sensitive data are protected when transmitted between your device and the website server. It guarantees authenticity of data and that of the sender. By using digital signatures and certificates, the recipient can trust that the data came from the expected source and remained untampered during its transmission journey.

In wireless networks, encryption prevents attackers from intercepting and understanding data transmitted over the airwaves. This is particularly crucial for Wi-Fi networks and mobile communications.

Further, many industries and jurisdictions require the use of encryption to protect certain types of data, especially sensitive personal information and financial data. Compliance with these regulations helps organizations avoid legal and financial consequences.

With the ever-present danger of cyber-attacks, encryption then becomes the crucial genius idea that gives us the confidence to continue engaging online. It gives us the peace of mind to communicate, send emails, use online banking, and utilize cloud services since it fortifies defenses against potential breaches and cyber attacks

Compiled by: Head of ICT, John Kirimi and Beth Muigai

The Benefits of Purpose-Driven Living: Part 1

Organizations both in the Public and Private Sectors ensure that their institutions have a vision, mission, and core values which guide their strategic and tactical operations. In this sense, every organization is purpose - driven with a particular focus for its existence which can only be rightly realized by operating within the milieus of its core mandate. Ayiro (2021) aptly elucidates that, "A vision is a picture of the future which produces passion in people", (P. 16). In this regard, "The best way to lead people into the future is to deeply connect with them in the present", (Kenya School of Government, 2016, P. 18). Thomas Edison, an inventor of the incandescent light bulb grasped that leadership reality. For example, on December 31, 1879, in Melo Park New York during the demonstration, he said, "We will make electricity so cheap that only the rich will burn candles", (Ayiro, 2021, P. 16). In this context, individuals like organizations whose life is purpose –driven act in a meticulous, strategic and tactical manner. Consequently, the focus of this concise discourse is to explicate on the benefits of purpose – driven living.

The Benefits of Purpose Driven-Living

In view of the foregoing discussion, Warren (2002) explicates that there are great benefits of living a purpose-driven life. For example:

Knowing Your Purpose gives meaning to your life. Human kind were made to have meaning.

In this regard, people endevour to discover their life's purpose. Some even consult astrologers in order to discover it. When life has meaning, you can bear almost anything; without it, nothing is bearable. "Without God, life has no purpose, and without purpose, life has no significance or hope," (Warren, 2002, P. 30). In view of this, the greatest tragedy in life is not poverty, conflict, betrayal, ill health or illiteracy, but life without a purpose. Hope which is premised on the fact that God has good plans for your life (Jeremiah 29:11) is fundamental in surmounting life's challenges. You need hope to cope with adversity in whichever form it comes. Dr. Bernie Siegel found he could predict which of his cancer patients would go into remission by asking, "Do you want to live to be one hundred?" Those with a deep sense of life purpose answered yes and were the ones most likely to survive. Hope comes from having a purpose, (Warren, 2002, P. 31). You may feel you are facing an impossible situation, but the Bible says, "I am the Lord, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for me? (Jeremiah 32:27; The Thompson-Chain- Reference Bible: New International Version). Therefore, cling to this eternal promise in every facet and situation in life! God is omnipotent; therefore, He is able to help you find purpose in your life which is a precursor to living a meaningful life.

Knowing Your Purpose Simplifies Your Life. It defines what you do and what you don't do.

Your purpose becomes the standard you use to evaluate which activities are essential and which aren't. You simply ask, "Does this activity help me fulfill one of God's purpose for my life?", (Warren 2002, P. 31). Without a clear purpose you have no foundation on which you base decisions, allocate your time, and use your resources. Purpose –driven living leads to a simpler lifestyle and a saner schedule, (Ibid., P. 31). Living a purpose-driven life will give you a peace of mind. The Bible says, "You will keep in perfect peace him who whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you", (Isaiah 26:3; The Thompson-Chain-Reference Bible: New International Version). Warren (2002) explicates that "People who don't know their purpose try to do too much – and that causes stress, fatigue, and conflict", (P.31).

Knowing Your Purpose Focuses Your Life. It concentrates your effort and energy on what is important. "You become effective by being selective," (Warren, 2002, P. 32).

For example, Paul the apostle was focused in his life. Consequently, by the end of his life, he almost single-handedly preached the gospel in the entire Roman Empire. Secondly, he wrote thirteen epistles in the New Testament despite the fact that he had no computer or a typewriter. Thirdly, he faced adversity decisively and courageously because he led-a purpose driven living (Acts 20:22-24). Finally, Paul was persecuted under the leadership of Emperor Nero (2 Timothy 4:6-8). He accomplished a lot of work in a span of over thirty years of ministry more than any other apostle in Ecclesiastical History. That was principally because his life was focused. "Without a clear purpose, you will keep changing directions, jobs, relationships, churches or other externals- hoping each change will settle the confusion or fill the emptiness in your heart. May be, this time it will be different, but it doesn't solve your real problem- a lack of focus and purpose", (Warren, 2002, P. 32).

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Baringo Campus 'African Nostalgia Music and Dancing around the Fire'

African indigenous values of hospitality, truth, brotherhood, respect for all, hard work, and good character are worth preserving from generation to generation. The Kenya School of Government Baringo Campus hosted an appreciation dinner named 'African Nostalgia Music and Dancing around the Fire' for staff and course participants on August 3, 2023. The event showcased the resilience, spirit, and unity of the African people, bridging the gap between past and present traditions. Attendees were treated to music and dance around a bonfire, a session on the history of various communities providing insights into their customs and cultures. Organizing these and more informal interactions, the School aims to infuse national values among public servants who are expected to make noticeable differences after training through the promotion of peace and patriotism in all spheres of human development.

Weekly Activities in Summary

Friday, August 4, 2023, KSG Director General, Prof. Ludeki Chweya, received Principal Secretaries at the Kenya School of Government attending a sensitization on Fiscal Reforms on Inventory and Asset Management in Government (IFMIS). The forum also focused on risk management in the public sector and automation of systems for easy access to accurate data showcasing the commitment of government officials in enhancing financial systems for better governance.

KSG Girls' football team, the Ogopalets, benefited from the Senior Management Course No. 403/2023 as they were gifted with full players kits and footballs. In addition, the course participants pledged to partially sponsor the club's activities through the School.

Director Finance and Administration, Prof. Nura Mohamed, graced the occasion and commended the gesture in laying a strong foundation at home, terming it as a legacy that the School will ensure is upheld. The participants then proceeded to plant a tree as part of environmental conservation and commemoration of their time at KSG.

Weekly Activities in Summary

Mr. Andrew Rori, Deputy Director of Mombasa Campus, held a consultative meeting with Hon. Aharub Ebrahim Khatri, Speaker of the Mombasa County Assembly, and some of its members. The meeting discussed new partnership between the two institutions that will empower the employees of the Mombasa County Assembly. This collaboration aims to equip the staff of the assembly with valuable skills, knowledge, and professional development opportunities, thereby not only benefiting them personally but also enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of the entire Assembly.

Kenya School of Government typically hosts participants from diverse cultural backgrounds; and to celebrate this diversity, Embu Campus held a Cultural Luncheon on Thursday, August 3, 2023 in honor of the central and western Kenya traditions in food, song and dance. It was an event organized by the Hospitality Department led by Mr. Ben Rajwais who aptly said, "We can make different selections in life, but our cultures will not be one of them. It is important that we cherish the cultures from which we come. This way, we are able to embed them even in future generations." Mr. Rajwais said, adding, "We appreciate the origins of our clients through such events that bring us together."

Mr. John Kariuki, a course participant said, "this is very thoughtful of the Campus, indeed a sense of being culturally home has been felt."

Weekly Activities in Summary

The Presidential Taskforce on the Review of the Legal and Regulatory Framework Governing Religious Organizations convened for a groundbreaking meeting at KSG Mombasa. Leaders from various faiths came together to discuss ways to enhance accountability, uphold ethical standards, and promote harmony among Kenya's diverse communities. The goal of the task force is to create a framework that respects religious freedom while ensuring the welfare of all citizens. It is all about striking a balance that will protect the people and promote unity in faith.

The National Housing Corporation's 2023-2027 Strategic Plan was presented to the Board of Directors at Lake Naivasha Resort on Monday, 31st July 2023. The Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing, and Urban Development, Zachary Mwangi Njeru, presided over the activity. From left to right in the photo: QS David Mathu, Managing Director/CEO of National Housing Corporation; Anne Mungai, Lead Consultant from the Kenya School of Government; Cabinet Secretary Zachary Mwangi Njeru; QS. Yusuf K. Chanzu, Chairman of the Board of Directors National Housing Corporation; and Hussein Roba, Head of Centre Consultancy Services, KSG.

Leadership Lesson

Embracing Personal Authenticity: Unleashing Your True Self in a Limited Time

"Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't be trapped by dogma - which is living with the results of other people's thinking. Don't let the noise of others' opinions drown out your own inner voice. And most important, have the courage to follow your heart and intuition."

- Steve Jobs

Have Your Say

"We are very happy when you bring us business and very delighted when you pay us in time"

~ Prof. Ludeki Chweya, Ph.D, CBS
Director General KSG

Quote of the Week

The question isn't who's going to let me; it's who's going to stop me."

- Ayn Rand

Baringo Campus

Supervisory Skills Development Course	7th -18th August,2023
Strategic Leadership Development Programme (Online)	7th August -13th October, 2023
Strategic Leadership Development Programme	7th - 11th August,2023
Strategic Leadership Development Programme	3rd July - 11thAugust,2023
Senior Management Course 176-(Online)	24th July - 15thSeptember, 2023
Senior Management Course	31st July - 25th August, 2023
County Pension Funds (CPF) Workshop	8th August ,2023
Laikipia University Workshop	6th - 13th August,2023
Collaborative Centre for Gender and Development Workshop	8th, 9th & 15th August, 2023
Food and Agricultural Organization for the United Nations (Kenya) Workshop	8th - 10th August 2023

Embu Campus

Strategic Leadership Development Program Online No. 373/2023	10th July - 8th September, 2023
Senior Management Course No. 194/2023	10th July- 1st September,2023
Diploma in Social Work No. 44/2023	6th March to 7th March, 2025
Senior Management Course No. 195/2023	31st July - 25th August, 2023
Essential Counseling Skills Program	7th- 11th August, 2023
Integrated Library Management System	7th - 18th August, 2023
Strategic Leadership Development Program No. 377/2023	7th August - 6th October, 2023
National Productivity & Competitiveness Workshop	7th - 8th August, 2023
Induction of Members of Boards of Governors	9th - 11th August, 2023
Embu Water & Sanitation Company	9th August, 2023
Kenya Power & Lighting Company Ltd	10th August, 2023
National Police service	7th - 11th August, 2023

Matuga Campus

Strategic Leadership Development Program No. 368/2023	5thJune -11th August, 2023
Senior Management Course No.118/20233	1st July -22nd September, 2023
Workshop KEMFSED National Government Mombasa Branch	7th August, 2023

Mombasa Campus

Strategic Leadership Development Program No. 371/2023	10th July – 18th August, 2023
Workshop- KICC	17th July – 11th August, 2023
Strategic Leadership Development Program No. 374/2023	24th July – 1st September, 2023
Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC)	31st July 7 – 11th August, 2023

Lower Kabete

Senior Management Course No.402/2023	10th July- 4th September, 2023
Strategic Leadership Development Program No.375/2023	24 July - 1 September, 2023
Social Protection Practitioners Course (Gambia)	31st July – 11th August, 2023
Senior Management Course No.378/2023	31st July-22nd September, 2023
Social Protection Practitioners Course (Gambia)	31st July – 11th August, 2023
Senior Management Course No.378/2023	31st July-22nd September, 2023
National Housing Corporation	31st July, 2023
Induction program Office of the Data Protection Commissioner	7th-18thAugust ,2023
Senior Management Course No.405/2023	7th August - Sept ember 1st, 2023
Productive Improvement and Measurement	7th-11th August , 2023
State Department for Public Service	7th August , 2023
Review Our Strategic Plan (Commission for Revenue Allocation)	7th August ,2023
Workshop Media Council of Kenya	7th-11th August, 2023

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- Centre for Public Service Values, Ethics and Integrity
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- Centre for Environment and Climate Change Response

- e-Learning and Development Institute
- Security Management Institute
- Margaret Kenyatta Institute for Gender and Social Development

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