

## **KENYANS ASKED TO BE WARY OF FOREIGN QUALIFICATIONS**

Kenyans have been asked to be wary of foreign qualifications obtained within and outside the country. The country has defined its qualifications at various levels from ECDE to PhD and it is important that those taking foreign training in the country and outside the country make sure that the qualifications that they acquire meet Kenyan standards. Dr Juma Mukhwana, the Director General of the Kenya National Qualifications Authority (KNQA) said that many qualifications awarded in the country especially at the Certificate and Diploma levels do not meet local standards. He said that all certificate qualifications must take at least one year of study to complete and Diplomas need two years; all must be accredited by relevant authorities in the country. Anything less than this whether local or foreign is a fraud and Kenyans must be wary of the same. He added that such qualifications cannot be used to meet entry requirements for higher training and/or employment. It is important that those taking these qualifications ensure that the qualifications are recognized and equated to the Kenyan equivalents by the KNQA.

Dr Mukhwana further said that the *International General Certificate of Secondary Education* (IGCSE) is not a university entry qualification in its country of origin and therefore cannot be used for admission to Kenyan Universities as defined by international protocols. He advised those taking the IGCSE in the country that they must also take the advanced form of the qualification, the General Certificate of Education (GCE) advanced level and get the equivalent of a C+ and above before they are directly admitted to Kenyan Universities. He requested Kenyans who take foreign qualifications in the country and from outside to take their certificates to the authority for recognition and equation to verify the authenticity of the qualifications that they hold. He also reminded all institutions awarding qualification in Kenya, that they are required to accredit themselves and register with the KNQA in order to continue awarding national qualifications in the country.