

# **THE STRATEGIC DOCUMENT AIMED AT ACCELERATING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NINE-YEAR BASIC EDUCATION IN RWANDA**

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

Education For All is a cornerstone in the development of our country. Education policy guiding the Ministry of Education provides that basic education in Rwanda is made up of six years of primary education and three years of the lower secondary education. Both levels of education are compulsory and fee-free in public and government-subsidized schools despite the challenges that have so far undermined its 100% implementation.

After realizing that with the use of the ordinary approach, the implementation of the Nine-Year Basic Education for all could not speed up because it requires means and resources our country cannot currently afford, the following strategies have been adopted by the Cabinet to help accelerate basic education:

- Double shift education in primary schools (P1-P6);
- Reduction of core courses;
- Subject-based teaching specialization.

### **Double shift education in primary schools**

“Double shift” means that pupils learn in two groups: using one and only one classroom, the first group learns in the morning and the second group in the afternoon.

### **Reduction of core courses**

In primary schools, from P1 to P3, courses are reduced from 9 to 4 based on the following core courses: English, Kinyarwanda, Mathematics, and General Paper.

From P4 to P6, courses are reduced from 12 to 6 based on the following core courses: English, Kinyarwanda, French, Mathematics, Science and Technology, and Social Studies.

### **Subject-based teaching specialization**

“Subject-based teaching specialization” means that each and every teacher teaches only one or two subjects/courses he/she is qualified for and masters most.

## **II. DOUBLE SHIFT EDUCATION: THE WAY FORWARD**

Students have to be divided into two equal-size groups, and no group should have more than 40 to 49 children. One group will be studying in the morning while the other studies in the afternoon. The group which has studied in the morning on the first day will study in the afternoon on the next day, and vice versa. They will proceed this way in all forms/levels of primary schools till the end of the week and till the end of the school year.

### **III. SUBJECT-BASED TEACHING SPECIALIZATION: THE WAY FORWARD**

Every teacher will teach one or two subjects in either one or both levels of primary education. Every teacher should work 40 hours made up of 24 to 30 hours of classroom face-to-face teaching and 10 hours devoted to preparation of lessons, marking, and other education-related activities.

Courses are divided into three rubrics, viz. Languages, Mathematics and Sciences, and Social Studies, as indicated on the following table:

<b>RUBRIC</b>	<b>SUBJECTS</b>	<b>SPECIALIZATION</b>
Languages	Kinyarwanda English French	Kinyarwanda/English Kinyarwanda/French English/French
Maths and Sciences	Maths Sciences	Maths and Sciences
Social Studies	Social Studies	Social Studies

Language teachers can take one or two from language subjects; maths and science teachers can take one or two from maths and science subjects.

### **IV. REDUCTION OF CORE COURSES: THE SITUATION**

The four subjects which are to be taught in primary schools, from P1 to P3, are the following: English, Kinyarwanda, Mathematics, and General Paper, as indicated in the table below:

Subjects in Primary 1-3	Number of hours		
	P1	P2	P3
<b>Core subjects (all compulsory and examinable)</b>			
Kinyarwanda	5	5	5
English	6	6	6
Maths	5	5	5
General Paper	3	3	3
<b>Extra curricular activities – compulsory</b>			
<i>Sport, cultural activities, Clubs, spiritual activities, study, music, drama, dance, etc.</i>	2	2	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	21	21	21

From P4 to P6, subjects to be offered are five as follows: English, Kinyarwanda, Mathematics, Science and Technology, and Social Studies, as indicated in the table below:

Subjects in Primary 4 – 6	Number of hours		
	P4	P5	P6
<b>Core subjects (all compulsory and examinable)</b>			
Kinyarwanda	3	3	3
English	5	5	5
Maths	5	5	5
Sciences and Technology	5	5	5
Social Studies	3	3	3
<b>Extra curricular activities – compulsory</b>			
<i>Sport, cultural activities, Clubs, spiritual activities, study, music, drama, dance, etc.</i>	2	2	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	23	23	23

The table below shows how the school subjects are distributed in the timetable:

## TIMETABLE

### P1 to P3

Time	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
7h15 – 7h45	MATHS	ENGLISH	MATHS	MATHS	MATHS
7h45 – 8h15	ENGLISH	MATHS	ENGLISH	ENGLISH	KINYA
8h15 – 9h00	MATHS	ENGLISH	MATHS	KINYA	ENGLISH
9h00 – 9h30	ENGLISH	MATHS	ENGLISH	G.P	G.P
9h30 – 10h00	<b>Morning break</b>				
10h00 – 10h30	KINYA	KINYA	KINYA	KINYA	KINYA
10h30 – 11h15	G.P	G.P	G.P	ENGLISH	ENGLISH
11h15 – 11h45	KINYA	KINYA	KINYA	G.P	MATHS
11h45 – 12h15	EX.C.A.	EX.C.A.	EX.C.A	EX.C.A.	EX.C.A.
12h15 – 12h45	<b>Lunch break</b>				
12h45 – 13h15	MATHS	G.P	MATHS	ENGLISH	MATHS
13h15 – 13h45	KINYA	KINYA	KINYA	KINYA	KINYA
13h45 – 14h30	ENGLISH	MATHS	MATHS	MATHS	MATHS
14h30 – 15h00	MATHS	ENGLISH	ENGLISH	ENGLISH	ENGLISH
15h00 – 15h30	<b>Afternoon break</b>				
15h30 – 16h15	KINYA	KINYA	KINYA	KINYA	KINYA
16h15 – 16h45	ENGLISH	ENGLISH	ENGLISH	ENGLISH	ENGLISH

NOTE: **EX.C.A:** Extra curriculum activities (sport, cultural activities, clubs, spiritual activities, study, music, fine arts, drama, etc.)

**G.P:** General Paper

**TABLE****P4 to P6**

<b>Time</b>	<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>
7h15 – 8h00	MATHS	MATHS	MATHS	MATHS	MATHS
8h00 – 8h45	ENGLISH	ENGLISH	ENGLISH	ENGLISH	ENGLISH
8h45 – 9h30	STE	STE	STE	STE	STE
9h30 – 10h00	<b>Morning break</b>				
10h00 – 10h45	KINYA	KINYA	KINYA	KINYA	SS
10h45 – 11h15	MATHS	MATHS	SS	SS	ENGLISH
11h15 – 11h45	ENGLISH	ENGLISH	STE	STE	PW
11h45 – 12h15	EX.C.A.	EX.C.A.	EX.C.A.	EX.C.A.	PW
12h15 – 12h45	<b>Lunch break</b>				
12h45 – 13h30	MATHS	MATHS	MATHS	MATHS	MATHS
13h30 – 14h15	ENGLISH	ENGLISH	ENGLISH	ENGLISH	ENGLISH
14h15 – 15h00	KINYA	KINYA	KINYA	KINYA	SS
15h00 – 15h30	<b>Afternoon break</b>				
15h30 – 16h15	SS	SS	STE	STE	ENGLISH
16h15 – 16h45	STE	STE	ENGLISH	ENGLISH	STE

**NOTE:**

**SS:** Social Studies

**PW:** Practical work

**EX.C.A.:** Extra curriculum activities (sport, culture activities, clubs, spiritual activities, study, music, fine arts, drama, etc.)

**STE:** Science and Technology

In secondary schools, the subjects on offer in the lower secondary are indicated in the following table:

Subject for O' Level	Number of hours		
	S1	S2	S3
English	5	5	5
Kinyarwanda	4	4	4
Maths	6	6	6
Sciences: Physics, Chemistry & Biology*	9	9	9
Computer Science	2	2	2
History	2	2	2
Geography	2	2	2
Entrepreneurship	2	2	2
<b>Compulsory non examinable</b>			
Political science	1	1	1
Creative performance (music, drama and fine arts)	1	1	1
SUB-TOTAL	34	34	34
<b>Electives non examinable</b>			
<b>School can choose 1</b>			
French	1	1	1
Swahili	1	1	1
Agriculture	1	1	1
<b>Extra curricular</b>			
Students can choose 1 hour for one of the activities below: sport, cultural activities, clubs, spiritual activities	1	1	1
TOTAL	36	36	36

\* Each subject has three hours

## V. SECONDARY SCHOOLS TO BE ESTABLISHED IN EVERY DISTRICT

After the Ministry of Education has reflected on these strategies and collaborated with all district nationwide in order to find out how they will be implemented, it has been decided that the number of secondary schools should increase, thus the establishment of O'Level at the schools selected in each district. The following table shows the number of schools which have to open in 2009 school year in every district:

TABLE

<b>PROVINCE</b>	<b>DISTRICT</b>	<b>O'LEVEL IN PLACE</b>	<b>NEW O'LEVEL</b>
<b>North</b>	Gakenke	12	20
	Musanze	16	23
	Rulindo	12	14
	Gicumbi	15	18
	Burera	12	17
<b>South</b>	Kamonyi	4	28
	Muhanga	6	17
	Ruhango	6	13
	Nyanza	5	19
	Huye	10	17
	Nyamagabe	9	23
	Nyaruguru	5	18
	Gisagara	9	15
<b>East</b>	Rwamagana	8	9
	Bugesera	7	13
	Kayonza	7	16
	Gatsibo	9	14
	Nyagatare	8	24
	Ngoma	7	27
	Kirehe	10	9
<b>West</b>	Nyabihu	7	12
	Rutsiro	4	23
	Ngororero	9	21
	Rubavu	5	16
	Karongi	8	31
	Rusizi	9	21
	Nyamasheke	17	19
<b>Kigali City</b>	Kicukiro	2	8
	Gasabo	3	16
	Nyarugenge	1	7

## **VI. GUIDELINES IN THE RECRUITMENT OF TEACHERS**

### **1. PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

A primary school teacher should meet the following requirements:

- a. Have at least A2 from teacher training school (Normale Primaire) or technical training school (Normale Technique)
- b. Be of good manners and morals

## **2. O'LEVEL**

A lower secondary school teacher should meet the following requirements:

- a. Have at least A1 qualification related to the subjects he/she has got to teach;
- b. Be of good manners and morals

## **3. HEADMASTERS OF O'LEVEL SCHOOLS**

An O'level school head should meet the following requirements:

- a. Have at least a bachelor's degree (A0)
- b. Be of good manners and morals

## **4. DEPUTY HEADMASTERS OF O'LEVEL SCHOOLS**

An O'level school deputy head should meet the following requirements:

- a. Have at least post-secondary education (A1)
- b. Be of good manners and morals

Because this is an immediate activity, the District authorities in collaboration with the Inspection General of Education should do whatever possible to speed up the recruitment of O'level school headmasters so that these schools open when the school authorities are already in place.

## **VII. GUIDELINES FOR CHILDREN ADMISSION**

All children who took the national primary leaving examination in the school year 2008 will go to O'level in the year 2009.

## **VIII. ISSUES REGARDING FOOD IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

Children will study in single shift (*gong unique*), go back and eat at home.

## **IX. ISSUES REGARDING CLOTHING IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

All secondary school children should wear uniforms comprising trousers, shirts, and shoes for boys and skirts, shirts, and shoes for girls.

## **X. MISCELLANEOUS**

The Ministry of Education requests district authorities to use any other ways and means possible, without breaching the law, for immediate implementation of this programme.

Done in Kigali, on 31 December 2008

**Théoneste MUTSINDASHYAKA**

The Secretary of State  
Primary and Secondary Education

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