

LAW N° 29/2003 OF 30/08/2003 ESTABLISHING THE ORGANISATION AND THE FUNCTIONING OF NURSERY, PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

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Article: 1

This law governs the organisation and the functioning of nursery, primary and secondary schools.

Article: 2

Primary school education is compulsory and free both in public and government aided schools. Free education refers to free access to learning, teaching aid as well as basic textbooks needed by pupils and teachers.

Article: 3

The contribution by parents in public and government aided secondary schools is determined by the Minister having education in his or her portfolio.

Orphans and children from destitute families who are given a certificate by the relevant authorities are supported by the Government according to its capacity.

Article: 4

The Government gives to public and government aided schools necessary subsidies according to the number of pupils, the organisation and specificities of each school.

Article: 5

At every education level, a file is open for each student. The content of the file is determined by the Presidential Order instituting general instructions governing nursery, primary and secondary education.

Article: 6

Any pupil who commits an offence is punished according to instructions that are made by the Minister having education in his or her portfolio.

The punishment must be commensurate to the offender's age, his or her general self-conduct and the offence committed.

Article: 7

Any pupil who commits an offence is punished according to instructions that are made by the Minister having education in his or her portfolio.

The punishment must be commensurate to the offender's age, his or her general self-conduct and the offence committed.

Chapter II. THE ORGANISATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF SCHOOLS**Section I. The Education Authorities****Article: 8**

The general leadership structure of schools consists of:

- 1° the Minister having education in his or her portfolio;
- 2° the Minister of State having nursery, primary and secondary schools in his or her attributions;
- 3° the Director having education in his or her attributions in a Province or the City of Kigali;
- 4° the Director having education in his or her attributions in a District, Town or Municipality;
- 5° the school Headmaster or Headmistress

Article: 9

Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 8 of this law, government aided schools include their representatives at the national, provincial, Kigali City, District, Town or Municipality levels. The relations between these representatives and the authorities referred to in Article 8 and their attributions are provided for by the Presidential Decree instituting particular provisions governing government aided schools.

Concerning private or associations schools, in addition to the above-mentioned authorities, representatives of these schools at the national, provincial and Kigali City and District, Town or Municipality levels are included. The relations between these representatives and the authorities referred to in Article 8 and their attributions are provided for by the agreement mentioned in Article 30 of organic law n° 20/2003 of 03/08/2003 organising Education.

Article: 10

The education authorities mentioned in Article 9 are not remunerated by the Government. They are provided with all the necessary means for the performance of their duties by those who appointed them. The Government may help them in their duties of education.

Article: 11

The Minister having education in his or her portfolio supervises nursery, primary and secondary schools.

Article: 12

Notwithstanding other legal provisions, the Director having education in his or her attributions in a Province or the City of Kigali coordinates all educational activities in the Province or the City of Kigali.

Article: 13

Notwithstanding other legal provisions, the Director having education in his or her attributions in a District, Town or Municipality coordinates all educational activities in a District, Town or Municipality.

Article: 14

Every school is led by a Headmaster or a headmistress responsible for its smooth running especially in regarding teaching, learning, resources management as well as the general conduct of teachers and pupils.

Article: 15

In primary schools, a school Headmaster or Headmistress may have a deputy according to the school level, and the number of teachers and pupils.

Article: 16

A Presidential Order institutes general instructions governing nursery, primary and secondary education and determines modalities for appointing, the school Headmaster or Headmistress, his or her deputy and their attributions.

Article: 17

Representatives of government aided schools and other staff members are appointed and paid by their superiors. Their appointment is approved by the Minister having education in his or her portfolio after advice from local administrative authorities.

Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 9 of this law, representatives of government aided schools, whether on the national, provincial or Kigali City and Town, District or Municipality levels are responsible for the smooth running of the schools they represent.

Article: 18

Representatives of private or associations schools and their personnel are appointed and paid by their superiors. Their appointment is approved by the Minister having education in his or her portfolio after advice from local administrative authorities.

Notwithstanding provisions of Article 9 of this law, representatives of private or association schools whether at the national, provincial or City of Kigali and District or Town or Municipality levels are responsible for the smooth running of the schools they represent.

Section II. Supplementary organs in schools management**Article: 19**

There is hereby established three (3) education organs supplementing the education authorities

- 1° the School General Assembly;
- 2° District, Town or Municipality Education Council
- 3° Provincial or City of Kigali Education Council.

In order to fulfil their obligations, these Councils appoint their executive committees. The members of these committees, their establishment and their attributions are determined by a Presidential Decree instituting general regulations governing nursery, primary and secondary education.

Article: 20

The duties of the School General Assembly are the following

- 1 ° giving views and recommendations regarding the general development of the school;
- 2° analysing and approving the school regulations regarding education and resources management;
- 3° analysing and approving the school budget;
- 4° analysing, approving, and prioritising the school plan of action;
- 5° appointing and dismissing members of the Executive Committee of the School General Assembly.

Article: 21

The District, Town or Municipality Council is responsible for the following:

- 1 ° participating in the promotion of education in nursery, primary and secondary schools;
- 2° giving views on the construction of schools, ensuring their maintenance and equipping them;
- 3° advising the Director having education in his or her attributions in the District, Town or Municipality regarding recruitment and deployment of primary school teachers;
- 4° submitting to the District, Town or Municipality Council the proposal of its nursery, primary and secondary school mapping;
- 5° examining reports of the General Assembly and providing comments thereon;
- 6° submitting the activity report to the District, Town or Municipality Council.

Article: 22

The duties of Province or Kigali City Education Council are the following:

- 1 ° participating in the promotion of education in the Province or the City of Kigali.
- 2° providing views regarding the construction of new schools in the Province or the City of Kigali in accordance with the school mapping;
- 3° providing views on welfare issues, hygiene and diseases prevention, teachers recruitment and deployment as well as relations between teachers and other persons involved in education ;
- 4° examining any other education related issue in the Province or City of Kigali;
- 5° analysing education related reports from the District, Town or Municipality Council;
- 6° submitting the activity report to the Province, Kigali City Coordination Committee.

Section III. The General Inspectorate of Education

Article: 23

The General Inspectorate of Education for nursery, primary and secondary schools is hereby established in the Ministry having education in its attributions.

A Prime Minister's Order determines how the Inspectorate functions, its attributions, its members and the modalities of its staff appointment.

Section IV. The National Curriculum Development Centre

Article: 24

The National Curriculum Development Centre is hereby established in the Ministry having education in its attributions, its duties are the following

1° designing, refining, experimenting and distributing school curricula in nursery, primary and secondary schools;

2° designing, refining, experimenting and distributing the teachers and pupils' guide and textbooks.

3° designing, adapting and experimenting teaching methods;

4° designing, producing and developing teaching aids other than textbooks;

5° designing, sensitising and distributing a journal on teaching methods.

A Prime Minister's Order determines the National Curriculum Development Centre functioning, its structure and the recruitment of its personnel.

Section V. The National Examinations Council at primary and secondary education levels

Article: 25

The National Examinations Council for primary and secondary education is hereby established by the law.

Chapter III. EDUCATION IN NURSERY SCHOOLS

Section I. Structure and general provisions

Article: 26

Nursery education is organized in a single cycle of three (3) years and admits children from the age of three (3) to six (6) years.

Article: 27

To start and run a nursery school is first of all the responsibility of parents, the Government provides support by giving them curricula, teaching aid and training teachers.

The Government establishes model schools and may create other initiatives aimed at improving nursery education.

Article: 28

To start a nursery school requires respecting the laws and regulations governing nursery, primary and secondary schools

Section II. Nursery school teachers

Article: 29

Nursery school teachers must have successfully completed teacher training education with a special training in nursery teaching.

Chapter IV. PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Section I. Structure and general provisions

Article: 30

Primary education is compulsory to all children who are seven (7) years old.

Article: 31

Primary education lasts six (6) years and is made up of two cycles

1 ° the first cycle lays emphasis on teaching how to read , write and calculate; it starts from primary one(1) to primary three (3);

2° the second cycle of general basic education starts from primary four (4) to primary six (6).

Article: 32

Whoever completes primary education and passes the national examination is awarded a certificate. The passing mark is determined by the National Examinations' Council at primary and secondary levels.

Article: 33

The modalities of determining the weekly timetable in primary schools is provided for by a Presidential Order instituting general instructions governing education in nursery, primary and secondary schools.

Article: 34

The language of instruction in the first cycle of primary education is Kinyarwanda except for the lessons of foreign languages.

The Minister having education in his or her portfolio may, through a Ministerial Order, authorise the use of French or English as the medium of instruction in the first cycle.

The language of instruction in the second cycle is French or English, except for other language lessons.

Article: 35

Compulsory subjects in primary schools are:

1° Kinyarwanda;

2° French;

3° English;

4° Mathematics;

5° Elementary science and Technology;

6° Fine Art;

7° Physical education and sports;

8° Religion and Morale;

9° Civic education;

10° History;

11 ° Geography;

12° Agriculture, livestock and environmental education.

Article: 36

The criteria for promotion, repeating a year or transfers of pupils to other schools are determined by An Order of the Minister having education in his or her portfolio.

Section II. Primary school teachers

Article: 37

Teachers of primary schools must have a teaching qualification certificate.

Article: 38

In every primary school, a committee known as "Teachers' Committee" has to be established. The Teachers' Committee is chaired by the Headmaster or Headmistress or his or her deputy in his or her absence. The Committee is responsible for: 1° deciding on the promotion and repetition for pupils in accordance with the existing laws; 2° overseeing the discipline and conduct of teachers and pupils; 3° dealing with all issues related to the organisation, teaching and learning at school.

Chapter V. SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Section 1. Structure and general provisions

Article: 39

Upon completion of primary school, pupils are promoted to secondary schools on the basis of the score required in the national examination.

Article: 40

Secondary school education is composed of a general education cycle that lasts three (3) years and a second cycle of different options that lasts two (2) or three (3) years.

There shall be an examination at the end of each cycle in secondary school where a successful Candidate shall be awarded a Certificate or diploma.

Article: 41

Subjects in the second cycle of secondary education are covered in sections. Sections are determined by an Order of the Minister having secondary education in his or her portfolio.

Article: 42

The compulsory subjects in each cycle and in each section of secondary school education are determined by a Presidential Order.

Article: 43

The language of instruction is either French or English except for the teaching of other languages.

Article: 44

Secondary schools are either boarding or day type.

The school management together with the School General Assembly are responsible for the smooth running of the school hostels, proper accommodation as well as the discipline and conduct of pupils.

Article: 45

Criteria for the promotion, repetition or transfer of pupils are determined by an Order of the Minister having education in his or her portfolio.

Article: 46

In every secondary school, a pupils' representative council shall be established. An Order of the Minister having education in his or her portfolio determines its structure and functioning.

Section II. The secondary school personnel

Article: 47

Every secondary school is led by a Headmaster or a Headmistress who is responsible for its smooth running. He or she is assisted by other administrative personnel, teachers and supporting staff.

The appointment modalities are provided for in Articles 33, 34 and 35 of organic law n° 20/2003 of 03/08/2003 organising Education.

Their duties are determined by a Presidential Order instituting general regulations governing nursery, primary and secondary schools.

Article: 48

Every secondary school is led by a Headmaster or a Headmistress who is responsible for its smooth running. He or she is assisted by other administrative personnel, teachers and supporting staff.

The appointment modalities are provided for in Articles 33, 34 and 35 of organic law n° 20/2003 of 03/08/2003 organising Education.

Their duties are determined by a Presidential Order instituting general regulations governing nursery, primary and secondary schools.

Article: 49

Secondary school teachers must have at least a qualification of the first cycle of the university for those who teach in the first cycle of secondary schools, and a degree of the second or third cycle of university level for those who teach in the second cycle of secondary schools.

Chapter IV. THE SPECIAL SCHOOLS EDUCATION**Section I. Structure and general provisions****Article: 50**

Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 12 of organic law n° 20:2003 of 03'08/2003 organising Education, special schools are established with regard to the nature of disabilities or the type of handicap of pupils.

The administration and the functioning of these schools are determined by a Presidential Order instituting general regulations governing education in nursery, primary and secondary schools.

Article: 51

When the obstacles that prevented a pupil from attending ordinary schools are overcome, he or she shall resume an ordinary school.

Article: 52

Curricula of special schools are established according to different levels, nature and structure of disabilities of the pupils.

Article: 53

Teachers of special schools must be in possession of a professional teaching qualification in addition to special education training.

Article: 54

Articles 36, 39 and 45 of this law, apply to special schools as well.

Chapter VII. TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article: 55

In case of shortage of qualified teachers in the country, a presidential order shall determine the modalities of appointing persons who do not meet the requirements provided by for by article 29, 37, and 53 of this law

Article: 56

The current curricula apply until pupils complete their respective levels.

Article: 57

Law n°14/1985 establishing the organisation of primary technical and secondary schools as well as all other previous legislations contrary to this law are here by repealed.

Article: 58

This law comes into force on the date of its publication in the official gazette of the republic of Rwanda.