

**ASSESSMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION EXPENDITURE
GUIDELINES ON UTILIZATION OF FREE PRIMARY
EDUCATION FUNDS IN PUBLIC PRIMARY
SCHOOLS IN NAKURU MUNICIPALITY,
NAKURU COUNTY, KENYA**

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ABSTRACT

Free Primary Education was introduced by Kenyan government in the year 2003 with the aim of ensuring that Education for all was attained. To achieve this, all public primary school were to be funded by the government. In a quest to enhance efficiency and effective utilization of FPE funds disbursed to primary schools, the Ministry of Education introduced Expenditure Guidelines in 2003. However, following several concerns raised by head teachers and Ministry of Education Officers across the Country, it remains unclear what impact this tool has on the utilization of FPE funds. The purpose of this study was to assess the Ministry of Education Expenditure Guidelines on utilization of Free Primary Funds especially at the implementation stage in Public Primary Schools in Nakuru Municipality. The study was carried out amongst the School Managers (Head teachers, SMC Chairpersons, Teachers representatives in the SIMSC. The study objectives guiding the study included: assessing the aspects of Ministry of Education expenditure guidelines on FPE funds in Public Primary Schools in Nakuru Municipality; finding out how MOE expenditure guidelines has affected the utilization of FPE funds in Public Primary Schools in Nakuru Municipality; determining the strategies that have been put in place by primary school managers to mitigate the impact of MOE expenditure guidelines on the utilization of FPE funds. The study adopted descriptive survey design and dealt with both qualitative and quantitative data. A study of 208 respondents determined using the Krejcie and Morgan, (1970) formula was used for the study. The study sample was selected using purposive technique. Data was collected using questionnaires containing both structured and unstructured questions. Questionnaire was validated by help of experts. Cronbach reliability analysis tests were computed to test the reliability of the questionnaires with test strength of 0.7. Data collected was analysed with the aid Statistical Package for Social Sciences. The findings show that the guidelines on the funds allocated per vote head are inadequate according to most of the Head Teachers and SIMSC representatives; funds were not normally disbursed to schools in time according to most of the head teachers; the allocations per vote head are relevant to the school's needs; selection criterion for SIMSC members is favourable for the utilization of FPE funds. It is also found that it was not difficult to implement the Ministry of Education expenditure guidelines on FPE funds. According to most SIMC representatives the head teacher insists on the implementation of the Ministry of Education guidelines. Effectiveness of utilization of FPE funds was to a certain extent a function of the Ministry of Education guidelines. However, the study established that the MOE expenditure guidelines presented challenges, for instance procurement challenges. The main coping strategies employed the school managers included the following: Parental involvement in school projects, activity vote heads is supplemented by parents at county level, reducing number of participants during activities, seeking guidance from the ministry of education officers, cutting on school expenditure and sensitizing the stakeholders on MOE expenditure guidelines. The study findings may be useful to all the stakeholders including the Ministry of Education in reviewing or enhancing the quality of expenditure guidelines on the utilization of FPE funds.

Keywords: Expenditure guidelines, Ministry of Education, Free Primary Education, Ministry Allocations.