

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In order to institute and rationalize the mechanism for verification, certification, authentication and evaluation of the certificates attained by South Sudanese citizens in the Republic of Kenya, the Republic of Ethiopia and the Republic of Uganda; the MOEST – Higher Education Department resolved to send out various teams for a fact finding mission with defined Terms of Reference (TOR) to these countries. In 2008, a two man team comprising of the **Late Mr. Deng Alier Mading** and **Mr. Lual Akol Nhial** were sent to the Republic of Uganda with a special task of students' data collection was also attached to their TOR.

This exercise culminated into the establishment of the resident Office of the Educational Attaché at the Embassy of the Republic of South Sudan in Kampala headed by **Mr. Lual Akol Nhial**. Among other responsibilities, this office was tasked with the mandate to carry out the authentication, verification and validation of academic qualifications in the Republic of Uganda. In 2014, the Ministry of National Security Service inaugurated the exercise to streamline the human resource by eliminating all their employees with forged academic qualifications in order to steer progressive economic development by the right academically skilled personnel. Since then, this exercise has become a norm in all sectors of the Public Service, Armed Forces and Private Sector as a process spearheaded by both Ministries of Education namely; Ministry of Education and Instruction, and the Ministry for Higher Education, Science and Technology. This is done in conformity with the laws aiming at observing its vision, mission, motto, core values, strategic objectives, general objectives and specific objectives. This is envisioned in the Policy on the Structures, Functions and Duties of staff in the Ministry – Higher Education Sector

which was decreed for implementation by the **Council of Ministers Resolution No. 145/2015** and published in July, 2015.

Over the years, the Office of Educational Attaché has registered success amidst challenges including but not limited to; life threatening acts, intimidation from individuals holding powerful government positions, conspiracy of some students with a few staff to evade the due process, correspondence delays by some concerned authorities, and limited financial resources to create a database that will enhance the employment of advanced technology in fulfilling our mandate. Education is regarded as a bedrock of an informed agenda to spear any country's social, political, and economic development and as such the office has remained resilient by fully exercising its mandate with enthusiasm to professionalism irrespective of the above shortcomings. We continue to work in synergy with all concerned agencies including; the Ministry for Higher Education, Science and Technology, the Directorate of Admission, Evaluation and Authentication, South Sudan National Examinations Council, Uganda National Examinations Board (UNEB), National Council for Higher Education (NCHE) – Uganda, Colleges, Universities, among other authorities.

The authentication, verification and validation of academic documents include qualifications such as; Primary School Certificates, Secondary School Certificates, Ordinary Certificates, Pre – University Certificates, Professional Certificates, Advanced and Ordinary Diplomas, Bachelor's Degrees, Postgraduate Diplomas, Postgraduate Certificates, Masters Degrees and PhDs of all bearers / holders who completed their studies in the Republic of Uganda and any other countries where need arises. It has come to our knowledge that acquisition and use of forged

academic qualifications takes several forms including; all kinds of examination malpractices, poor/improper admission of students who do not meet the set minimum standards of guidelines and policies by regulating agencies/bodies (National Council for Higher Education/Ministry of Education – Republic of South Sudan, National Council for Higher Education/Ministry of Education – Republic of Uganda), and non-condemnation and lack of prosecution of individuals who use forged academic documents.

The noble exercise of verification and validation of academic documents involve academic credentials from Public Universities, Private Chartered Universities, Private Licensed Universities, Private Licensed Colleges, and Other Examination Bodies (Cambridge and Uganda National Examinations Board). This exercise considers critical assessment of authenticity of the presented academic documents, the adherence to the admission criteria / guidelines as set by the NCHE – Uganda or the Ministry for Higher Education, Science and Technology – Directorate of Admissions, Evaluation and Authentication for the Republic of South Sudan.

This 2022 Annual Report on Authentication, Verification and Validation has been prepared into seven chapters: - Chapter One presents the information concerning the qualifications sent to National Council for Higher Education – Uganda (NCHE-UG) to determine status on recognition and accreditation; Chapter Two looks presents the information concerning the absolute forgeries; Chapter Three presents the responses from institutions of higher learning regarding the revocation and cancellations of academic qualifications; Chapter Four addresses the issues concerning the Kampala University Court Case; Chapter Five presents the challenges, achievements, observations and recommendations; Chapter Six presents a detailed analysis of

verification and validation of academic qualifications in tabular forms for the year 2022; and finally Chapter Seven presents an annexed attachment of a few selected documents relied upon during the formulation and compilation of this report.

According to this Annual Report, in **2022**; a total number of **2,254** academic qualifications were verified and validated by the Office of Educational Attaché during the Authentication, Verification and Validation Exercise. The analysis from the report shows that the academic qualifications included but not limited to; **40** Masters Degrees, **06** Post Graduate Diplomas, **540** Bachelor's Degrees, **215** Diplomas, **03** Advanced Diplomas, **04** Professional Certificates, **183** Pre-University, **160** Certificates, **140** "A" Level (UACE) Certificates, **904** "O" Level (UCE) Certificates and **59** Primary Leaving Examinations (PLE) Certificates. The report further indicates that **120** academic documents have been confiscated by the Office of Educational Attaché awaiting fulfillment of pre-requisites before verification and validation; some of these documents are not recognized the National Council for High Education of both the Republics of South Sudan and Uganda. The analysis equally indicates that **26** forged academic documents presented for verification and validation originating from the Republic of Uganda were forged. The analysis also indicates that **31** presented purported academic documents originating from the Republic of South Sudan have been confirmed forged. Furthermore, the analysis also indicates that **13** academic qualifications were recalled, revoked and cancelled by the awarding institutions of higher learning in the Republic of Uganda.

During the **2016/2017** authentication, verification and validation exercise a total number of **865** qualifications were verified as authentic and **73** presented academic qualifications were confiscated and detained by the Educational Attaché Office; in

the year **2018** during the authentication, verification and validation exercise a total number of **1,242** qualifications were verified as authentic and **222** presented academic qualifications were confiscated and detained; in the year **2019** during the authentication, verification and validation exercise a total number of **1,351** qualifications were verified as authentic and **202** presented academic qualifications were confiscated and detained; in the year **2020** during the authentication, verification and validation exercise a total number of **837** qualifications were verified as authentic and **103** presented academic qualifications were confiscated and detained; in the year **2021** during the authentication, verification and validation exercise a total number of **1,549** qualifications were verified as authentic and **188** presented academic qualifications were confiscated and detained; and in the year **2022** during the authentication, verification and validation exercise a total number of **2,254** qualifications were verified as authentic and **190** presented academic qualifications were confiscated and detained.

A comparative analysis of this annual report with the preceding years indicates a steady decline in presented forged academic qualifications. The **2016/2017** Annual Report on Authentication, Verification and Validation vide Reference Number **RSS/ESS/EAO/K/UG/18/3/02/0276** had a **7.783%** of presented documents discovered and declared forged; in **2018** Annual Report on Authentication, Verification and Validation vide Reference Number **RSS/ESS/EAO/K/UG/19/4/13/MoHEST/1** had a **13.4%** of presented documents discovered and declared forged; in **2019** Annual Report vide Reference Number **RSS/ESS/EAO/K/UG/2020/3/16/MoHEST/2**, **7.5%** of the documents were discovered and declared forged; in **2020** Annual Report vide Reference Number **RSS/ESS/EAO/K/UG/22/12/31/MoHEST/1**, **7.206%** of the documents were

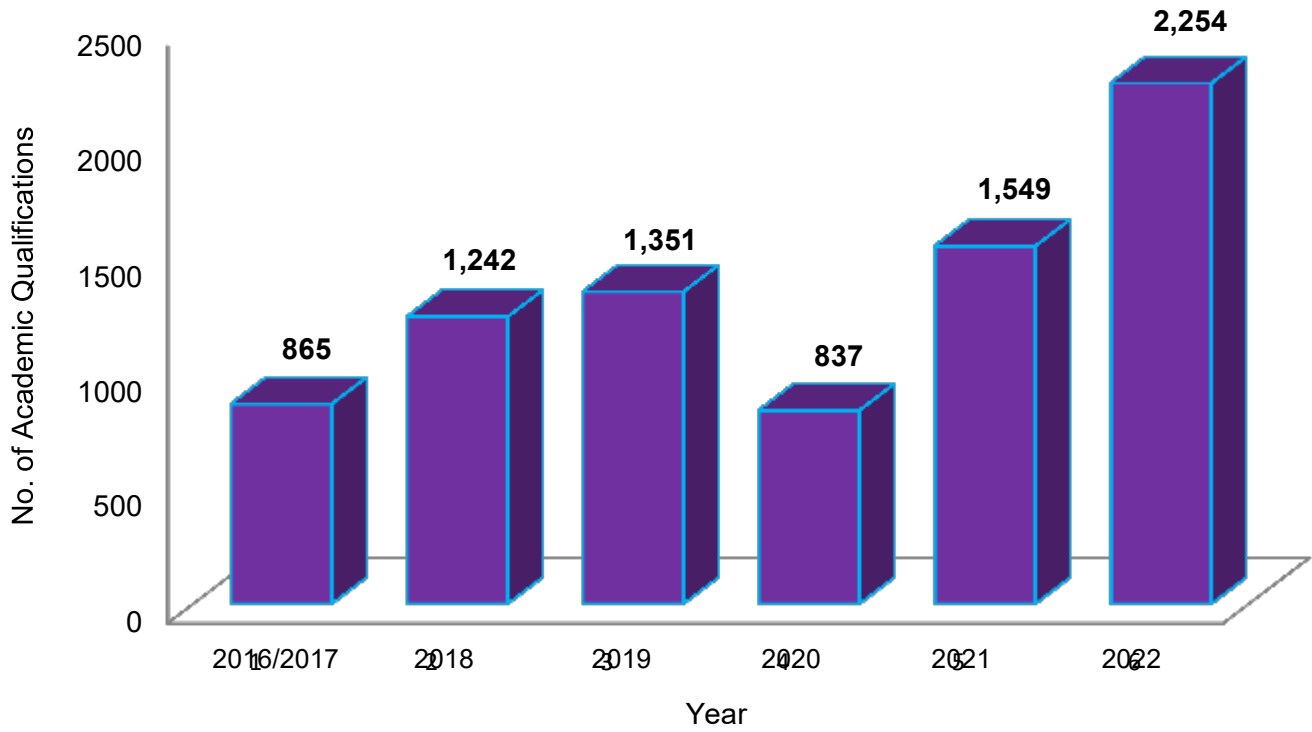
discovered and declared forged; in **2021** Annual Report vide Reference Number **RSS/ESS/EAO/K/UG/22/12/31/MoHEST/1**, **6.699%** of the documents were discovered and declared forged; in **2022** Annual Report vide Reference Number **RSS/ESS/EAO/K/UG/2022/12/30/MoHEST/2**, **2.33%** of the presented academic documents were discovered and declared forged.

Putting the above statistics in consideration, it is imperative to note that from inception of this vital process that ensures sanctity in acquired academic qualifications amongst our citizens, a total of **9,076** academic qualifications have so far been verified by the Educational Attaché Office. Out of which **8,098** have been verified and validated as authentic academic qualifications whereas **978** are among the confirmed forged, confiscated and detained academic qualifications with a representation of **10.776%**.

**Table 1: Summary of the Total Number of Academic Qualifications Verified as Authentic; Total Number of Confirmed Forged, Confiscated and Detained Academic Qualifications; and the Percentage of Confirmed Forged Academic Qualifications per Year**

S/N	Year	Total Number of Verified Academic Qualifications	Total Number of Confirmed Forged, Confiscated and Detained Academic Qualifications	Percentage of Confirmed Forged Academic Qualifications
1.	2016/2017	865	73	7.783%
2.	2018	1,242	222	13.4%
3.	2019	1,351	202	7.5%
4.	2020	837	103	7.206%
5.	2021	1,549	188	6.699%
6.	2022	2,254	190	2.33%
<b>Total</b>		<b>8,098</b>	<b>978</b>	<b>10.776%</b>

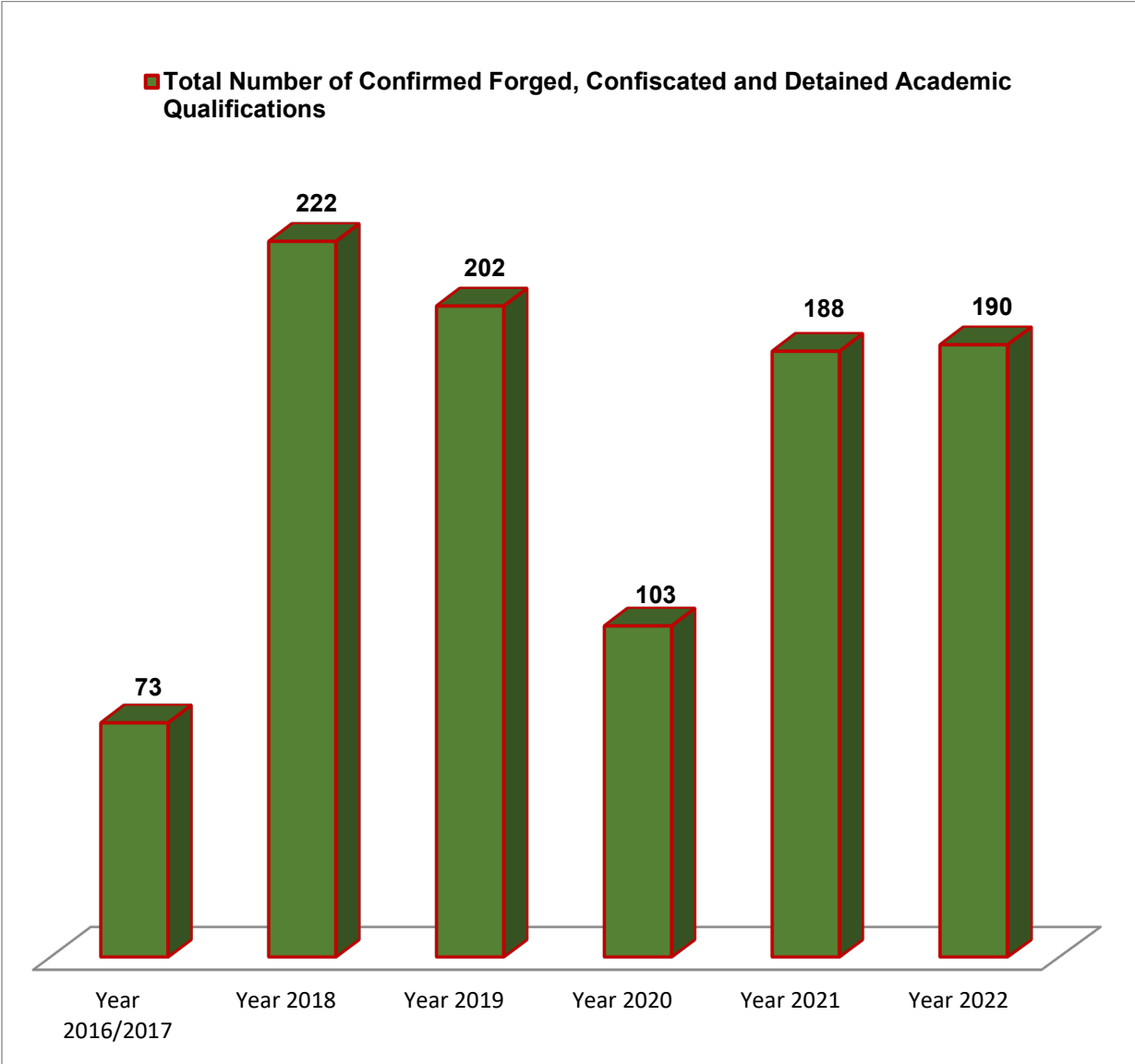
**Figure 1: A Bar Graph Showing the Total Number of Academic Qualifications Verified as Authentic per Year**



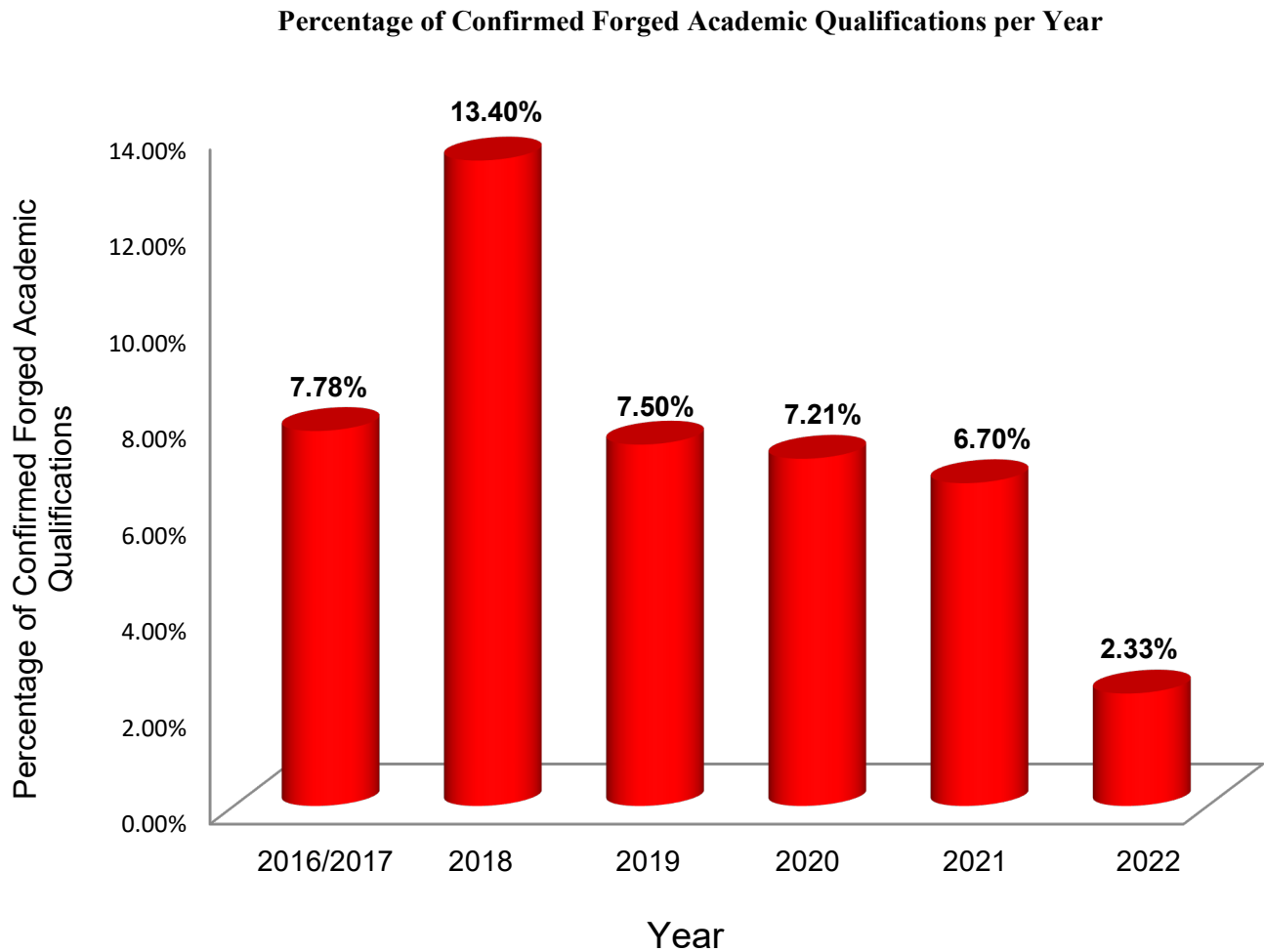
**Total Number of Verified Academic Qualifications as Authentic per Year**



**Figure 1: Bar Graph Showing the Total Number of Confirmed Forged, Confiscated and Detained Academic Qualifications per Year**



**Figure 2: Bar Graph Showing Confirmed Forged Academic Qualifications per Year**



Basing on the above analysis, there is an indication that the percentage of presenting forged academic documents for authentication, verification and validation is declining. However, the existence of the same still calls for diplomatic collaboration from all concerned authorities to collectively fight this vice without any form of discrimination. All efforts geared towards this noble task should be universally supported as it is a foundation for the growth of all entities in the Republic of South Sudan. Our theme for this year is: -

***“The Foundation of every State is the Education of its Youth”,***