



**MULT-STAKEHOLDERS EVENT TO
LAUNCH A JOINT ENDEAVOR FOR ACTION ON THE
EDUCATION FOR ALL GOALS**

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**END POVERTY 2015 - MILENNIUM DEVELOPMENT
GOALS- MAKE IT
HAPPEN.
HIGHY LEVEL EVENT, UN HEADQUARTERS,
NEWYORK**

25TH SEPTEMBER, 2008

**Heads of State and Governments
CEOs of multinational companies,
Leaders of faith based groups,
Your Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen.**

On behalf of the government and people of Kenya, I wish to express my gratitude for having been invited to this unique event in New York where we shall witness a launch for a new effort aimed at accelerating the Education for all goals (EFA). We recognize that this is an important event that has brought together a diverse group of individuals and organizations committed to EFA.

The Government of Kenya recognizes that the elimination of poverty, promotion of human rights and attainment of sustainable development are noble goals which cannot be realized without placing education at the core of the national development agenda. The Universal Declaration on Human Rights (1984), the World Conference on Education for All (Jomtien, Thailand, 1990) and the World Education Forum (Dakar, Senegal, 2000), are manifestations of realization by the international community of the strategic role that education can play towards the achievement of these goals.

Since 2003, Kenya has made a lot of progress in its bid to expand access and retain children in school. These efforts have been accelerated by the adoption of the Sector Wide Approach (SWAP) to financing of the education sector and the subsequent development of Kenya Education Sector Support Programme (KESSP) in 2005.

Early Childhood Development Education (ECD)

The Government of Kenya together with Development Partners has introduced community support grants to support marginalized/vulnerable communities. Other measures aimed at enhancing the quality of ECDE services and increase enrolment at this level include the implementation of a 2-year in-service training programme for ECDE teachers, mounting of a 9-month training course

for trainers, enhancing the capacities of supervisors and Quality Assurance and Standards Officers This will require enormous support in terms of infrastructure development and provision of teaching/ learning materials and equipment.

Primary Education

Your Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen.

The Governments' commitment to Universal Primary Education (UPE) was manifested by the introduction of Free Primary Education Policy in January 2003, which included the abolition of primary school fees and other levies charged to parents. As a result, enrolment in public primary schools rose from 5.9 million in January 2003 to the current 8.3 million representing a 38.9% rise. Net Enrolment Rate (NER) at primary now stands at 91.6% while Primary Completion Rate (PCR) is 81%. In terms of financial resources covering 18, 356 public primary schools countrywide. a total of Ksh.44 billion has been spent on the program of which Ksh.26 billion was utilized to purchase instructional materials, whereas Ksh.17.7 billion was used for general purpose expenses/recurrent expenditures.

Secondary Education.

The government with effect from January, 2008 introduced Free Day Secondary Education (FSE) to make secondary education more affordable and accessible The Government has been implementing the Free Secondary Education (FSE) Programme on a per capita basis of KShs. 10,265 per student in all public secondary schools to 1.4 million students. . This initiative has drastically reduced the cost of secondary education thus increasing access, retention, equity and quality. The GOK has thus achieved increased secondary transition rate from 46% in 2002 to over 70% by the year 2008

Skills Training for Youth and Adults

With regard to ensuring that learning needs of all young people and adults are met through equitable access to appropriate learning and

life-skills programmes, Kenya has mainstreamed non-formal education (NFE) that cuts across the various education levels and includes non-formal school (NFSs) and non-formal education centers (NFECs). A policy framework for mainstreaming non-governmental and community-based education service provisions within the formal and non-formal education sub-sectors is being developed. The Ministry is currently providing FPE grants to eligible Non Formal Schools and Non-formal Education Centers in urban informal settlements.

Adult literacy

When the specific EFA goals and targets were set, Kenya did not have reliable data on literacy levels. However, in 2006 the Government set out to determine the magnitude, levels and distribution of adult literacy and obtain comprehensive data and information on adult literacy. Subsequently, the results published in the KNALS report 2007 indicated that Kenya's literacy level is 61.5%. This means that 7.8m adults and youth in Kenya are illiterate. The report further stated that in terms of gender variation the literacy level of women is at 58.9% as compared to men at 64.1%. The report shows glaring variation of literacy levels between areas of high and low economic potential indicating that the map of illiteracy correlates with that of poverty in Kenya.

Gender Parity

Your Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen

The Children Act of 2002 recognizes provision of basic education as a basic human right that every Kenyan child should enjoy. The Act promotes equal educational opportunities for both girls and boys. The Government in collaboration with other stakeholders has developed a comprehensive Gender policy in Education and will soon develop standard guidelines for addressing gender issues in education. Gender officers have been appointed at all public universities and Semi Autonomous Government Agencies to coordinate gender mainstreaming activities at those levels. The Government has also set

up gender desks at the provincial and district headquarters to coordinate gender activities, liaise with organizations involved in gender activities and handle any other issues arising

Way forward

Your Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen

In its Endeavor to enhance access, quality, equity, retention and relevance in the provision of education, the Government of Kenya will employ numerous strategies. Some of these strategies include:-

- Finalization and harmonization of the Education Legal Framework
- *Integration of ECD* into Basic Education by integrating 4-5 year old children into the primary cycle by year 2010.
- Integration of Adult education through the Kenyan Government commitment to provision and promotion of Adult Continuing Education(ACE) as manifested in policy documents
- Special needs education; finalization of National survey on special needs and the development of special needs policy.
- Free Secondary Education (FSE) - to increase enrolment rates in secondary schools from 70% in 2008 to the projected 80% by 2010.
- Implementation of the Non formal Education (NFE) and the Nomadic Education Policy Frameworks.
- Encourage partnership with the development partners and other stakeholders in the mobilization of funds for the OVC programmes

- Implementation of various sectoral policies including ABE, Gender and National Nomadic Education, Non-Formal Education and Enforcing the National language policy
- Accelerate the infrastructure development to enhance access hence expansion of existing secondary schools e.g. additional streams in the existing schools and encouraging the construction of more day schools to reduce the cost of secondary education.
- Increase bursary funding to schools to capture more needy students.
- Continuous capacity building for decentralized management and Strengthen Education Management Information System (EMIS)
- Enhance retention strategies already in place especially in Arid and Semi Arid lands (ASALs), Enforce the re-entry policy especially for girls who drop out due to early pregnancy, and enhancing security in clash torn areas and the North Eastern regions.
- Sustainability of gender parity

Conclusion

In conclusion, ladies and gentlemen, Kenya is confident that with these initiatives we shall be able to attain the goals for EFA by 2015.

Nevertheless, this is a daunting task that will require concerted effort from all education stakeholders. Partnership among Governments, Development Partners, Non-Governmental Organizations and communities in the provision of education is critical for the achievement of Education for All goals. Without leadership and political goodwill from governments, the implementation of EFA activities would be a mirage. Kenya therefore, appeals to all her EFA partners to assist in mobilization of resources to achieve the set targets.