



SPEECH BY THE CABINET SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DURING THE LAUNCH OF THE 2014 BASIC EDUCATION STATISTICAL BOOKLET AT THE KENYATTA INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE ON 6th OCTOBER 2015.

The Principal Secretary – Education

UNICEF Representative

Chairperson of the EDPCG

Ag. Education Secretary

Senior Government Officials

Invited Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my honour and pleasure to be with you during the official launch of the 2014 Basic Education Statistical Booklet. I am particularly delighted because this event marks an important milestone in provision of education data. In the past, several attempts to develop a comprehensive Education Management Information System to deliver timely and reliable education data in support education planning and management has not yielded the expected results. This event which brings together education stakeholders to reflect on performance of the sector and assess the progress so far made is a sign that my Ministry is on the right track in monitoring and reporting results.

As we reflect on this statistics presented here today, we need to acknowledge that Kenya's education sector has grown to large and complex system which requires well structured management information system. The sector has witnessed tremendous expansion in all levels since the inception of Free Primary Education (FPE) in 2003 and the Free Day Secondary Education (FDSE) in 2008. Enrolment in primary education has increased from 5.9 million in 2002 to 9.95 million in 2014 while secondary enrolment grew from 851.8 thousand in 2002 to 2.33 million in 2014. Similar growth in enrolment is experienced in other levels of education.

From the indicators presented in this report, it is notable that regional disparities still exist with some regions having been very close to attaining Universal Primary Education (UPE) while others are lagging behind. Indeed, we nearly attained the Millennium Development Goal (MDGs) number 2 on UPE.

These commendable achievements in the sector are attributed to sustained reforms in education sector and implementation of other targeted interventions being undertaken by the Government such as FPE and FDSE, infrastructure improvement, the sanitary towels programme among others.

Ladies and Gentlemen, despite the success story, the sector continues to face numerous challenges in deployment of resources. The rapid expansion of the education system is increasingly affecting Kenya's capacity to maintain and improve the quality of education. The system is characterized by persistent regional disparities in learning outcomes and internal inefficiencies which must be dealt with if Kenya is to attain goals of Vision 2030 and Sustainable Developments Goals (SDGs). We must shift our emphasis to quality education which pays more attention to increasing learning outcomes. This shift requires to be anchored on reliable data that is immediately retrievable and usable, and that is comprehensive and relevant. In other words, the close monitoring of educational quality requires an information management system, with a set of structures and procedures governing the collection, processing, analysis, presentation and use of information within the organization.

An organization's effectiveness and efficiency can be highly enhanced through monitoring and evaluation of its service delivery. This is made possible through a data management framework that contributes towards improving policy formulation, planning, budgeting, decision making and programme interventions. The ultimate goal is to enhance the general performance of the sector and provide an opportunity to the stakeholders to assess the progress made towards achieving the development objectives of the education sector.

Ladies and Gentlemen, my Ministry remains committed to the production of quality statistics to inform the formulation of education supporting policies and development of enabling programs in the sector. The Second Medium Term Plan as well as the National Education Sector Plan identified EMIS as one of the priority area which runs until 2018. EMIS will establish data management framework both at national and county levels with an aim to provide information required for informed decision making in policy formulation, planning and management. Data Management broadly refers to the transformation of data to information and knowledge, which is the basis of decision making.

The launch of 2014 Basic Education Statistics Booklet is an assurance that the Ministry has laid down a solid framework for the production of education sector statistics. I am informed that EMIS unit will be re-engineered and will be producing, managing, and disseminating educational data and information annually. The functions of EMIS will include collecting, storing, integrating, processing, organizing, outputting, and disseminating education data and statistics in a timely and reliable fashion. I am sure EMIS will play important role in education management, resource allocation, policy formulation, planning, budgeting, research and monitoring and evaluation.

In particular, EMIs will be a handy tool for monitoring of the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which were adapted on 25th September, 2015 by the United Nations Assembly where the Kenya is a signatory.

The Booklet gives an insight to the status of programs implemented in the sector including the number of schools in the country by various categorization; enrolments; teachers and pupil-teachers ratios; internal efficiency; schools infrastructure and facilities; and examination outputs. The booklet contains very interesting information for planners, policy makers, educators, parents, learners, researchers as well as our development partners and I urge you to make use of the information for the development of education services in the country.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I note with appreciation, the contribution of our development partners in the realization of this publication. Through the Education Development Partners Consultative Group, our partners have shown that we can achieve so much when we deliver as one. We may have had doubts when we began the process of getting these results since there had been several attempts to resolve the challenges. However, I am glad that once we left the train station, our fuel kept burning. Our partners were behind us. All major resources available for EMIS were directed to one single course. The financial and technical support my Ministry received for this work was immense and I really wish to thank our development partners for the incredible gesture. We will continue working with all stakeholders in strengthening the foundation that has been established.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to officially launch 2014 Basic Education Statistics The booklet will be very useful to all the educationists, planners, policy makers, researchers and all the other stakeholders of the education sector. The information is also useful in promoting partnership in education ventures with the communities, private sector and the development partners to address the gaps in education targets. I do therefore encourage the use of the information in programme planning and intervention.

Thank You

Asanteni Sana