SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE DR BELIO KIPSANG, PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DURING THE MUMIAS EAST CONSTITUENCY EDUCATION DAY ON 4TH JULY, 2014.

- The Hon MP, Mumias East Constituency
- The Chairman, District Education Board Mumias District,
- The District Education Officer- Mumias
- All Government officers present
- Head Teachers
- Teachers,
- Parents,
- Students,
- Distinguished Guests,
- Ladies and gentlemen,
I am delighted to join today on this occasion of the Mumias East Constituency Education Day. This day gives all education stakeholders in the sub county, county and the entire western region an opportunity to share the joy of their achievements, take stock of challenges faced and chart the way forward for a better future. This is significant if the aspirations of schools and education goals of this county and the country as a whole are to be met.

Ladies and gentlemen

I take this opportunity to congratulate Mumias for emerging number one in the whole nation in the 2013 KCPE results. You also did equally well in 2013 KCSE results after being ranked position six nationally among all districts. HONGERA!! This demonstrates the importance you attach to education and justify why you should celebrate your achievements.

The good performance obviously did not come out of nothing. It must be as a result of team work and good working relationship between students, teachers, parents, education officials and the political leaders. I particularly commend Mumias Sugar Company for its involvement in education projects, that range from sponsoring bright and needy students from poor economic backgrounds, establishing and running academies and construction of classrooms in primary schools among other education programmes. I wish also to thank the area Member of Parliament and the local community for the support the give education in the sub county.

Ladies and gentlemen.
As you may all be aware, the government is committed to providing accessible, equitable and relevant education to all Kenyans. It is for this reason that the government introduced free primary education (FPE) and free day secondary education (FDSE). These are efforts to make education affordable and available to all as well as ease the burden on parents to provide education to their children.

In the 2013/2014 financial year the Government disbursed a total of **KES. 230,632,434** to all public secondary schools in the country, with Mumias District receiving Ksh **153 million** for FDSE and Ksh **64 million** for FPE. In addition the Government has disbursed **KES 1.170 billion** disbursed towards the constituency bursary funds countrywide out of which Mumias East constituency received **KES 4,107,045**.

In this financial year of 2014/2015 the Government has increased capitation in both FPE and FDSE programs. Allocation to each child has been increased by 30%. In this financial year, the government has taken the burden of examination fee so that children will no longer need to pay to do examination. Indeed going forward the plan of the Government is to make education up to secondary level completely free.
Meanwhile the Task Force that was recently established by the Ministry to look into the costing of secondary education will release its report in weeks time. I hope as a sub county you submitted your views to the Task Force. I also hope we will all be ready to uphold the recommendations of the Task Force once they are released and adopted. I want to urge heads of learning institutions to be consulting parents, board of management, education officials and the Ministry on all financial related matters of their institutions.

I wish to inform you that besides school fees, the government also funds targeted schools through infrastructure support funds for the construction and rehabilitation of secondary schools. The government is also supporting schools in equipping laboratories and integration of Information and Communication Technology [ICT]. These are all in effort to minimize education costs and to ensure expansion of learning space in schools.

Ladies and gentlemen.

The Government remain committed to provide laptops to all the 20,63 public primary schools in its bid to integrate ICT and promote e-learning and e-teaching at primary level of education. About 1.28 million children are expected to benefit in the first phase of the project. In preparation for the roll out of the project, about 10,157 primary schools have
already been connected with electricity. Another 4, 400 schools are expected to be connected before July this year while 600 schools will be electrified through solar power.

Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development has finalised the development of digital content for standard one and are ready to be loaded with the laptop. Meanwhile over 150 teachers have been trained as national master trainers and another 3000 trainer of trainers have been trained at county level. Plans to train 3 teachers per school in the 47 counties are expected to start this month of July.

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

At this juncture I want to urge Boards of Management of schools and heads of institutions to exercise highest level of leadership and administration in the management of their institutions. It is unfortunate that some school managers are running institutions in a manner that leaves trails of complaints from parents, students and other education stakeholders. Managers of schools need to adopt an inclusive approach in their management of schools so that all stakeholders own and provide support to these institutions while adopting ways to keep students in school.

**Ladies and Gentlemen.**
As I conclude my remarks I wish to urge all stakeholders to be vigilant on emerging trends that threaten to derail our focus on education. These include drug abuse, teenage pregnancies, high dropout rates, indiscipline in schools, immorality and lately radicalisation and terrorism.

I would urge all stakeholders to play their part well to curb these threats. Parents need to take their parental obligations more seriously because the home is the first training ground for all children. We need to train our children in our small ways about the threat of terrorism, tribalism, indiscipline and the dangers of drug abuse.

Finally, I also wish to thank the organizers of this day for wonderful reception and congratulate the schools and everybody who has received an award for good performance. I wish those who were not lucky today to re-energize their efforts for future awards.

I wish everyone a safe travel back to their destinations and hope that we shall continue to celebrate and give thanks not only the success of examination results but also the success of our endeavours to live as a nation, a people living within one border of the country Kenya.

God bless you all