



## **Ministry of Education**

### **SPEECH BY THE CABINET SECRETARY PROF. GEORGE A. O. MAGOHA, EGH, DURING THE LAUNCH OF THE NATIONAL OUT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN STUDY AND THE “OPERATION COME TO SCHOOL PROGRAMME” ON 19<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER AT THE HILTON HOTEL, NAIROBI**

It gives me great pleasure to preside over the launch of the **out of school children study and operation come to school programme**. I wish to take this early opportunity to thank UNESCO and UNICEF in carrying out the study and coming up with interventions to address the problem. I thank all partners for all the financial support towards the realization of the targeted interventions. This will complement the government’s efforts in ensuring No Child is Left Behind or fails to access basic education. The government has given priority to the disbursement of Free Primary Education and Free Day Secondary Education Funds for every child in basic education and has also provided learning materials to all schools.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,** I note that despite the significant progress in promoting access to quality education at the national and global levels, African countries continue to experience substantial challenges. These include:

Low access to education by the vulnerable children and those from marginalized regions;

Low achievements in literacy and numeracy;

Weak linkage between training institutions and industry;

Low demand for TVET training;

Gender disparities, among others.

In this regard, there is need for concerted efforts, collaboration and partnerships, parental empowerment and engagement, media campaigns and other strategic interventions to be applied in ensuring all learners access and complete education. I retaliante the words of former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan who said: ***Literacy is the road to human progress and the means through which every man, woman and child can realize his or her full potential.*** This, therefore, calls for all children to go back to schools while the society must encourage and play its role in promoting all government initiative like the one we are launching today.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is acknowledged that the Government has the primary responsibility to provide quality education to all citizens. It is my hope that parents and caregivers will uphold their parental roles to ensure all school going children access, transit and complete education at all levels. It is quite sad from the statistics provided that some counties in ASALs are home to high numbers of out of school children.

I urge all stakeholders to embrace the Government's National Re-entry Guidelines in ensuring all children go back to school. We also call upon all stakeholders to embrace this campaign on **“Operation Come-to-School”**.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am well informed that the primary goal of the programme is to enroll 250,000 children, 50% boys and 50% girls and 5% children with disability who are out of school, to access quality basic education. I am also aware that some of the interventions have commenced like the dissemination of National Re-entry Guidelines, Mentorship Policy and provision of psychosocial support to learners rejoining school after dropping out. The role played by UNICEF in supporting these interventions cannot be over emphasized. I am also aware of the various Water,

Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH) programmes you are undertaking to ensure water sanitation and hygiene is provided in primary schools. This partnership will go a long way in complementing government efforts.

**Finally,** I wish to thank the organizers of this meeting coordinated by NACONEK and supported by UNICEF, UNESCO and the Ministry of Education at large for supporting the launch of this important Report and Programme. I urge all stakeholders to take note of the recommendations made in this National Report and take requisite action to ensure **All Children Go back to school** in line to Government policy.

I now declare this Report and Programme officially launched.

**Thank you and God bless you all!**