

# Kenya



**Henry Kosgey**

**Minister of Education**

*Born in 1947 Hon Mr. Kosgey holds a Bachelor's degree in Science (B.Sc. Hon.) from the University of Nairobi. He has a wide experience in government. In 1979, he was elected Member of Parliament for Tindiret. He was subsequently appointed Minister for Transport and Communications (1980 – 1985), Minister for Cooperative Development (1985 – 1986), Minister for Culture and Social Services (1987 – 1988). He later took interest in the private sector. From 1989 to 1992, he was Executive Chairman of Kenya National Assurance CO. Ltd. From 1993 to 1996, he was Member of Parliament for Tindiret Constituency. He was*

*subsequently appointed Minister for Environment and Natural Resources (1996-1997), Minister for Tourism (1998-1999), Minister for Science and Technology (1999-2001). In 2001, Hon. Henry Kiprono Kosgey took up the post of Minister for Education. He has also a large international experience and has attended many courses, seminars, conferences, workshops and meetings.*

## **Towards social cohesion by removing social inequalities**

Kenya is a multi-racial and multi-ethnic society whose education is seen as a vehicle for national unity and social cohesion. Among Kenya's fundamental goals of education are those that:

- Foster national unity based on the adaptation of the rich cultural heritage of the people of Kenya.
- Promote social justice and morality by instilling right attitudes necessary for training in social obligation, and responsibilities.
- Foster positive attitudes and consciousness towards other nations since Kenya is a member of the International Community.

The country has a national curriculum for primary and secondary school levels.

The National language Kiswahili is taught up to the secondary level as it has proved a unifying factor for our 42 ethnic groups. Kenya recognizes that understanding and appreciation of the diversity of our culture, removes prejudice and fear of others thus empowering our children to learn to live together.

Equal opportunity in education leads to equal opportunity in the job market and self-employment. This in turn leads to the removal of social inequalities thus enhancing social cohesion, which provides a sound foundation for learning to live together. Kenya has in place interventions such as the EFA program and other affirmative actions that increase access and equity. Kenya is also faced with the serious problem of the scourge of HIV/AIDS, whose impact on education is seen in the loss of trained teachers, increased number of orphaned children and a lowered capacity for parental support for education. HIV/AIDS information has therefore been included in our syllabi to fully inform our youth on this scourge.

Kenya has always believed in the power of knowledge to remove ignorance, disease, poverty and intolerance. Kenya will continue with these inclusive policies to provide education to the majority of its citizens, and thus fully supports the Theme Learning to Live Together. ✍