

2nd AFRICE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE TO BE HELD AT KENYA SCIENCE, UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI ON 18TH AND 19TH JUNE, 2015

Paper Title: Development of education system in Kenya: The influence of the political factor beyond 2015 MDGs.

Authors: Caleb Mackatiani^{1*} Daniel Gakunga², Mercy Imbovah³ Navin Imbova⁴

1. School of Education, University of Nairobi, PO box 30197, Nairobi, Kenya

2. School of Education, University of Nairobi, PO box 30197, Nairobi, Kenya

3. Faculty of Education, Kisii University, P.o.box 408, Kisii, Kenya

4. School of Education, University of Nairobi, PO box 30197, Nairobi, Kenya

* E-mail of the corresponding author: makatianicaleb@yahoo.com.

Abstract

This paper provides a critical appraisal of development of education system in Kenya. Education of any country is an important tool for the developmental process of that nation. There are various factors that influence national systems of education. They range from social, economical, technological to political influences. In this article, a critical examination of these factors that have influenced Kenya's education system in both colonial and post-colonial period will be made. The paper will however, specifically examine political influence of Kenyan education system and its implications for national development. Kenya, like any other country of the world is controlled by politics. Kenya's education system is mostly influenced by the political factor. The political factor dictates the type of an education system a particular country can have. It is important in determining administration of education. Subsequently the influence of political factor is critical for educational policy formulation, adoption and implementation. The paper further analyses education commissions constituted politically to influence the education system. Their influence on educational policies will be assessed. The study will adopt historical design in reviewing educational development in Kenya and the subsequent influence of political factor on education. In order for education to foster development, this article recommends the need to separate educational policies from national politics, clear stipulation of educational policies and their role in national development and a sound implementation of educational reforms.

Key words: Educational system, education commissions, educational policy and political influence