

## H.E. PROF. GEORGE IMBANGA GODIA



H.E. Prof. George Imbanga Godia was appointed as Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of the Republic of Kenya to UNESCO Paris on 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2014. He had previously served as the Permanent Secretary and Education Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Republic of Kenya. He has demonstrated a life-long dedication to an expertise in the expansion of access and quality education at all levels of education throughout the world. His academic qualifications include:-

- PhD in Education and International Relations;
- M.I.A. (Masters of Arts in International Relations – Development Studies) from Ohio University;
- M.A (Master of Arts in Education from Eastern Michigan University, U.S.A); and
- BE.d Hons. (Bachelor of Education degree from University of Nairobi).

Many countries and International bodies have sought advice on how to increase access to education for all (EFA) in their own countries. Prof. Godia has had the privilege of leading Kenyan delegations to key International conferences organized by UNESCO; Commonwealth meetings on Education Ministries, Organization of African Unity (AU) and East African Community. Prof. Godia has also served as a Director/Board member at the Central Bank of Kenya; a member of a National Task Force to review Maritime Laws, and a member of the National Transport Policy Committee.

He has been a member of various Inter-Agency Task Forces providing advice to UNESCO on how to fast track the EFA agenda, among member countries. Prof. Godia served as a Director/Board Member to the Council of the International Bureau of Education (IBE), Geneva, Switzerland, (Kenya's representative elected during the UNESCO General Conference). He also served as a member representing Anglophone Africa to UNESCO, International Task Force on Teachers for Education for All (EFA); and an Education Expert to the learning Metrics Task Force UNESCO, Institute for statistics and Centre for Universal Education at Brookings, whose purpose is to determine the post 2015 EFA Agenda.

Prof. Godia has presented papers on topics such as scaling up of resource mobilization and aid effectiveness for EFA, girls and adult female literacy, "bold initiatives" of abolishing school fees in Kenya, and the process and challenges in the implementation of the free Primary Education Policy in Kenya. He has contributed to many organizations, ranging from the Working Group Education for All UNESCO, the Ministerial Anti-corruption Plan Coordinating Committee, and the National Steering Committee for the Program of support for Orphans and Vulnerable Children.

He possesses honorary positions as the National Chancellor for Kenya in the International Association for Education for World Peace and the National Language Chancellor for Kenya in the International World Language Association. Other Honorary positions include:-First Class: Chief of the order of the Burning Spear (CBS) award order of decoration and medals, and Elder of the Burning Spear (EBS) both awarded by H.E. the President of the Republic of Kenya.

Further, Prof. Godia has published many articles in referred Journals and conducted research on various development issues. He offered his support to Masters and PhD students as a thesis supervisor and served as a Lead Consultant to various Organizations (such as World Bank) in advancing projects such as STEPS (Strengthening of Primary and Secondary Education) in Kenya. Considering his achievements, experience, and passion for the development of education, it is evident why he is viewed as an expert on educational matters not only in his own country, but also around the world.

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