

Mother Tongue Education Policy

The Language in Education Policy, stipulates that the medium of instruction for lower primary school should be the language of the catchment area.

In line with this, BTL in partnership with the government of Kenya, is implementing a 3 year Mother Tongue project in Tana River and Kwale counties, targeting the Pokomo, Orma, Digo and Duruma communities in the counties.



Mother Tongue Education Program for Indigenous Languages in Kenya (MEPIL)



Mother Tongue Education Program for Indigenous Languages in Kenya

Bible Translation Center
Masaba Road, Lower Hill
P.O. BOX 44456-00100
Nairobi, Kenya

Phone: +254 722 209606 / 735 333 065
info@btlkenya.org / www.btlkenya.org

MOTHER TONGUE EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES IN KENYA



Girls reading a mother tongue book

Mother Tongue Education (MTE)

MTE refers to provision of education using mother tongue as the language of instruction. It should be noted that MTE does not preclude learning in a second or even third language.

This current MTE programme, covers four minority community languages in Kenya; that is Pokomo, Orma Digo and Duruma.

The project focuses on developing primary schools education program in Kenya in the local languages from grade 1 to 3.

Project Objectives

- ◆ To bring parity in the education levels of children in Kwale and Tana River counties with other children in the country .
- ◆ Allowing the children to learn in a language they understand best.

Why mother tongue?

- ◆ It ensures learning takes place from the known to the unknown.
- ◆ It encourages active participation of learners in the learning process.
- ◆ It leads to better understanding of concepts in a familiar language.
- ◆ It leads to better results in exams and improves retention of learners in school.



A class of pupils taught in mother tongue

Project material production

The project intends to develop language materials for Orma, Digo and Duruma from grade 1 to 3 within the three year period.

For Pokomo, the language books were developed during the pilot phase of the project. Therefore, during this project period, the Pokomo will produce learning-teaching materials for the lower primary level.

All materials shall be submitted to Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development for assessment and approval..

**Mother Tongue Education Program for
Indigenous Languages in Kenya
MEPIL**

Bible Translation Center
Masaba Road, Lower Hill
P.O. BOX 44456-00100

Phone: +254 722 209606 / 735 333 065
info@btlkenya.org / www.btlkenya.org