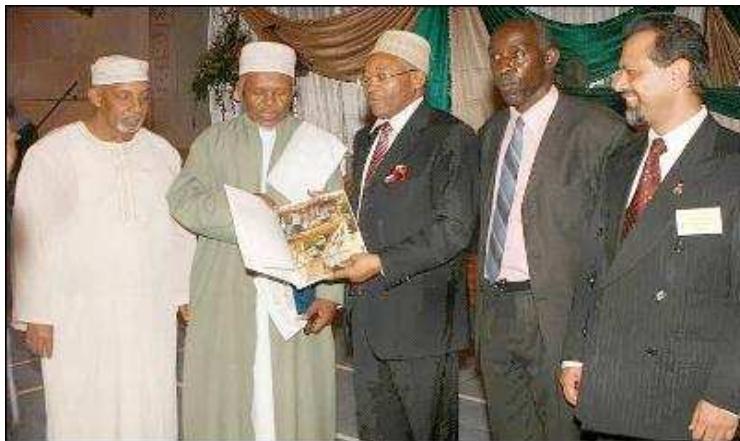


Madrasa Resource Centre Launch Its 25th Anniversary Publication



Coastweek-- Seen [from left] MRCK National Board Chairman Omar Lali, Chief Kadhi of Kenya Sheikh Hammad M. Kassim, Minister of Transport Honourable Chirau Ali Mwakwere, Deputy Director of Basic Education Shaaban Mohammed Digo, Aga Khan Foundation, East Africa CEO Arif Neky.

HIGHLIGHTING THE HISTORY, PROGRESS AND LESSONS OF THE PROGRAMME SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 1986

Coastweek-- On Thursday, December 3, 2009, Madrasa Resource Centre, Kenya (MRC, K) celebrated the launch of its 25th anniversary publication.

The event was graced by honourable Chirau Ali Mwakwere, minister for Transport.

The publication, entitled "The Madrasa Early Childhood Programme: 25 years of experience", was developed to highlight the history, progress and lessons of the programme since its inception in 1986.

It clearly details the development of the programme from a concept and its initial steps through to the strategic approach to early childhood development programming that exists today.

The book also enshrines the programme's achievements over 25 years of implementation and demonstrates how it overcame key challenges.

The Minister recalled his success in school as a direct product of his pre-school years.

He fully endorsed the Madrasa Early Childhood Programme.

Other Key personalities present at the function included the Chief Kadhi, Sheikh Hammad M. Kassim, Mr. Arif Neky, the CEO Aga Khan Foundation East Africa, and the deputy Director of Basic Education, Mr.Mohammed Shaaban Digo.

The publication was officially launched by the minister in the colourful ceremony.

Providing guidelines for a transparent, successful and replicable approach to development, the publication makes a valuable contribution to communities and industry partners.

Madrasa Resource Centre, Kenya (MRC, K): a programme of the Aga Khan Foundation was established in 1986 after Muslim leaders from Kenya 's coastal region recognised the need to improve their children's level of academic achievement.

Research suggested that positive experiences in early years including access to education and a healthy, positive learning environment profoundly influenced children's success in school and life.

MRC, K supports communities and builds their capacity to provide Early Childhood Development (ECD) services through locally owned pre-schools.

The schools in the Madrasa Programme practice action-oriented pedagogy where

children learn through play, discovery and interaction.

MRC, K has partnered with more than 66 schools, training over 2000 teachers and celebrating over 25,000 alumni.