



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND EXTERNAL STUDIES

ADDRESS BY PROF. ISAAC JUMBA, PRINCIPAL, COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND EXTERNAL STUDIES DURING THE DEPARTMENT OF DISTANCE STUDIES LAUNCHING OF DIPLOMA IN ADULT EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND GRADUATION OF CERTIFICATE IN ADULT EDUCATION STUDENTS HELD AT ISIOLO EXTRA MURAL CENTRE ON 28TH JUNE. 2014

- **Deans**
- **Director, CODL**
- **Heads of Departments**
- **College Management**
- **Invited Guests**
- **Parents**
- **Graduands**
- **Students**

➤ **Ladies and Gentlemen**

It is my pleasure this afternoon to join the Department of Distance Studies in the launching of the Diploma in Adult Education and community Development. I am also pleased to preside over the graduation ceremony of certificate students from Department of Distance Studies and Department of Extra Mural Studies both of which are sister Departments of the School of Continuing and Distance Education.

Let me begin by talking to the students who have registered to take the Diploma in Adult and Community Development course.

Congratulations for deciding to study at the University of Nairobi University of Choice and which continues to be the number one institution

of higher learning in our nation and in this region; and which has attained World Class Status.

For a long time also, your has been hailed as the leading provider of Adult and Continuing Education in the region, and has been the backbone in that profession for decades. In fact, and just like you, virtually all adult educators in Kenya have passed through our hands. We know we do a good job and others have said the same about us. So, be proud of yourselves and your College.

It is hence gratifying that once again our government has seen the light and is encouraging the training and development of professionalism in this key sector of education. Our hope is that, as it used to be in the 1980s, the government will take the responsibility to train all adult education officers and teachers as is the practice in the other sectors of the Ministry of Education where you now

belong. As has happened since our independence, we at the University of Nairobi are all ready to cooperate with our government in this noble task.

Now let me turn to your training.

As am sure you will be told in your training, if you do not already know, in 2007 Kenya conducted an adult education literacy survey. That survey revealed that almost 40% of adult Kenyans could not read or write. Also many of those who claimed to be literate had only limited literacy skills and most likely have already lost these. This situation is not acceptable as it goes against the provisions of Vision 2030 in which education is one of the key pillars. As far as adult literacy is concerned, we as a country have planned to achieve a literacy rate of 80% by 2030: that is in next 15 years. The problem of illiteracy is even more acute in our Arid and Semi-Arid Areas where your County falls. So,

you and us in the College all have a lot of work to do.

But why bother about making people literate? It is simply because education empowers. But literacy is only the first step. We need an educational provision that goes beyond literacy: we need high enough education that enables the adult learner to understand her surroundings – her environment and to benefit from it.

In other words, through your effort, Wanjiku – the person on whom the sovereignty of this nation rests – will be empowered to such an extent that she will never again have her constitution and other key documents “read for her” and then vote against a document she knows nothing about!

Not only will empowerment of Wanjiku help in making our democracy work, it will also make her a

better businesswoman, a better mother who can participate in her children's education; a better manager of her home; etc. All this will go a long way in guaranteeing sustainable peace in our nation. With such peace, our development vision will be easily realized.

That being the case, your role is crucial in this nation. First, you will of course try to be an effective Adult and continuing Education (ACE) professional. But even more importantly, you will tell others that you found a well and they too can bring others including themselves – to come and drink as you have. It would be very selfish for you to just keep quiet and not shout about it!

I also want to tell you something else of importance. This is University of Nairobi – yes, remember it is your university – that will ensure that the diploma you will earn becomes a stepping

stone for a brand new Bachelor's degree in Adult Education and Community Development and also into many other degrees offered at our University. So complete this diploma soonest. We are all waiting for you and be assured of our total support. Together we will change this nation.

For the graduating students from both departments, I want to congratulate you for taking this first step towards your aspiration of getting a University Degree. Continue undertaking all your courses in this world class University. Be our ambassadors wherever you go.

As I wind up I wish all of you all the best as you climb the academic ladder in this prestigious University.

Thank you for listening to me.

June 28th, 2014