

**ADDRESS BY PROF. HENRY MUTORO DEPUTY VICE CHANCELLOR (AA), UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI AT THE COMMUNITY TENSIONS, DIALOGUE AND PEACEBUILDING WORKSHOP**

**VENUE: SILVERSPRINGS HOTEL, NAIROBI, KENYA**

**DATE: 27<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2013.**

- **PRINCIPAL COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND EXTERNAL STUDIES, PROF. ISAAC JUMBA**
- **PROF. HAZEL BARRETT, ASSOCIATE DEAN, COVENTRY UNIVERSITY**
- **DR. CAROL RANK, – ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR CENTER FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION STUDIES COVENTRY UNIVERSITY**
- **DISTINGUISHED GUESTS**
- **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**

**It gives me great pleasure to be with you during this opening ceremony of this very important follow up workshop on Community Tensions, Dialogue and Peacebuilding that has been organized by Coventry university and University of Nairobi within the framework of Delphe project.**

I understand that last year you had a very successful conference on the same and this is a follow up workshop to try and reach out on practitioners working with communities . During this workshop , this pool of experts and professionals will be discussing and exploring a very important issue that relate to human security, Community Tensions, Dialogue and Peacebuilding. This workshop could not have come at a better time . This is a time when we are faced with many security challenges as a nation and the rest of the world in general . There is need therefore to develop practical action to monitor tensions and respond fairly and proactively. These practices can be documented and widely shared as experiential learnings to be replicated where found useful.

The University of Nairobi (Kenya), Makerere University (Uganda) and Coventry University (UK) over the last three years have collaborated to share knowledge, experience and learnings of these issues, and have together developed a Masters in Peace Education and a Bachelors in Peace and Human Security Studies. I also wish to acknowledge the East African journal of peace studies which has been born out of this successful collaboration and which we will be launching this evening . It is also noble to see that this partnership has now been extended to embrace other key players in peace building such as National Cohesion &

Integration Commission (NCIC) and practitioners working directly with communities. By embracing the work of academia and researchers in this area, this platform will provide an arena for exchange between theory and practice which is a prerequisite for any meaningful peace building initiative.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the organizers of this workshop – Coventry University, Center for Peace and Reconciliation studies and the Delphe project in Particular for the exemplary effort and level of commitment shown in this peace project. I also want to thank the practitioners who have partnered with the academics and who will be sharing their stories today .

Last and not least, I wish to thank all the participants for finding time to come all the way to contribute and participate in this workshop. In Particular I wish to appreciate our counterparts from Coventry university for finding time to join us here in Nairobi for this important workshop.

It is just then to wish you a successful and fruitful workshop look forward to the outcome of the event.

With these many remarks, may I now declare this workshop officially opened .

