



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND EXTERNAL STUDIES

WELCOMING REMARKS BY THE AG. PRINCIPAL, ON THE OCCASSION OF THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE 8TH PAN-AFRICAN READING FOR ALL CONFERENCE 12TH – 16TH AUGUST, 2013 AT KENYA SCIENCE CAMPUS

The Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Education, Science and Technology

The Conference Organizing Committee

Distinguished guests

The Directorate of the International Reading Association (IRA) led by Dr. Maureen McLanghlin, the IRA President

The IRA Kenya Chapter President, Dr. Hellen Inyega

Sponsors of the 8th PARFA Conference 2013 in including USAID, University of Nairobi, and the Canadian Organization for Development through Education (CODE)

Participants

Ladies and Gentlemen

I feel honored today to welcome you all to Kenya Science Campus, one of campuses of the College of Education and External Studies (CEES), University of Nairobi.

The whole College has waited for nearly two years for this moment to come and now that it is finally here, we cannot help but rejoice.

It not an unlucky coincidence that the Conference is being hosted at the College. We at CEES take pride in scholarly pursuits and often encourage faculty to not only attend but also organize workshops, seminars, learned forums and conferences. We thus appreciate the effort Association of Reading of Kenya (ARK), under the able leadership of Dr. Hellen Inyega, has put in to make this conference a reality. All the different committees worked diligently and for long hours because they wanted to make this conference a huge success. And it is in many ways. Even the small mishap at the airport did not break their resolve to host the conference.

This conference will be a unique platform for sharing the experiences and efforts of ARK and the University of Nairobi in contributing to literacy development on the African continent.

I look forward to attending as many of the programmed 240 presentations, 13 colloquia and 13 workshops as I can. I am also excited at the prospect that our teacher education programs will get a new lease of life following this conference. We will be able to institute a reading endorsement course to add value to pre-service teacher education programs so that once the teacher trainees graduate, they can make informed decisions about the place of literacy across different curricular areas.

We as a college will remain committed to literacy development on the African continent and diligently follow future PARFA Conferences to harness the widest extent possible to literacy innovations, strategies and techniques for our own consumption as well as consideration for incorporation in our implementation approaches.

With these few remarks, I wish you good health as you attend the conference.

Finally, as I name each of the 27 countries represented at this Conference, I call upon the respective participants to rise up and say cheers to the International Reading Association and University Of Nairobi: Botswana; Burkina Faso; Canada; Cameroon; Chad; China; Ethiopia; Ghana; Kenya; Liberia; Malawi; Mozambique; Namibia; Nigeria; Rwanda; Senegal; Sierra Leone; South Africa; South Sudan; Swaziland; Sweden; Tanzania; Uganda; United Kingdom; United States of America; Zambia; Zimbabwe.

Best of luck as you return to your various destinations.

Thank you.