

**VICE-CHANCELLOR'S SPEECH ON THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE
FIRST SCHOOL OF EDUCATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE TO BE
HELD ON FRIDAY 31st OCTOBER 2014**

Salutation

The Keynote Speaker, Dr. Sheila Wamahiu, founder member of the Women Educational Researchers of Kenya and consultant in education;

The Deputy Vice-Chancellors present;

The Dean School of Education and other Deans;

Chairpersons in the School of Education;

Colleagues in the School;

Conference participants,

Students,

Ladies and gentlemen

Good morning.

Introduction

It gives me great pleasure to be a part of this congregation of scholars and researchers as we launch the first Annual Conference of the oldest School in this University. Those who know the history of this great University know that its history is intricately linked to the then Kenyatta College and the transfer of the Faculty of Education of the University of Nairobi to this current location 1972. Since then, this school has grown to be the largest one in this University both in terms of enrolments at all levels and which is consistently demonstrated through graduation statistics over the years. The impact of its graduates in the Kenyan education scene is almost incalculable since our teachers are spread within and outside our borders

and the management of the education system owes most of its eminent managers to this University, specifically the School of Education.

School of Education, Research and Dissemination

The most exciting part of this occasion is not in that the members of this School have begun to do research and disseminate their findings and are beginning to confer. That they have been doing so ably over many years. Those familiar with the Bureau of Education Research and who read peer reviewed journals in education world over know that we have been doing these things for a considerable time. A glance in the website of the University will also be reveal the many places world over that members of this School have travelled to attend conferences and present scholarly papers.

What is remarkable about this occasion is that the Dean and her committee sat and thought of a initiating a forum for early career members and students in the School who wish to acquire the experience of meeting other scholars in their field and other areas and get experience from such a forum. The art of composing a paper for presentation before a wider audience than the usual familiar faces; the ability to listen critically to ideas from others, and the experience of meeting senior faculty from this and other places are all useful activities in inculcating the culture of scholarship and conferring.

I notice that the Conference theme and sub-themes capture contemporary issues in scholarship and the society in which we operate and which we serve by investigating relevant issues and suggesting some answers, or even asking more questions. I have looked at the papers in the programme and they are interesting, relevant and varied, both in terms of disciplinary coverage but also in the mix of the scholars.

Conclusion

In conclusion therefore, I have no doubt in my mind that this will be a very memorable experience for those who are attending a Conference for the first time. For those of us who are seasoned in the area, it is an opportunity to create an enduring legacy in mentorship for research and dissemination for the early stage academics and researchers in our younger faculty and the students present. I hope this will grow to become a regional hub for the exchange of ideas and experiences in education.

I wish to declare the First Annual Education Conference officially open.

Thank you all. GOD bless you all. GOD bless Kenyatta University.

PROF. OLIVE MUGENDA (VICE CHANCELLOR,PHD, MBA, EBS,CBS)