



**SPEECH BY THE GUEST OF HONOUR, THE HONOURABLE
DEPUTY MINISTER OF HIGHER AND TERTIARY EDUCATION,
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT, ON THE THEME
"BEYOND THE INFORMATION GIVEN"**

**By
Guest of Honour**

**The Deputy Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education, Science
and Technology Development**

Hon. Dr Godfrey Gandawa (MP)

At Kwekwe Polytechnic

7 AUGUST 2015; KWEKWE

Address By the Guest of Honour, the Honourable Deputy Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Development, Dr Godfrey Gandawa at the Graduation and Prize Giving Ceremony at Kwekwe Polytechnic, Kwekwe, 7 August 2015

SALUTATIONS

- The Principal of Kwekwe Polytechnic; **Mr. J. C. Mbudzi**
- Honourable Ministers and Members of Parliament here present
- The Director of Tertiary Education Programmes in the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Development, **Mr. J. T. Dewah** and other Senior Government Officials here present
- Councillors of the City of Kwekwe here present
- Chairman and Members of Kwekwe Polytechnic Advisory Board
- Heads of tertiary institutions
- Captains of Industry and Commerce
- Kwekwe Polytechnic Academic and Administration staff
- Distinguished Guests
- Parents and Guardians
- Graduands
- Ladies and Gentlemen
- Comrades and Friends

A good morning to you all.

I am very elated to be here this morning, at the Kwekwe Polytechnic's 32nd Graduation and Prize Giving Ceremony.

The fact that you have all suspended and sacrificed your busy schedules to be present here is a source of inspiration to the graduands who are celebrating their achievements.

I am gratified by the theme of your Graduation and Prize Giving Ceremony: '***Beyond the Information Given***', which focuses on education and training for productive employment. It sums up the nation's economic blue print: The Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation (ZIMASSET) whose raison d'être is an empowered society and growing economy.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) is the engine of economic growth and the master key to development in a society. Polytechnics are strategically tasked to produce human capital with the relevant skills that are required for driving industry and commerce.

Leornado Quisumbing, a TVET technocrat once said, and I quote,

"If education is the key to development, vocational and technical education is the master key that opens the door to the world of work and the economy, alleviate poverty, serve the environment and improve the quality of life".

TVET is both democracy and power. It is democracy because it liberates the learner or the trainee from the bondage of ignorance and illiteracy. It is considered power because it brings technological superiority thereby breeding competitiveness and productivity to a country.

Unfortunately, the technology here in Zimbabwe has traditionally been imported lock stock and barrel owing to the country's colonial legacy. The country's industry therefore survives on technology created by other people and nations. This dependency on other people's technology has caused the country serious problems of having to rely on archaic machinery which has caused headaches when it breaks down due to lack of spare parts that have to be imported. It is the fundamental fact that the country cannot develop on this basis.

It is against this background that my Ministry established the B-Tech programmes in major Polytechnics as part of arresting technology importation. The thrust of the B-Tech programme is endogenous technology creation for local challenges using local resources. This is what Kwekwe Polytechnic is doing. Students are solving local challenges using local resources thereby improving production in industry.

I am happy to say that the current B.TECH Programmes that you are running Mr Principal augur well with the Government's thrust on Industrial Development. The role that industry plays in making contributions to the economy can only be realised through a vibrant training system, such as yours, that consistently churns out a superior qualified human capital that can idealise, design, manufacture and install appropriate technology.

Through your B.TECH programmes, Kwekwe Polytechnic has taken the bull by its horns. I am reliably informed that the calibre of B.TECH students you produce really “go beyond the information given”, thereby firmly embracing and incorporating ZIM-ASSET’s aim of addressing the country’s socio- economic challenges. I must commend your needs-based training system which is a radical shift from the traditional theory-based training systems.

Your industry based projects have turned challenges into new systems, new technologies and new products in companies such as MIMOSA, ZIMASCO, Rio Tinto, BIMCO, Zimplow, Tan Tan , Sable Chemicals, ZETDC, just to mention but a few. This work is highly commendable Mr Principal, as you positively impact on the industrial value chain which is imperative for the principal recovery of the manufacturing sector and other allied sectors of the economy.

Director of ceremonies, we should always learn to do things on our own, consistent with the objectives of the agenda we have designed ourselves. Ladies and Gentlemen allow me to quote from renowned automobile maker, Dr Ferdinand Porsche, who said

“I could not find the sports car of my choice, hence I built it myself”.

The innovations you have done, as Kwekwe Polytechnic, and continue to do in industry, the buildings you have put up including this pavilion, your college clinic and others among your stakeholders, the networking of your workshops all done by students of this Institution using their own resources resonate well with Dr Ferdinand Porsche’s sentiments and are

a clear testimony of how you have taken the country's agenda into your way of doing things. You are a highly ZimASSETised institution and we encourage you to continue on this road.

I am also informed that you offer training in a wide array of short courses training in your Small and Medium Enterprises Division. This is highly commendable as the Government has realised that Small Micro Medium Enterprises (SMEs) are an important engine for employment creation and economic growth given the sector's high labour to capital ratio. This comes in handy at a time when the country is affected by significant unemployment and widespread underemployment levels, while the quality of available jobs seems to be poor.

I am aware that the public funding of higher and tertiary education is a very complex matter and has been a perennial challenge. As you may know, tertiary educational institutions are dependent on the fiscus for their capital and recurrent expenditures. Given the liquidity crunch the economy is currently experiencing, the provision of instructional materials, tools and equipment, adequate physical, human and financial resources for a TVET based curriculum has been a far cry from the ideal. The challenges faced in the provision of higher and tertiary education, Ladies and Gentlemen, are not for the Government alone but need to be addressed through collective efforts. What is required is concerted and collaborative efforts on the part of my Ministry and development partners and stakeholders on the other.

I am further informed that the institution has acquired an electronic granary, the e-library that exposes students to a wide range of e-books thus harnessing e-learning. I urge you to use the facility to enhance

research and development and **“go beyond the information given”.**

It was with satisfaction that I learnt that the institution makes deliberate efforts to encourage the girl child to take up courses particularly in the Engineering fields that were historically perceived to be male dominions. I am also informed of your massive career guidance program that encourages the girl child to take up Engineering career paths. As Bringham Young once said,

“You educate a man; you educate a man. You educate a woman; you educate a generation.”

As such, if you educate a girl, you are not doing it for one person but you are doing it for her community.

To all the graduands here present, Kwekwe Polytechnic has given you three valuable gifts: knowledge, skills and the right attitudes to face the challenges of the world. I say you are victors; you are conquerors in the making. But I still have yet another challenge for you. The certificates you will earn today, should inspire you to continue on the endless journey of learning. Remember, it takes courage to grow up and become who you really are. As the philosopher Aristotle wrote and I quote,

“The roots of education are bitter, but the fruits are sweet”.

Continue to set goals in your academic life.

In conclusion, let me urge you, the graduands, to desist from weak habits of being involved in pre-marital or extra marital affairs or infidelity lest you perish as a result of contracting HIV/AIDS. Remember, you have a responsibility to serve your family and the nation.

Graduands take heed: ***(Frederick W. Robertson)***

Instruction ends in the school-room, but education ends only with life

CONGRATULATIONS!

MAKOROKOTO!

AMHLOPE!

I thank you.