



ZIMBABWE

**ADDRESS BY THE GUEST OF HONOUR, THE HONOURABLE DEPUTY
MINISTER OF HIGHER AND TERTIARY EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT ON THE THEME "*THE DYNAMIC -
TEACHER: A CORNERSTONE TO SOCIO-ECONOMIC
TRANSFORMATION*"**

Honourable Dr. Godfrey Gandawa (MP)

at Mkoba Teachers' College

Graduation Ceremony

Friday 7 August 2015, Harare

**ADDRESS BY GUEST OF HONOUR, HONOURABLE DR
GODFREY GANDAWA, THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF HIGHER
AND TERTIARY EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEVELOPMENT ON "*THE DYNAMIC TEACHER: A
CORNERSTONE TO SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION*"**

SALUTATIONS

- Director of Ceremonies
- The Principal, Mrs. F. Dube
- The Minister of State for Midlands Province, Hon. Jason Machaya (Senator)
- Members of Parliament here present;
- The Representative of the Vice Chancellor of the University of Zimbabwe Prof ... and DTE Coordinator for Mkoba Teachers' College
- The Director of Tertiary Education Programmes, Mr. J.T. Dewah;
- The Advisory Council Chairperson and council members present
- Principals of sister Colleges and Polytechnics here present
- Senior Government Officials here present;
- Mkoba Teachers' College staff and students;
- Distinguished guests;
- Parents, Guardians and Spouses of Graduands;
- Ladies and Gentlemen.

Madam Principal, let me take this opportunity to express my gratitude for being the Guest of Honour at this important occasion. It is a momentous occasion as we rejoice and celebrate the fruits of hard work by the new teachers as they embark on their new profession of educating the nation.

Madam Principal, Ladies and Gentlemen, let me dwell on the Graduation theme which reads: ***"The dynamic teacher, cornerstone to socio-economic transformation"***. Society should not only just look at the teacher as a classroom practitioner, but also as an agent of socio-economic transformation. Teachers as key change agents help students realise and see their own role in socio-economic transformation.

In turn, societal change will come from the collective transformation of the individuals within society, hence, changing their own situations. Transformation is a fact of life and may create fears, threats and insecurity. It may also present challenges and possibilities. People are scared of change and will always try to resist it.

Therefore, the dynamic teacher, the cornerstone to socio-economic transformation, should spearhead change, from one state or style of living and livelihood to another, considered better or desirable. Bill Beattie once said;

"The aim of education should be to teach us how to think, rather than what to think - rather to improve our minds, so as to enable us to think for ourselves, than to load the memory with thoughts of other men."

Teachers must transform the thinking of society and mould society to be self-sustainable.

Madam Principal, Ladies and Gentlemen, in line with the Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation (Zim-ASSET), the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Development should ensure that it produces dynamic teachers who should be at the forefront in the promotion of socio-economic growth and wealth creation in Zimbabwe. This economic blue print, according to His Excellency, President R.G. Mugabe in 2013, was ***'crafted to achieve sustainable development and social equity anchored on indigenisation,***

empowerment and wealth creation which will be largely propelled by the judicious exploitation of the country's abundant human and natural resources.' It therefore puts on as the responsibility to make that the produce human capital that is cognizant of the president's call for sustainable development and social equity anchored on indigenization, empowerment and wealth creation.

Madam Principal, Ladies and Gentlemen, the purpose of teacher education is not only to acquire paper qualifications and be employable but is to prepare learners to be successful in the global economy so as to be productive members of our society. In so doing, they shape a sustainable society enhancing the economy and improving lives. It is therefore, the role of the dynamic teacher to educate learners, drive innovation and promote social equity. Ladies and Gentlemen, I want to reiterate the significance of the dynamic teacher who should be a change agent spearheading the development of knowledge, skills, technology and experiences thus enabling students to embark on economic activities that promote social equity and economic growth. According to Shor (1992), Madam Principal, Ladies and Gentlemen, I have alluded to the dynamic

teacher, as the cornerstone to socio-economic transformation, plays a critical role in the achievement of this transformation. The dynamic teacher imparts new skills for globalisation and technological change, enabling tomorrow's workforce to have new skills and be prepared to learn throughout life.

The dynamic teacher should be concerned not with what the student remembers but what he understands as an instrument of socio-economic transformation. This therefore means, learning in new ways like solving real problems, using multiple disciplines and drawing on the very best content that the world has to offer.

Sri Ghose Aurobuido (1872-1950), an Indian born and Cambridge educated scholar, political leader and educator believed that with the transformation and growth of the individual, society would in turn be informed and transformed. An informed society is the responsibility of the dynamic teacher.

Today's graduands, you are the cornerstone to socio-economic transformation and should understand the purpose and mission of education. You should be able to use innovative technology to connect communities, thereby helping them improve their lives. This is called "**Human network.**" When technology meets humanity on the human network, the way we work changes and the way we live changes.

Once again, let me remind you that as the cornerstone, you need to live up to the expected dynamic standard of reorienting education to achieve economic sustainability in line with the tenets of Zim-Asset. Always remember that the teacher plays a pivotal role in shaping the economy of our country. This is so because our communities are presented with insurmountable challenges day in and day out, and you should be able to inform, motivate and involve community members into actions that enable them to adapt to whatever vicissitudes of life they may encounter. Thus your educated minds and instincts are needed, not only in the classroom, but also in every aspect of life, in particular in the development of our economy. This will result in total socio-economic transformation.

Therefore, as you graduate today, your mission as ambassadors of socio-economic transformation is to engage Zimbabwean children in learning activities which promote socio-economic transformation.

Madam Principal, ladies and gentlemen, you do agree with me that, the world we live in today does not require us to sit on our laurels. The Diploma that you graduands will obtain today should not seal that last chapter of your educational lives.

A famous writer, Anthony J.D. Angelo submits that, people should: **"develop a passion for learning. If you do, you will never cease to grow."** Certainly with part of your curriculum which included Information and Communication Technology, join the modern trends like heading towards Open, Distance and e-learning for higher qualifications. In light of this, I urge you to be resilient, forward looking and practical so that we always impart meaningful education for the nation

To Mkoba teachers' college staff and parents, guardians and spouses of graduands, I say thank you for supporting these new teachers during their years of training, **let's celebrate with them today.**

Makorokoto!

Amhlope!

Congratulations!

Tatenda. Siyabonga. Twalumba.

I Thank You!