

**SPEECH BY PROF. STEPHEN G. AGONG', PHD, FAAS, VICE-CHANCELLOR,
JARAMOGI OGINGA ODINGA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY,
DURING THE MUHORONI DISTRICT EDUCATION DAY HELD ON THURSDAY,
12THSEPTEMBER 2013 AT NYANG'OMA SECONDARY SCHOOL**

SALUTATIONS

Hon. James K'oyoo, Member of Parliament for Muhoroni Constituency,

Mr. Abwaku, Chairman, Muhoroni District Education Board,

Education Officials,

Principals and Heads teachers of various schools,

Members of the organizing committee for this occasion,

Parents

Teachers,

Students,

Invited guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen

I take this opportunity to thank:

- The Honorable Member of Parliament,
- District Education Board and
- the Organizing Committee of this occasion

for honoring me with the invitation to be with you today.

Such an occasion plays an important role in bringing the stakeholders together to reflect on common successes, experiences and challenges, with a view to charting the way forward. It is

obvious that when we pool our ideas and experiences together, we can deal with our problems more effectively than when we work in isolation.

Ladies and gentlemen,

- Education remains a key factor in our quest to grow our economy and improve the people's living standards as a nation.
- We must therefore ensure that we invest our resources in the sector.
- As the country moves into devolved governance, the ability of each county to take off and realise the desired economic and social development will depend largely on the human capital at its disposal. This capital must be homegrown.
- As local leaders in the political, religious, administrative and academic spheres, we must give education the priority it deserves. We must provide, through legislation and policy formulation, the necessary infrastructure and environment for quality education.

Parents' roles

- Ensure proper parenting and support that create conducive atmosphere for the pupils to learn and excel.
- Monitoring the pupils performance and conduct in and outside school.
- Cultivate good relations with the teachers to enable free flow of information between the two parties on the children's performance and welfare.

Pupils

As leaders and parents do their part, the role of the pupil remains the single most important.

Dear pupils,

As the foremost beneficiaries of educations, you must take this chance you have in school today as a special opportunity that will never come your way again; a time you cannot afford to squander.

Whether you are in a day or boarding school, primary or secondary school, the Government and your parents continue to ensure that you have the necessary facilities and resources to enable you excel.

Observe the following as the key to your success:

Discipline

- Discipline is paramount in your quest to build a fruitful future.
- Discipline will help you to know that the time at your disposal is solely for studies; not the time to indulge in irresponsible activities such as alcohol, drugs and early sexual relationships.

Attitude:

- Cultivate the right attitude. It is only through positive attitude to life that you will excel.
- Your positive attitude to your teachers will enable you understand what they teach you.
- Your positive attitude to your parents will enable you take in their advice.
- Your positive attitude to life will enable you choose the right company.

Sacrifice:

- You have to sacrifice part of your sleep for books;
- You must sacrifice those evening discos for books;
- You must sacrifice the so-called pleasures of life for your books in order to realise your academic dreams.

Good conduct:

- As a student growing up in society, you must conduct yourself in a manner that makes your parents, teachers, friends and all those who know you feel proud to be associated with you.

Teachers

The role of the teacher is indispensable.

- Teachers take up the bulk of pupils' time
- Many parents have lost touch with their children; In many cases teachers have now taken over the roles of shaping the children's character.
- Teachers must strive to touch the lives of the young ones entrusted to them
- Teachers are the role models: Should be the beacon of good conduct
- Money should not be the topmost motivating factor but the success of their pupils

JOOUST

- JOOUST aims to uplift the living standards of the ordinary people
- Our education and research programmes are geared towards ensuring the community benefits from our presence.
- We invite government agencies, development agencies, and NGOs to partner with JOOUST to come up with ways and means of alleviating poverty in our region.

- Teachers, on their part, should take advantage of our flexible academic programmes to improve themselves in order to remain relevant not only to our pupils, but also in the job market.
- Other than our main campus in Bondo town, these programmes can be accessed at our learning centres in Kisumu, Busia, Homa Bay and Kisii and Nairobi.

May I once again thank you very much for inviting me to be with you on this important occasion.

Thank you. May God bless you all.