EDUCATION, REGENERATION, SPIRIT OF ENTERPRISE AND PUBLIC DUTY/RESPONSIBILITY AND MAKING SACRIFICES

BY

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EDUCATION, RE-GENERATION, 
SPIRIT OF ENTERPRISE 
AND PUBLIC DUTY

In the world that we live in, it is highly unlikely that EDUCATION has any substitute. It is one media that has enabled mankind to break with some out-dated traditions that have failed and opened up to new opportunities of adventures made possible by EDUCATION. EDUCATION has freed us from fear. The fear of the unknown. It is a very empowering process to individuals, families, communities and Nations.
When Neil Armstrong landed on the moon in 1969, some of you graduating today were not yet born. Your Guest Speaker today had the privilege of being in his final year of high school. I must confess to you that, It was a historical moment for mankind. But NEIL ARMSTRONG and his colleagues were a product of EDUCATION. They had conquered fear and were ready and prepared to explore the unknown having been tampered with knowledge. There are many in the world today when told about the first man to walk on the moon, take it for a fair tale or just as a figmentation of imagination. I believe none of the 1999 class graduating today, are in that category which wonders at humankind's achievement, because
hopefully you believe in possibility thinking which education has ushered in.

But what does Education do to a human being?

The first thing that Education does is to enhance capacity to THINK. In addition it gives you the wherewithal to confront the UNKNOWN, the unthinkable. This reminds me of a story told of BILL GATES at when at age 6. His late mother called him from the basement of their home. She called AGAIN and AGAIN without response. And she shouted at the top of her voice, BILL, BILL, FINALLY an answer came from the basement and said "I am thinking, I am thinking, leave me alone!." (A frustrated mother had
to consult Psychologists and Sociologists). Today, the world celebrates the reality of the richest man that was ever born in the world today (FOUNDATION US$ 65 BILLION). But BILL GATES is a product of EDUCATION, though he quit Harvard University prior to graduating, he had learned enough. The rest of his ingenuity has come from the school of personal initiative and informality. This has kept RE-GENERATING him and is today a global ICON. This example demonstrates to us ALL that EDUCATION is not always what we receive in formal settings. A lot more depends on you the person. This is the moral of my topic on EDUCATION.
You will leave here today with a University degree but it's not so much what you have left with here that will matter but what YOU WILL DO with whatever you have acquired that will DEFINE YOUR CHARACTER, SUCCESSES, and hence your resolve for ever re-generating to become better everyday like BILL GATES is today. And this builds into my next ISSUE, The SPIRIT OF ENTERPRISE. Many will leave this ASSEMBLY line of COMMENCEMENT to be employees, though not always a READY OPTION. The alternative is to confront the reality, To reach out to the NEW HORIZON/FRONT/AREA of INNOVATION, COURAGE and thought and ask yourself can I be an agent of CREATION; CREATION OF AN
INTUITION, One that can offer hope to the dreams and aspirations of others, who are not as privileged as myself. Today's graduate must think of how she/he can and must endow the world with something that never was. That is the thought and practice which will ignite your SPIRIT OF ENTERPRISE and to take the rare decision to go it ALONE - (PAUSE - LONELINESS).

When MASLOW, The Famous Industrial Physiologist wrote of the HIERARCHY OF NEEDS, he had you in mind. He meant that the ultimate in human kind is to achieve the pinnacle of his potential. You, gathered here today, especially the graduands must everlastingly ask themselves whether, "Am I working
towards the achievements of SELF-ACTUALISATION. And this reminds me of what the Sixteenth President of The United States of America, ABRAHAM LINCOLN, said in a letter to the Headmaster of a school in which his SON was studying. LINCOLN said ...

"TEACH HIM TO HAVE FAITH IN HIS OWN IDEAS, EVEN IF EVERYONE TELLS HIM THEY ARE WRONG ... TEACH HIM TO BE GENTLE WITH GENTLE PEOPLE AND TOUGH WITH THE TOUGH. TRY TO GIVE MY SON THE STRENGTH NOT TO FOLLOW THE CROWD WHEN EVERY ONE IS GETTING ON
THE BAND WAGON. TEACH HIM TO LISTEN TO ALL MEN BUT TEACH HIM ALSO TO FILTER ALL HE HEARS ON A SCREEN OF TRUTH AND TAKE ONLY THE GOOD THAT COMES THROUGH."

LINCOLN added

"TEACH HIM TO SELL HIS BRAWN AND BRAIN TO THE HIGHEST BIDDERS; BUT NEVER TO PUT A PRICE TAG ON HIS HEART AND SOUL. TEACH HIM TO CLOSE HIS EARS TO HOWLING MOB ... AND TO STAND AND FIGHT IF HE THINKS HE'S RIGHT."
"TREAT HIM GENTLY; BUT DO NOT CUDDLE HIM BECAUSE ONLY THE TEST OF FIRE MAKES FINE STEEL. LET HIM HAVE THE COURAGE TO BE IMPATIENT ..., LET HIM HAVE THE PATIENCE TO BE BRAVE. TEACH HIM ALWAYS TO HAVE SUBLIME FAITH IN HIMSELF BECAUSE THEN HE WILL ALWAYS HAVE SUBLIME FAITH IN MANKIND."

"THIS IS A BIG ORDER; BUT SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO... HE IS SUCH A FINE LITTLE FELLOW, MY SON." Concluded LINCOLN.

What Abraham Lincoln said of his son was relevant THEN, TODAY and TOMORROW...
FOREVER. You must realise that things are going to be TOUGH and TOUGH they must be, but there has never been an easy life and particularly if you go back to the days of explorers, CHRISTOPHER COLOMBUS, VASCO DA GAMA, DR KRAPF, DR STANLEY MORGAN and others. It was never simple EITHER for DEDAN KIMATHI (THE LATE JOMO KENYATTA, MAHATIMA GADHI, DR MARTIN LUTHER KING JR) who, and many others of our FREEDOM FIGHTERS who gave their lives for your freedom and mine. You are the generation of those EXPLORERS and FREEDOM FIGHTERS. Explorers for a birth of the NEW SPIRIT OF ENTERPRISE, FREEDOM FIGHTERS with a mission to ENDOW the world
with wealth creation and alleviation of poverty, making a difference for the better.

And now this brings me to the last of the issues I want to share with you today.

PUBLIC DUTY/RESPONSIBILITY AND MAKING SACRIFICES

You and I can no longer be indifferent, neither can we afford to fear because, as Franklin Delano Roosevelt said to his fellow Americans during the Great Depression of nineteen hundred and twentys, that they (AMERICANS) had nothing TO FEAR BUT FEAR ITSELF. You, today, are more prepared to deal with the issues of the day more than your counterparts of
the early part of this century. We owe a **DUTY** to our country without needing something in return; This ought to be engrained in your minds early enough as you begin your new life as a graduate and a responsible citizen because so much has happened in this country which does not reflect well of a sense of **PUBLIC RESPONSIBILITY AND DUTY** by most of us, **KENYANS**. We must begin anew and be the **TORCH BEARERS** of the present and future generations; a new people that will be remembered for what we shall have achieved for the country, the differences we have made for the betterment of fellow beings, because that is the **INVENTORY** we should **BEQUEATH** to the future of our beloved **NATION**.

By investing in what is **GOOD** for the **COMMON**
GOOD, it builds us INDIVIDUALLY. By promoting prosperity we will in turn prosper. There is a lot in yourself that has not been thought of even by yourself, but you have to have the courage and commitment to face what you truly believe in. This reminds me of the 27 years of incarceration that NELSON MANDELA the Former President of South Africa and perhaps the FIRST POLITICAL SAINT, AFRICA and the WORLD has ever produced. He went through hardships and he came out of prison to LIBERATE his NATION from the bondage of slavery under apartheid system and among many things he said in his public life, there is a quote which I beg to share with you, during this memorable occasion and as we spend towards the next 392 DAYS
beginning today, towards the journey to The 3rd Millennium.

"OUR DEEPEST FEAR IS NOT THAT WE ARE INADEQUATE. OUR DEEPEST FEAR IS THAT WE ARE POWERFUL BEYOND MEASURE. IT IS OUR LIGHT, NOT OUR DARKNESS THAT MOST FRIGHTENS US. WE ASK OURSELVES: "WHO AM I TO BE BRILLIANT, GORGEOUS, TALENTED, FABULOUS?" ACTUALLY, WHO ARE WE NOT TO BE? YOU ARE A CHILD OF GOD. YOUR PLAYING SMALL DOESN'T SERVE THE WORLD. THERE'S NOTHING ENLIGHTENING ABOUT SHRINKING SO THAT OTHER PEOPLE WON'T FEEL
INSECURE AROUND YOU. WE ARE ALL MEANT TO SHINE, AS CHILDREN DO. WE WERE BORN TO MAKE MANIFEST THE GLORY OF GOD THAT IS WITHIN US. IT'S NOT JUST IN SOME OF US; IT'S IN EVERYONE. AND AS WE LET OUR OWN LIGHT SHINE, WE UNCONSCIOUSLY GIVE OTHER PEOPLE PERMISSION TO DO THE SAME. AS WE'RE LIBERATED FROM OUR OWN FEAR, OUR PRESENCE AUTOMATICALLY LIBERATES OTHERS."

And finally, to the young and the old alike, let us not look forward to be PRAISED; to be PARTED in the BACK but let us possess the CONVICTION, the
COURAGE to take up a position we BELIEVE in and are WILLING to DEFEND, willing to pay the price of BEING ALONE and committed men and women capable of translating the EDUCATION we have acquired into a creative force for positive change in this country and beyond.

Only then shall we truly claim to have acquired U.S.I.U. experience and quality EDUCATION.

THANK YOU, and MAY GOD BLESS US ALL.

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