

SPEECH TO BE DELIVERED BY DR. J. N. KARANJA, VICE-CHANCELLOR,
UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI, AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE MATERIALS
WRITING WORKSHOP FOR THE BASIC TRAINING COURSE IN SYSTEMATIC
CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT, AT THE KENYA INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION ON
MONDAY 30TH APRIL, 1979 AT 10.30 A.M.

Mr. Chairman, Your Excellency, Distinguished Guests,
ladies and Gentlemen!

I have great pleasure in addressing the participants to this very important Writing Workshop. The purpose of the workshop, as you know, is to select and produce materials for the planned Basic Training Course in Systematic Curriculum Development which is to be organized and run on behalf of the African Curriculum Organization (ACO) member states by the University of Nairobi, the Kenya Institute of Education, and the German Agency for Technical Co-operation (GTZ).

Most countries in Africa today are going through a difficult period of socio-economic and political development. To cope with these changes they have embarked on programmes of development aimed at widening their economic base to cover the rural population more adequately. This increase in economic activities inevitably brings about changes in the learning needs of the population. This means,

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therefore, that the present systems of education have to be improved if the hopes and aspirations of our people are to be met. In effect this calls for an urgent need for formulating a strategy for curriculum development that links education with social, economic and political developments and fulfils the learning needs of our people. I am glad to note that the proposed course is aimed at producing the category of badly needed personnel in curriculum centres in Africa who can formulate this strategy.

As you are all aware, in all educational systems, relevant curriculum is the heart of good education planning. Therefore, if we are to tackle the problem of educational innovation, we must give serious consideration to the process of curriculum development. There can be no real change in the country's educational system unless the problem of relevant curriculum is faced squarely and realistically. For this reason, I am happy to note that every effort is being made to give curriculum development process the attention it demands, and also put it in its proper perspective. The significance of the planned course is underscored by the recognition of this fact.

Kenya is very happy to put at the disposal of Africa its educational facilities, which include one of the oldest and largest curriculum centres on the continent and a forward looking

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University, for the curriculum training course. The University of Nairobi is working closely together with the Kenya Institute of Education in the development of this course. And incidentally, this is one of the examples of the healthy working relationship which exists between the University and the Institute, and which I am sure will continue to grow from strength to strength.

Indeed, we in Kenya feel honoured and proud to have been asked to host such an important educational programme. This is particularly so, when we realize the fact that participants in the course will, in the long run, be drawn from both Francophone and Anglophone Africa.

I am confident that all delegates to this Workshop will give this task of materials selection and production all the objectivity and realism it deserves. My confidence stems from the fact that the delegates who have come to this Workshop are high-powered and competent people by virtue of their academic excellence, experience and maturity. I, therefore, sincerely believe, that the Workshop will fulfil the purpose for which it is being held.

I note with gratitude

I note with gratitude that the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany is making substantial financial input in the Course and has charged the German Agency for Technical Co-operation with the implementation of its contribution. We, therefore, request Mr. Noeldeker, the German Charge D'affaires in Kenya to convey our appreciation and thanks to the Government and people of the Federal Republic of Germany. May I also mention that we have amongst us here today Senior representatives from UNESCO, UNEP and African Social Studies Programme (ASSP) who have made and continue to make significant contribution in the activities of ACO, and this planned course in particular. We are indeed grateful to these organizations and their respective representatives for their generous contributions.

Lastly, I would like to urge the various Curriculum Centres and Governments whose delegates are assembled here, to give this Workshop and the planned course both professional and moral support to ensure its success.

Mr. Chairman,