

**The University of Nairobi (UoN) and the Royal Dutch Kentalis International have launched the Deaf Role Models Africa film.**



The moving film portrays eight successful deaf role models who have gone against great odds to be where they are today. The role models tell their story, difficulties, and aspirations. In the film, the role models are not speaking for themselves, but for other deaf persons too that given the opportunity and quality teaching and services, deaf persons can succeed in life.

While presiding over the ceremony, the Chief Guest, Ms. Stijin Jassen, from the Embassy of Netherlands, commended the producers of the film noting that the launch of the film was indeed timely and that it shows the importance of investing in deaf education especially in developing countries.

Speaking on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, University of Nairobi, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, [Student Affairs](#), Prof. Isaac Mbeche said that the film is a challenge and source of encouragement to society impressing the importance of investing in education of the deaf. Prof. Mbeche revealed that the University of Nairobi will soon be partnering with JICA and Kenya National Association of the Deaf (KNAD) to carry research on sign language at higher level. He noted that qualified and professional interpreters are critical if deaf persons are to access educational, legal, health, social, religious, counseling and psychological services.



In 2010, UoN developed the Disability Mainstreaming Policy to ensure that it achieves specific targets of making its environment and programmes accessible to persons with disabilities. In addition, plans are underway to offer diploma and degrees in sign language interpretation in order to meet the demand for qualified interpreters.

Others who spoke during the event include Deputy Vice-Chancellor, [Academic Affairs](#), Prof. Henry Mutoro, Principal, [College of Humanities and Social Sciences](#), Prof. Enos Njeru, representatives from KNAD and Kentalis International.



