**NAIROBI WEST PRISONS GRADUATION**

**JUNE 20TH 2013**

**Key Note Speech**

**By**

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**KCA University**

**Good Morning Everyone!**

**Before I begin my address, allow me to convey to you the greetings from KCA University. It is an honour for me to have been invited by the organizers of this important event today. My appreciation also goes to our host Nafisika Trust and Nairobi West prison for your warm hospitality and excellent arrangements.**

**Let me also take this opportunity to congratulate the 19 inmates who have completed the entrepreneurship training and are graduating today. This is indeed a clear indication that we are keen on enterprise development at all stages. I believe this training will turn you into limitless business people.**

**This graduation is therefore a confirmation of that commitment and as we discuss entrepreneurship as the basis for wealth creation, let us strongly communicate and internalize the importance of social and psychological capital as the prime forces behind successful enterprises all over the world.**

**We at KCA University had to an opportunity to train the guards at Athi River prison and we hope to get into a similar partnership with you as we believe in servant leadership by unlocking the potential in you.**

**Ladies and Gentlemen, let me reaffirm that the entrepreneurship agenda is a deliberate initiative and so is promotion of ethics. The Employment market is said to be shrinking and the challenge for many graduates of universities and institutions is really how to develop skills for enterprise. Therefore we should aggressively promote the message for entrepreneurial thinking amongst our students so that when they complete their studies they can become job creators as opposed to job seeker. Many a times we are tempted to take shortcuts or the easy option to life. The message here is business is good but we must develop the requisite skills and not look for short cuts.**

**KCA University has established a fully fledged Centre for Entrepreneurship with a specific mandate and resources to tap student ideas, develop and incubate them into actual enterprise. We have also incorporated entrepreneurship in our curriculum through compulsory projects in which the best ideas are channeled to the Centre for further review with the intention of incubation.**

**It is my hope that at the end of this day, we will have redefined our approach to wealth creation not only to reflect the monetary or bottom line issues but also to reflect our internal desire to have the sense of peace and freedom that comes with engaging in socially and psychologically rewarding economic activities.**

**Let me end this speech by quoting from an inmate in a Florida prison USA. He was very grateful to his classroom facilitator for her motivation and encouragement through all the times in class. Multiple times he was ready to give up on obtaining his high school diploma but as soon as he started his feelings, his teacher would ask him, “why would you give up now? You’ve come so far. You are almost done.” She was right. Everytime she said that, he would rethink the situation. With her inspiration and support, he was able to graduate with his high school diploma.**

**He went on to say that he never saw himself graduating with a high school diploma. But as he grew older, he realized that all the good jobs required at least a high school diploma or GED. He found himself working numerous construction jobs while he was figuring out what he could do with his life. Those construction jobs became very old, very quickly. It was hard work for very little money. But at that moment, he needed that money to take care of his family.**

**Fast forward to today, he is still incarcerated, but inside, he admits to feeling like a new person. Many times he sits in his bunk and thinks of the ways he can go home and earn good money with his high school diploma. Well, he got his diploma and promised that when he leaves prison, he will put it into good use and hope that he will never return again.**

**Finally, I would like to congratulate all the graduants for their deep commitment and unrelenting spirit to move on despite the circumstances and may God bless you as you continue in the spirit of entrepreneurship, and may God bless the republic of Kenya.**