

Speech by Clement M Nyandiere, Director of Information & Research Services, Parliament of Kenya on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of Cardinal Otunga High School, Mosochi on Saturday 8th October, 2011

**Your Lordship, Bishop Joseph Mairura,
The Principal Guest Speaker, Prof Evans Aosa
The District Commissioner, Kisii,
Board of Governors Chairman, Fr (Dr) Jeremiah Nyakundi
The Principal, Mr Zachary Nyariki
Old Boys,
Parents,
Students,
Invited Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen.**

It is very humbling for me to address you on this historic occasion of Cardinal Otunga High School's Golden Jubilee celebrations. It is an uphill task for me, especially having to speak after such an able and eloquent speaker, Prof Evans Aosa, whom for the records, was my professor a decade ago during my graduate studies at the University of Nairobi.

Your Lordship, I am not sure I am the most qualified to make this speech, least of all as chief guest. I was tempted to decline the invitation, but then I thought to myself, there must be a purpose for this and therefore I will try to share a few thoughts on this auspicious occasion. Having been a student

here in the late 1980s, I am perhaps the bridge between those who were in the 1960s and 70s and those that came in the 1990s and the millennium!

Your Lordship, ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me to address the subject matter of our coming here today in a few points:

1. **We have come here today to celebrate** 50 golden years of service to Kenya and the world by various **boys** who have gone through this school over these years. Some of these ‘boys’ are already grandfathers, others joining parenthood soon, others in religious life. Many are spread across the world from factory to the farms; academia to sports; in Kenya and abroad.
2. **We have come here today to celebrate** the good work done by the **teachers and support staff of the school** who have dedicated many years to serve the boys in the classrooms, dining hall, dormitories or in the sports field. These have been garland men and women who have made us what we are today; and will continue to mould the boys who will pass through this school in the future.
3. **We have come here today to celebrate** the **Missionary CMM Brothers from Holland** led by **Br. Innocent De Kok**, who upon invitation by the then Bishop of Kisii, Maurice Michael Otunga, founded this school. They thought it fit to simply insist on “common sense” as the school

motto and this has stuck in many of us even beyond our few years of stay here. We especially salute Br. Macharius Maas who has been here 50 years and is going strong in service. These men have left us a legacy to behold: **Cardinal Otunga High School, Mosoch**.

4. **We have come here today to celebrate the Catholic Diocese of Kisii** for supporting the school all these years. The sponsor has continued to play a pivotal role of guiding the way the school's activities are run, providing a good spiritual and moral foundation for the boys and above all ensuring the foundational ethos are maintained. We have reason to salute His Lordship **Bishop Joseph Mairura**, who is an old boy, and his team for the good leadership they have continued to provide. We especially pray for good health for His Lordship Bishop.

5. **We have come here today to celebrate the Mosoch Community** for being such good neighbours to the school. This school is standing on the land the Mosoch people generously gave to the Brothers to build the school. We all know the value of land and he that gives land has given you a valuable thing to behold especially if you are to build a precious institution such as this school.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

May I address myself to the boys now in the school.

Cardinal Otunga High School, Mosoch has been and will continue to be a school of choice for many young people who want to gain knowledge,

pursue sports and interact with the best in the country. My little advice to the boys currently being processed is as follows:

Work extra hard in your academics and combine this well with some sports. Many of us were here in a similar state as yours. We may not be that very successful but we are better off because of what this great school did to us. 'Common Sense' must be the guiding principle in everything you do.

You have to co-operate with your teachers in all your endeavours. They hold the guiding torch you must follow.

Be guided by the spiritual guidance you get through the chaplaincy. No success comes by chance. You have to pray for it and believe.

Now to my colleagues, old boys:

We have an obligation to be good ambassadors of this great mother of ours. I would propose that like good children to parents;

- (a) We should market Cardinal out there as the place to be. No one denounces their mother or father even when they get frail and tired.
- (b) We should be eager to come back as often as possible to see developments in this 'home of ours'. Above all, to know how the school is performing. For some of us, sometimes out of ignorance, we

think Cardinal is really collapsing yet we have no hard facts. Good children get to know their parents are unwell if they visit often.

- (c) We have an obligation to give back. Just like we build good houses for our parents, do for them shopping, and even take them to good hospitals when they fall sick, let us also give attention to this other parent called Cardinal Otunga. It is my prayer that one of these days we shall put up a good number-storey dormitory fully sponsored by the old boys. Perhaps too some refurbishment on the science labs or even the sports fields. I do know the principal is also dreaming of a multi-purpose hall built by old boys. Gentlemen, I think we are capable of doing something. (I appreciate the commitment given by Prof Aosa to sponsor full refurbishment of Form 3A).

Finally, Your Lordship, Ladies and gentlemen

May I take this opportunity to wish all of you a happy, enjoyable and blessed Golden Jubilee of thanks be to God for this great wonder of Cardinal Otunga High School Mosochi.

Thank you.