

CLOSING REMARK BY THE DIRECTOR OF PAID-WA,
MRS. ROSETTA B. THOMPSON, ON THE OCCASION OF THE 39th
DIPLOMA DAY OF PAN AFRICAN INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENT –
WEST AFRICA (PAID-WA), BUEA THIS 27TH DAY OF JUNE 2008

Your Excellency, the Governor of the South West Province,
Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps,
The Paramount Chief of Buea,
Course Facilitators,
Graduating Participants,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is my pleasure to welcome you all on behalf of the Pan African Institute for Development, West Africa and on my own behalf, to our campus on this occasion marking the 39th graduation ceremony of course participants on the Diploma Course in Development Studies, the Specialised Development Studies (SDS), and the course programmes from Institute of Commercial Management (ICM) England. We particularly welcome the presence of H.E The Governor of South West Province who is honouring our invitation in this Institute for the first time. For those of you who have come from far and near to share the joy with loved ones, and friends on this occasion, I wish to take this opportunity to welcome you. It is my sincere hope that you will find your brief visit here a memorable one. Your presence here today is not only a sign of encouragement and support, but also the faith you have in the institute and the concern you share with us about the Africa of tomorrow.

Ladies and Gentlemen, our principal mission and objective is to build and enhance the African human capital. Human beings remain crucial to all endeavours, and since every human endeavour is dynamic, this dynamism needs to be appropriately nurtured to achieve the desired results.

The development of human resources through consistent and continuous investment in education and training is therefore seen as the most significant approach to tackle our numerous problems on the continent. In this regard, the purpose of training is to ensure that our countries' work force have the necessary mix and level of knowledge, skills, behaviour and attitudes necessary for efficient and effective performance.

In keeping with this reality, PAID-WA has for the past 39 years focused attention on providing programmes which would have practical relevance to everyday realities in our countries. It also brings us abreast of the ever shifting terrain of global issues, that necessitates the constant review and relevant redefinition of the programmes to sustain it in world trends.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, at this graduation, we present graduands who successfully completed the 9-month Diploma in Development Studies (DDS) which started in October 2007. Despite the length of its existence, it still attracts lots of attention and requests for participation. As a result, we are almost completing the preparation for the commencement of the graduate studies in this discipline in the nearest future.

The 2-month programme in Specialised Development Studies (SDS), an aspect of the DDS course, is also offered as a certificate course. This year, we had courses in Project Planning and Management (PPM), Gender and PPM, as well as Human Resource Management. The newest programme on our list is the 6 month Diploma programme run in partnership with the Institute of Commercial Management (ICM), England. Under the programme two professional courses which are vital for invigorating national industrial employment needs were embarked upon, namely Marketing, Advertising and Public Relations, and Human Resource Development. The 6-month advanced level course has just commenced. The feedback received on these courses shows that they will indeed bridge personnel needs in the professional area of operation. These programmes continue to attract wider recognition and attention. We do believe that sponsors and organizations who send participants to these courses will give greater opportunities to the graduates so that they could prove themselves on the job.

In the course of the year, some short courses were run, including the 2week course in Project Planning and Management for Public Service Practitioners sponsored by the Commonwealth Secretariat.

May we use this forum to laud the effort of the government of the Republic of Cameroon for her resolve to support the activities of this institution and to ensure that other governments in our region do the same. This gives us the courage to move forward and in the nearest future to include other higher level programmes, while forging closer ties with the public service.

An indepth review of participation in the DDS and ICM programmes this academic year is as follows:

- The Diploma in Development Studies (DDS) course had a total of 11 participants at completion, while 19 others joined at the 2-month Specialised Development Studies level. In all 30 participants are here today to receive the outcome of their full participation in the courses. They represent two countries namely, the Gambia 6, and 24 Cameroonians. It is our hope that other candidates from the region not present here will be in a position to join us again in the next session.

- For the Diploma programme in partnership with ICM, England, there is a total of 34 participants, 15 of which specialized in Human Resource Management and 19 in the Marketing, Advertising and Public Relations domain. They represent two countries namely, the Equatorial Guinean 1, and 33 Cameroonians

We are confident that with the level of knowledge imparted in these participants, they will return to their jobs with more vigour and readiness for effective action, while those seeking for employment now have the tools to facilitate their job search. I encourage organizations and industries present here to give these graduates the opportunity to prove their worth as PAID's trained candidates.

To our graduating participants, today finally mark the end of long months of toil and sweat. As the popular saying goes, "there's no sweet without sweat". Undoubtedly, the recognition you will be receiving shortly justifies the sacrifices you have made during the period of your study.

I take this opportunity to warmly congratulate you for the discipline and sense of purpose that you demonstrated despite the intensity of your courses. This, you should understand, is a prototype of what you will expect to meet in the discharge of your duties. We urge you to continue assiduously to pursue those activities that will change the face of mother Africa, and bring enlightenment, development, health and happiness to the millions of people in our rural areas, and organizations in which you work. You are from now on a new breed of development staff who will surrender yourselves to the effort to eradicate poverty and ignorance from our continent. Please let the light of PAID-WA continue to shine wherever you are.

An occasion such as this cannot end without paying tribute to those who have made it a reality and contributed to its success. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to extend our sincere gratitude to the facilitators drawn from both inside and outside PAID-WA, for their tireless efforts and selfless devotion in seeing the participants through their training programmes, and to all sponsors of the participants and our programmes.

I wish, on behalf of the course participants and the entire staff, to thank the local communities and organizations for receiving the course participants during their stay for field work.

As some of you participants will be returning to your respective countries and places of work, I believe you will go with good memories of your stay with the people in those communities and organization, not forgetting the food variety you enjoyed which may be different from yours.

Your Excellency, I wish to once more thank the government and the people of Cameroon who in various capacities did give the moral and other support for bringing this programme into reality. We extend our appreciation to H.E the Consul General of Nigeria Dr. Kenneth Nsor for his constant support; to members of the diplomatic corps present, the Commonwealth Secretariat, and to all our distinguished guests who are present here for this occasion. Let me take this opportunity to wish you all a safe return to your homes.

Long Live International Cooperation

Long Live Africa

Long Live PAID-WA

Long Live the Republic of Cameroon