



KANISA LA KIINJILI LA KILUTHERI TANZANIA

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN TANZANIA

**Ref No:
Arusha, Tanzania**

P. O. Box 3033,

OPENING SPEECH

BISHOP DR. FREDRICK O. SHOO

PRESIDING BISHOP, EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN TANZANIA.

Your Excellencies,

Council members to GPENreformation,

GPENreformation Ambassadors,

The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology representative,

ELCT Program Committee,

Ladies and gentlemen!

I am honored in taking this opportunity on behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT), to welcome you the distinguished delegates to this Second Global Pedagogical Education Network reformation (GPENreformation) Conference being held here in Arusha, Tanzania.

It is indeed a greater pleasure for me to get involved in the Global Pedagogical Education Network reformation, given my knowledge and experience in education.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to the participants who I understand come from all over the world to attend this important conference in order to exchange experiences and work together on the exciting conference on matters concerning education.

At this point, I am very pleased and honored to extend a warm welcome to our distinguished guests. Firstly, Her Excellency, Rev. Dr. Birgit Sendler-Koschel, a member of the GPENr Council and the Head Department of Education of the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD),

Secondly, His Excellency, Dr. Jonathan Laabs, a council member of the GPENr and the Executive Director of the Lutheran Education Association, United States of America.

Thirdly, His Excellency, Rev. Samuel Mutabazi, a council member of the GPENr, and the Director of the National Office of Protestant Education (BNEP) in Rwanda and Fourthly, Her Excellency, Prof. Dr. Annette Scheunpflug, a council member of the GPENr and a Chair of General Pedagogy, University of Bamberg, Germany.

I would also like to welcome all of the conference participants from United States of America, United Kingdom, Germany, Asia, Netherlands, France, Argentina, Poland, Philippines, Brazil, Hong Kong, Madagascar, Bolivia, Haiti, Congo DRC, Cameroon, Rwanda, Sudan, Zambia, Burundi, Zimbabwe and Tanzania.

Your Excellencies,

This conference which has been attended by almost 80 participants is being held here today to introduce and explain important issues on ***Communication as a Contribution to Education Quality and Peace Education***. As the second GPENreformation conference in series, following the first one held in Rwanda last year, 2017, it is my greater hope that, the conference will add very useful issues on matters concerned education today.

The Global Pedagogical Education Network reformation as an International network of Protestant schools, teacher training colleges, universities and the Protestant associations and organizations that support the education sector, its activities are being well organized by the Council of 4 GPENreformation Members, whom I have mentioned them earlier.

I am aware that the GPENreformation Council Constitution requires 5-7 members with the responsibilities of focusing on the structural and strategic development of the GPENreformation, and it is the steering body of the network; hence the need of having adequate number of the council members is important.

Following the roots of Protestant education and continuing the movement of Reformation as well as considering the Sustainable Development Goals and the concept of Global Citizenship, GPENreformation **vision** is to develop high quality education in Protestant schools, teacher training colleges and universities so that learners could expand on their ability to participate in society and thus take a positive role in a globalized world, whereby the GPENreformation **mission** is to promote the creation of schools open for all to enable everyone to get access education.

The theological approach of the priesthood of all believers who are baptized created a theological framework and a practical motivation for a general as well as a religious education of all those who assume responsibility spiritually and secularly and who shall be prepared well for getting active.

In line with the vision and mission of the GPENreformation, Tanzania alone has 39 members, in which, there are 2 Ambassadors, 2 friends of GPENreformation, 1 Protestant Educational Institution (MWANGAZA Education for Partnerships) 1 University (Josiah Kibira University College) and 33 schools. This small number is not convincing, hence there is a need for other schools and educational institutions that are not registered in the network to do so in order to benefit from what the network is doing.

Dear Excellencies,

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania together with other Protestant Churches has played a very big part in education, by establishing schools, colleges Universities and other educational institutions spread all over the country.

Currently, the ELCT has 3 fully fledged Universities (among this, 2 universities are owned by Iringa and North Eastern Dioceses) and 6 constituent university colleges. We have 74 registered secondary schools, 10 English medium primary schools, 9 special schools for children with disabilities, 48 Vocational Training Centers, and 4 Teachers Training Colleges.

These educational institutions enabled the children of Tanzania irrespective of their faiths to acquire basic, secondary and tertiary education for the betterment of their lives, the church and the nation at large.

Church schools educate leaders and managers who later bring back change to the Church and to the society. A good example is the common work Morogoro Lutheran Junior Seminary of which the ELCT is proud, because most of the bishops, church leaders, and most qualified and committed scholars in Tanzania today have studied there.

Your Excellencies,

Every achievement has got its challenges as well; this statement is true when talking about Protestant schools in Tanzania. Most of them are facing challenges which in most cases are threatening them to the stage of collapsing. The biggest challenge is insufficient funds for schools' development and day to day operations. Church owned schools do not receive grants and other dividends from the government unlike the government owned schools. They depend hundred percent on school fees and other contributions from parents/guardians. If it happens that the parents/guardians fail to pay school fees which are normally low, for one or any other reasons, and in most cases due to their poor socio-economic status, this means that the school can be in a state of collapsing.

Another challenge is shortage of qualified teachers due to lack of teacher professional development in our educational institutions. Teacher development is designed to promote professional knowledge, skills and attitudes of teachers for the purpose of improving pupil's learning. The purpose of professional development in education is to build and transform strong knowledge through teachers with the ambition to achieve excellence in education. Therefore, in order to be effective, our teachers need teacher's professional development which addresses the core areas of teaching content, curriculum, assessment and instruction; hence provision of quality and efficiency in education services.

Lack of further additional professional support to teachers for a long time is another challenge to church owned schools. This leads to ineffective teaching and hence poor performance in schools. The school's Curriculum always changes and knowledge and teaching technology develop and therefore education is a life-long and a continuous process. This is to say that a single teacher training courses is not sufficient to keep one intellectually alive.

Another challenge is poor and unfriendly environment to many of church owned schools which make retention scheme programs difficult for teachers and non teaching staff. Most of schools do not provide necessary incentives and motivations to their staff, and

some of them do not tolerate and they always run away to government owned schools or other private schools. Likewise, lack or shortage of reference and text books in the classrooms is another huddle to our schools.

Distinguished Conference Participants,

I have been asked by some of council members if I will accept to be a patron. To me, this is a great honour, so I humbly accept this honour. I promise to work together with my fellow patron Bishop Prof. Dr. Heinrich Bedford-Strohm. May our God help us to promote this important Global network

On your behalf, may I extend my thanks and appreciation to our guest speakers, presenters of technical papers and posters, our sponsors, associates and members of the organizing and program committee.

Our wish is that you will enjoy this conference, contribute effectively toward it and take back with you knowledge, experiences, contacts and happy memories of this second international conference on ***Communication as a Contribution to Education Quality and Peace Education.***

Now, on behalf of the organizing committee, I am pleased to declare this conference open, in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, Amen.

THANK YOU.