Male graduates urged to go for education jobs

RENOWED South African author and Nobel literature laureate Professor JM Coetzee yesterday urged young male graduates to consider a career in education.

“It’s good for children to have a man’s hand guiding them, and it is also good for you and common social life,” he said in Johannesburg at the University of the Witwatersrand, which was conferring on him an honorary doctorate in literature.

“What a relief it is to see so many young men among graduates in the humanities.... What a relief that men have not entirely abandoned a field which they once used to dominate.”

Although he had been taught by phenomenal women throughout his life, he was certain the presence of male figures would have enriched the experience, he said.

“It has nothing to do with personal qualities, but if there had sometimes been a male presence in the classroom, the experience would have been different and I am convinced, fuller.”

Coetzee warned against placing the responsibility of teaching children in the hands of a single sex.

Coetzee urged male graduates to meet the country’s need for hardworking, dedicated and well-humoured teachers.

“Look upon it as a challenge. Let us be a generation of young teachers who will transform school and make it a place of intellectual excitement where children can’t wait to get to school.” – Saba.