Call for more male teachers

RENOWNED South African author and Nobel Literature laureate Prof 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 at the University of the Witwatersrand, where he was conferred with 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.

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

He 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.” – Sapa