

**REMARKS BY PROF. DANIEL MUGENDI DURING THE OFFICIAL
OPENING OF THE 1ST DEANS OF EDUCATION FORUM HELD AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF EMBU CHARTER HALL ON WEDNESDAY, 14TH AUGUST
2019.**

- ✓ The Chief Guest - Dr. Belio Kipsang - Principal Secretary, State Department of Basic Education
- ✓ Prof. Laban Ayiro -VC, Daystar University
- ✓ University of Embu Management and Senate Members
- ✓ **Guest speakers:**
 - Dr. Evangeline Njoka, Director, Kenya National Commission for UNESCO Mission)
 - Prof. Mwenda Ntarangwi, CEO, Commission for University Education.
 - Dr. Julius Jwan, CEO, Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development
 - Dr. Lydia Nzomo, Chair, Teachers Service Commission
 - Mr. Felipe Jaramillo, Country Director, World Bank
- ✓ Panel Moderators
- ✓ Panel discussants
- ✓ Invited Guests
- ✓ Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Morning.

I would like to take this opportunity to warmly welcome you all to the University of Embu.

We are indeed very happy and pleased that you were able to spare sometime in your busy schedules to attend this special meeting that brings together Deans of Faculties and Schools of Education from Universities across the Country.

I thank our Chief Guest, Principal Secretary, State Department of Basic Education Dr. Belio Kipsang, represented by Dr. David Njengere, the Education Advisor to the Cabinet Secretary; the Guest Speakers, Session Moderators, Panelists and the Deans for honoring our invitation and accepting to join us during this important forum.

I sincerely thank the organizing Committee of this forum led by the Dean, School of Education and Social Sciences, Dr. Ciriaka Gitonga, for believing that CBC conversation is important. The commitment that has been shown by the Faculty in the Department of Education in working to ensure that our teacher graduates are fully equipped for CBC is commendable.

The theme for this forum meeting is *“The Role of Schools of Education in Teacher Education for the Development of the 21st Century Skills”*.

The objectives of the forum are:-

1. To interrogate the implications of the reformed Education policies on Competency Based Curriculum.
2. To examine the universities' Schools of Education preparedness for the implementation of the CBE.

The debate and discussions generated from this forum will definitely inform teacher education in the wake of the reformed curriculum. The universities represented here have a definite role to play in the implementation of CBC. The Keynote Speaker, Prof. Laban Ayiro has been involved in CBC from its inception; Dr Evangeline Njoka (UNESCO) will help us connect our thoughts to teacher education best practices; Prof. Mwenda Ntarangwi (CUE) will provoke our thoughts on University preparedness; Dr. Jwan (KICD) will help

us plug into the reformed policies; Dr. Lydia Nzomo (TSC) will articulate the employer requirements and the Panelists will engage with us on the current issues affecting the education system in Kenya.

I have no doubt that the objectives of this forum will be achieved. My prayer is that at the end of it all, the voices of Deans of Schools of Education in Kenya will begin a new conversation on teacher education. Notably, this forum will certainly add to the realization of the SDG No 4 “ensuring quality education as a global agenda” among other key policies framework.

As Universities we take cognizance of our role in training for sustainable social and economic development. Given the commitment and zeal that has been shown by the participants, academicians, researchers, policy makers, and curriculum developers, I anticipate that the two days’ forum will be full of exciting conversations.

I am committed, as the Vice Chancellor, University of Embu to continue supporting and hosting this forum until it is fully formed. I will provide comfortable spaces within this university and good meals to you as heads of schools of education in our universities, so that you can engage and provide leadership in the implementation of CBC.

As Universities, we acknowledge that CBC is here to stay and the earlier we get in, the more prepared we shall be for the students who shall be joining the University in 2026. As a matter of urgency, we realize that the graduate we shall be releasing to the job market will interact with the students in junior secondary in the year 2024; this is sooner than we thought. We therefore must readjust our teacher training today to be ready.

As I conclude, I reaffirm my commitment to this initiative. I call upon each one of us to join hands and build collaborative initiatives and partnerships that will drive the agenda to achieve effective implementation of CBC.

With those remarks it is now my pleasure to invite the representative of the Chief Guest - the Principal Secretary, State Department of Basic Education - Dr. Belio Kipsang to make his remarks and officially open this forum.

Thank you.

Prof. Daniel Mugendi

Vice-Chancellor – University OF Embu