



UNIVERSITY OF EMBU

CITATION

Award of

**HONORARY DEGREE
DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS
(HONORIS CAUSA)**

to

Dr. MARGARET MUMBI GIKUHI, Ph.D.

during the

**6th Graduation Ceremony
Friday 17th September, 2021**

Knowledge Transforms



ISO 27001:2013 Certified

ISO 9001:2015 Certified



Fundamental Statements

Our Vision

A dynamic epicentre of excellence in training and research for service to humanity.

Our Mission

To generate, advance and disseminate knowledge through training, research and innovation for the development of humanity.

Philosophy

Enhancing human capacity for societal development.

Our Core Values

Integrity
Innovativeness
Professionalism
Customer focus
Teamwork



Dr. Margaret Mumbi Gikuhi, Ph.D

Mr. Chancellor Sir, the University of Embu Senate, evaluated and, with the consent of the University Council, was satisfied that Dr. Margaret Mumbi Gikuhi, be awarded the Degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, (honoris causa) of the University of Embu.

The entire University Community is today honoured by Dr. Margaret Gikuhi's acceptance and presence to receive this esteemed award.

Dr. Margaret Mumbi Gikuhi was born on 6th February, 1954 in a polygamous family of 18 siblings in Ngandu Village, Nyeri County. She is the 3rd born daughter of the late Richard Kinyua Kariuki and the late Purity Nyachomba Kinyua. She remembers her late father with nostalgia and fond memories with great honour and appreciation for taking her and her sisters to school in the early 1950s & 60s when girls going to school were few and countable. Her father consistently reminded her that if she became an accomplished scholar, she would make a way for many girls in life. Her father introduced her to entrepreneurship skills when he made her his trusted "shopkeeper" for the period he owned and operated a shop in the village. This sowed a seed of integrity in Dr. Gikuhi at an early age.

Dr. Margaret Gikuhi is married to Eng. Amos Gikuhi Mambo since 1979. They have been blessed with four children, namely:- Eng. Godfrey Mambo Gikuhi, Essie Wangari Gikuhi (Accountant), and the twins Eng. Isaac Kinyua Gikuhi & Rebecca Wangeci Gikuhi (Marketer). She is also blessed with a daughter-in-love, Maureen Katile Mambo and son-in-love David Okelo. She has also been blessed with four grandchildren.

Dr. Gikuhi began her school life at Ngandu Girls Primary School in 1961. She joined her dream school, Bishop Gatimu Ngandu Girls Secondary School for her O' and A' levels in 1969. She was a top student throughout her schooling, scoring Div. 1 in the East African Certificate of Education (E.A.C.E.) and Three Principals and One Subsidiary in the East African Advanced Certificate of Education (E.A.A.C.E.). She joined the University of Nairobi in 1975 to pursue a Bachelor of Education (Arts) Degree, graduating with a Second Class Honours, Upper Division in 1978, thereby becoming one of the few girls in her village to attain a degree.

In 2004, she joined the Catholic University of Eastern Africa to pursue a Master's Degree in Education at the age of 50 years. She later enrolled for her Ph.D. and graduated in 2010 from the same University. Her Ph.D. dissertation was on The Influence of Work Environment Factors on Performance of Employees

of the Ministry of Education Semi-Autonomous Agencies in Kenya. Dr. Gikuhi is an accomplished scholar having published widely in her field of specialization. She has been a lecturer at the Presbyterian University of East Africa and at the Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA). She has supervised many postgraduate students, including some from countries such as Nigeria, Mozambique, Malawi, Korea, Ethiopia, among others. With nostalgia, Dr. Gikuhi resigned as a Lecturer for a greater calling – to serve as the Chairperson of Council and mentor for the nascent Embu University College. Due to her love for knowledge and acquisition of new skills, Dr. Gikuhi is currently a student at the Boma College of Hospitality in Nairobi, where she is studying for a Certificate in Culinary Arts, breaking the record as their oldest and most qualified student – a fact they did not know.

DISTINGUISHED CAREER AS A TEACHER AND CHAMPION FOR EDUCATION

Dr. Margaret Mumbi Gikuhi is an accomplished educator with an impeccable record of distinguished public service in the education sector spanning over 40 years. She has been a champion in advocating for the right of girls to access quality education. Her journey as a humble classroom teacher started when she joined the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) in

1978 and was posted to Limuru Girls Secondary School. As a young teacher of very bright well connected girls, she had to prove her worth, which she did. Her geography subject excelled. In 1981, she transferred to Pangani Girls High School where she taught up to 1984.

In the stations that she served, Dr. Gikuhi not only posted excellent results but was also advocating for educational policy change to support equity and access. For example, at Pangani Secondary School, she was amongst those who advocated for the transitioning of the School from a day to a boarding school to enhance girls' attendance in school by saving them from the "free" circuit ride of No. 6/9 Eastleigh matatu culture. This was prompted by an encounter with some students who told her, "Mrs. Gikuhi we feel sorry for you. You try so hard to teach us, but we are not interested."

While at the Lang'ata Secondary School (1984-1985), she championed the introduction of feeding programme that provided lunch for day school students. This ensured that they were not hungry in the afternoon sessions thus reducing their movements outside the school during the day. Having lunch served in the school especially for day scholars also ensured that the students were able to complete their studies with minimal

disruptions. Due to her demonstrable passion in teaching, the students here nicknamed her Agrarian Revolution for economic development.

Dr. Gikuhi was among the pioneer teachers who were selected to start teaching at the Sunshine Secondary School in 1995. She was involved in the transformation of Sunshine Secondary School to become one of the leading secondary schools in Kenya at the time. During her service at Sunshine, she was recognized for excellence in teaching with a Certificate of Merit, 3rd Position Award in History & Government, Nairobi Province by the Ministry of Education for consistently attaining excellent results in the subject. Further, the Teachers Service Commission recognized her outstanding performance and promoted her to the position of Head of Department (History & Government) and later Senior Head of Department, in charge of Languages and Humanities in the School. She also acted as the Deputy Head Teacher on numerous occasions.

Dr. Margaret Gikuhi's success in the teaching profession can only be attributed to her selfless love for teaching. She believes that when it comes to teaching, one must be passionate and thorough in preparation and delivery. This and her perfectionist nature played a critical role in ensuring that many of her students

excelled and proceeded to the University and today they are professionals in different fields.

After her stint teaching in secondary schools, her distinguished career in public service took her to the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) headquarters, where she served as an Administrative Officer in the Quality Assurance, Staffing, Integrity, Policy and Research Departments. She was the Chairperson of the Task Force for vetting teachers who had A-Level Certificates of Education. The Task Force established criteria for the promotion of such teachers. She received numerous commendations and recognition for her outstanding leadership and especially so for being a good steward of public resources.

Dr. Margaret Gikuhi has been a motivator and a mentor to many throughout her career in the education sector. She has continued with the role of advising parents and students on programmes offered in universities and careers and information related to higher education.

OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Dr. Gikuhi's spirit to give back to the community was demonstrated at an early age. When she received her first 'Boom', for instance, she used it to buy chain link to fence her father's compound. On

conflict resolution, this was demonstrated on several occasions. A case in point was when she offered adjudication skills using a tape measure from her Dress-Making class to resolve a boundary dispute in her village.

Dr. Gikuhi has continued to support community development initiatives. She has served as the Chairperson of PCEA, Lang'ata Primary School Board of Management for 10 years. She has been a Member of Board of Management for Rititi Secondary School in Mathira Constituency, Nyeri County. Being a Director at Mecoy Consultants Limited, Dr. Gikuhi uses that platform to implement community transformation initiatives. Through the consultancy firm, Dr. Gikuhi and her family have been able to contribute to projects such as;

1. Promoting economic empowerment by supporting over 15 girls and boys to successfully complete their education
2. Provision of piped clean drinking water to the community, working in conjunction with the County Government of Nyandarua
3. Contributing in support of construction of churches and secondary schools – for example Ol Joro Orok Secondary School

4. Providing resources and overseeing implementation of rural electrification projects, internet connectivity in the village neighborhood as well as community roads maintenance.


Dr. Gikuhi and family have graciously supported many members of the community, including sponsoring many needy students to complete their education. She is a generous and renowned employer back at her home village through the Lake Ol Bolosat Resort Park Lodge in which she is one of the directors. The Hotel employs over 300 employees drawn from the community and indirectly benefits more than 4000 households in the locality and beyond. In addition, the Hotel supports more than 10 institutions and community groups in the area.

EXEMPLARY SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF EMBU

Dr. Margaret Gikuhi was the first Chairperson of the then Embu University College (EUC), the precursor of the University of Embu, from 2012 to 2016. She was instrumental in guiding the University Management through one of its most difficult phases when leaflets and letters of false accusation from anonymous sources were flying all over government agencies and ministries. In addition, she was instrumental in the establishment of the University of Embu Endowment Fund in support of needy

students, contributing close to half a million Kenya shillings from her family and friends. Upon award of Charter by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Kenya, she was appointed as the Chairperson of the first University of Embu Council. In all, she served the University diligently for a period of 8 years i.e. 2012-2020. Due to her wise counsel and focus, the University realized unprecedented growth and development in all aspects. This was clearly demonstrated in the University's attainment of Excellent ranking in performance contracting evaluations for 6 consecutive financial years, culminating in the University of Embu being ranked the Best Performing State Corporation in Kenya in the 2019/2020 Financial Year Performance Contract evaluation cycle; a feat unprecedented in a public university. Her role in the transformation of the University of Embu from a dilapidated Institution to a top ranking University cannot, therefore, be over emphasized.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, in recognition, acknowledgement and appreciation of Dr. Margaret Mumbi Gikuihi's distinguished and selfless service to this Nation and to all humanity, especially through her outstanding work as an educator, mentor and role model, the University of Embu Senate and Council approved the award of the honorary degree. This is what this award is about; celebrating teachers who silently impact the lives of others



positively. This is a celebration of women and the girl child who become leaders because they merit it.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, it is in light of this that I am humbly honoured and privileged to present to you, a great Kenyan, an ordinary classroom teacher of extraordinary abilities,

Dr. Margaret Mumbi Gikuhi for the conferment of the DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS (honoris causa).

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*The Chancellor, Chairperson of Council,
the Senate, staff and Students of the
University of Embu,
Congratulate
Dr. Margaret Mumbi Gikuhi
on her
Conferment of The Honorary Doctorate
of Humane Letters, (honoris causa)
of The University of Embu*



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