

REMARKS BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROF. DANIEL MUGENDI NJIRU, DURING THE AMANI CLUB PEACE WALK ON FRIDAY, 25TH MARCH 2022 AT 12.00 P.M. IN CHARTER HALL.

- Commissioner Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia, Chairman, National Cohesion and Integration Commission – Represented by **Mr. Kilian Nyambu**, Deputy Director Public Outreach and Engagement
- Dr. Eddyson H. Ngale, the Embu County Commissioner
- Officials from the Amani Clubs of Kenya
- Members of Amani Club – UoEm Chapter
- Staff
- Students
- Invited Guests

Ladies and gentlemen

Good afternoon,

First, I start by saying that I am indeed very happy to join you today for this important activity, **the peace walk**, which has been organized by our students to promote peaceful coexistence and peaceful elections in Kenya. Being an election year, I am extremely proud of our students and all those who have come out to support this noble initiative organized by the recently launched Amani Club at the University of Embu.

Secondly, I take this opportunity to welcome all our guests to the University of Embu. I am happy that each one of you took time off your busy schedules to come and be part of this Walk.

Ladies and gentlemen



The theme of the peace walk is:

Advocating for Peaceful Elections – Uchaguzi Bila Noma

We are living in a world where conflict has become the main source of news for the media. Where men and women seat in executive boardrooms to discuss and prepare for war and conflict instead of harnessing efforts to promote peace. In almost all corners of the earth, it's a cry of peace and co-existence of different communities.

Today, governments spend billions every year on weapons acquired for security and peace. Though the weapons are perceived as essential for our security, the fact that they can only destroy and never create, means they are not the best means of assuring peace.

We tend to take peace for granted more often than not until we are confronted by a situation where there is absence of peace. Many people have mistaken the concept of peace by thinking that peace is the absence of war, or that peace can be attained by the use of weapons.

Let us consider genuine peace, the kind of peace that makes life on earth worth living, the peace that enables all people and nations to grow and build a better life for their generation and the generations to come.

Peace begins with a smile so let us all endeavor to be ambassadors of Peace by sharing a smile always. A new dawn is indeed here with us. As we inch closer to the 2022 General Elections, I want to encourage everyone to shun violence and embrace peace and dialogue so that we can have a peaceful General Elections including the post-election time. As a people, we must move away from elections marred with violence, deaths, displacement, pain, and loss of property to a peaceful election.

As such, it is my prayer that our youth especially our students will be ambassadors of peace throughout this electioneering period. I urge you not to engage or be engaged by politicians in any election malpractice whatsoever wherever you are.

We have the responsibility to **Walk peace, Act peace and Talk peace.**

In conclusion, we all agree that prevention is better than cure. I call upon all Kenyans to join us in this peace initiative and shun electoral misconduct and at the same time prevent any conflicts that may lead to violence during this election time. We are all better off preventing it than regretting it. Each one of us, irrespective of our positions, has a role to play in preventing conflicts that might end up in electoral violence. Let us all do our part in preventing it from occurring.

I once again thank the organizers, sponsors and everyone who has contributed in any way towards the success of the peace walk. I salute the students and staff of the University for coming out in large numbers to walk in solidarity with the Amani Club members.

I thank our special guests for gracing the occasion and for the support that you have extended to the organizers from the start of the preparations. May God bless you abundantly.

I leave you with a verse in the bible from the Beatitudes in Mathew 5: 9 which says: “*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God*”.

Thank you

Prof. Daniel Mugendi, Ph.D

Vice-Chancellor



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