



UNIVERSITY OF EMBU

SPEECH BY

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DURING THE

UoEm and KIPPRA MENTORSHIP WORKSHOP

HELD ON

31ST MARCH, 2022 & 1ST APRIL, 2022

AT 8:30 A.M

IN CHARTER HALL

UNIVERSITY OF EMBU



ISO 27001:2013 Certified

Knowledge Transforms



ISO 9001:2015 Certified

- KIPPRA Board of Management led by Dr. Rose Ngugi (Executive Director)
- Our guests and participants from;
 - KIPPRA
 - Vision 2030 Delivery Secretariat
 - SME Support Centre
 - Youth Enterprise Development Fund
 - Kenya Industrial Property Institute
 - Directorate of National Cohesion and Values
 - Embu College
 - Chuka University, Embu Campus
- Members of University of Embu Management and Senate
- Workshop facilitators and organizers
- Staff and Students of UoEm
- Ladies and gentlemen

Good morning,

It with great pleasure that I join you this morning for this KIPPRA-University of Embu Mentorship Workshop. I welcome you all to the University of Embu, and to the workshop. I am happy to note that, less than two weeks after we signed an MoU between the University and KIPPRA, on 17th March 2022, our students and staff are starting to reap the benefits of our partnership through the KIPPRA Mentorship Programme for Universities (KMPUs). This is indeed a great collaboration. The programme is designed to encourage and promote the next generation of leaders and to



harness the link between academia and public policy making for purposes of promoting national development.

The overall objective of this mentorship workshop is to create awareness and develop capacity of the University Community in understanding the public policy making process and provide a platform to discuss emerging policy issues that have the potential to shape research and analysis activities.

I trust that the workshop will be an eye opener for our students, staff and all the participants. I note that from the programme we have important topics lined up for presentation during the 2-day workshop. The knowledge gained from the presentations will enlighten the University Community on public policies the government is implementing in pursuit of the national development agenda.

This resonates very well with the workshop theme which is *“Building Back Better in Post COVID-19 to Accelerate Achievement of the Big Four Agenda”*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

According to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA), the COVID-19 pandemic and its associated socio-economic consequences unveiled new challenges and further aggravated pre-existing inequalities and vulnerabilities



across the world. The pandemic threatened to reverse decades of progress made by nations.

In the UN-DESA 2020. The *World Economic Situation and Prospects Report*, it was projected that in 2020,

1. The world's extreme poverty (i.e. persons surviving on less than \$1.90/per day) was expected to increase for the first time since 1998.¹
2. The number of food insecure people in the world was expected to almost double from 135 million in 2019 to 265 million by the end of 2020.²
3. COVID-19-related restrictions (lockdowns and social distancing) would have had devastating social and economic effects on us all. The hardest hit would be those already in vulnerable situations, including marginalized and disadvantaged groups.³
4. In the second quarter of 2020 alone, 17.3 % of the total working-hours (corresponding to 495 million full-time equivalent jobs) were lost; this trend continued also in the third quarter of 2020 where 12.1 % or 345 million full-time equivalent jobs were lost world wide ⁴).

The crisis reduced our country's ability to achieve the National Big 4 Agenda, Vision 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. In this regard, we need fresh bounce back policies and



measures to help the people recover and also protect them from loss of jobs, livelihoods and income after the crisis.

To recover better, we need to formulate new policies to make the current socio-economic systems more inclusive, equitable, resilient and sustainable. These new policies will therefore be a key component in the recovery strategy to ensure that we are able to build back better to achieve our social and economic goals as envisaged in the National Big 4 agenda and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

As you are aware, universities carry out diversified research in various fields, including the area of social policy and economic themes. The research outputs should find their way to inform the national policy and development agenda. At the University of Embu, we encourage our staff to develop policy briefs from research. The briefs should then be shared with relevant government agencies for policy formulation. Policy that is not anchored on research, in most cases, may not address challenges that affect the nation.

It is for this reason that this mentorship workshop is most welcome as it will enhance our capacity to do research that informs national policy development, especially during the post COVID-19 era. The workshop has come at the right time, to the right audience, and at the right venue, to initiate and enhance this debate on *Building*



Back Better in Post COVID-19 to Accelerate Achievement of the Big Four Agenda.

I salute KIPPRA for this noble initiative, and for identifying the University of Embu, as a major partner in this course. Please keep the fire burning on this matter. I suggest that in future, we have jointly organized a series of similar workshops on other topics and themes as we continue with the implementation of our MoU and associated activities.

Allow me to tell you one or two important aspects of the University of Embu.

As you may be aware, the University of Embu was ranked at position one, Best Performing State Corporation in Kenya during the 2019/2020 performance contracting cycle. This clearly demonstrates the commitment of the University in service delivery and commitment to its vision of being the epicenter of excellence in training, research and service to community.

The University of Embu has been identified as having some of the best researchers in the Country, in Africa and Globally. During a recent ranking by AD Scientific Index, known as the World Scientist and University Research Rankings 2022, University of Embu was ranked Number 6 out of 51. University of Embu researchers were also identified and ranked among the top researchers in Kenya and



the world. Prof. Daniel Mugendi, the UoEm Vice-Chancellor was ranked Position 12 in Kenya and 628 in Africa. Dr. Josephine Ngunjiri, a Senior Lecturer in the Biological Sciences was ranked Position 50 in Kenya and 1533 in Africa. Other UoEm staff who were ranked as top scientists in Kenya and globally are **Drs. Bernard Gichimu, Asweto Collins, Mark Otieno, Profs. Eucharia Kenya, Romano Mwirichia, Nancy Budambula, Jackson Muthengia**, among others.

As I conclude, I call upon all the participants of this workshop to take the opportunity and learn the art of policy making and analysis so that you can actively participate in national development. I wish you fruitful interactions between the facilitators and the participants; please take the opportunity to grow your networks.

Ladies and gentlemen

With those remarks, I wish you all the best for the 2 days. Please feel very welcome to the University of Embu. **Thank you and God bless you.**

It is now my pleasure to invite **Dr. Rose Ngugi, the Executive Director, KIPPRA** to give her remarks.

Prof. Daniel Mugendi Njiru, Ph.D
Vice-Chancellor



References

1. UNDESA, 2020. The World Economic Situation and Prospects.
2. <https://www.wfp.org/news/covid-19-will-double-number-people-facing-food-crises-unless-swiftaction-taken>
3. <https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-04/UN-framework-for-the-immediate-socio-economicresponse-to-COVID-19.pdf>
4. <https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-04/UN-framework-for-the-immediate-socio-economicresponse-to-COVID-19.pdf>

