



UNIVERSITY OF EMBU

SPEECH

By

PROF. DANIEL MUGENDI NJIRU

Vice- Chancellor,

University of Embu

During the Official Launch

of the

Campus Dialogue

Organized by

Men End FGM Foundation

on

Friday, 30th September, 2022

08.00 am

REMARKS BY PROF. DANIEL MUGENDI, VICE-CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF EMBU DURING THE CAMPUS DIALOGUE SESSIONS ORGANIZED BY MEN END FGM FOUNDATION AND OTHER PARTNERS

- University Management and Expanded management
- Chief Guest, Anti-FGM Board, Ms. Bernadette Loloju
- Men & FGM Foundation
- I Choose Life
- ODPP
- Straight Talk Kenya
- Better4Kenya
- National AIDS Council
- Performing Artists from UNICEF and UNFPA
- Students' Leaders
- Staff and students
- Ladies & Gentlemen

Good Morning

I am delighted to be in this gathering this morning, in this Campus Dialogue Session organised by Men End FGM Foundation in collaboration with other partners. I am happy to note that this forum is organised by men to help end Female Genital Mutilation, child marriages, Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights and outdated cultural practices. I note that issues of mental health, alcohol, drugs and substance abuse, and HIV/AIDS will also be addressed. I wish to convey the University's appreciation to the organisers for choosing the University of Embu to host this important forum. I commend the Men and FGM Foundation and the men behind it for being at the forefront in encouraging men and boys to be aware of the

need to end FGM, child marriages and other forms of Sexual and Gender Based Injustices and Violence. The choice of medium of transmission i.e. through online engagements, community dialogues, training, workshop and outreach is unique and commendable.

The main aim of this forum is to equip students with information about these gender injustices and encourage men and boys to take an active role in the campaign against all forms of Sexual and Gender Based Injustices and Violence. Whilst we call for appreciation of the African and local cultures, we need to call out the practices that are outgrown and are outdated.

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 aims at achieving gender equality by ending all forms of discrimination, violence and any harmful practices against women and girls in the public and private spheres. It also calls for the full participation of women and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of political and economic decision-making. By involving the university students, especially boys and men, in this conversation we will definitely accelerate the achievement of this goal.

Men in their roles as fathers, husbands, community and religious leaders, play a pivotal role in the fight against female genital mutilation (FGM). Notably, the men in this Foundation are part of this great campaign because everyone in society must play an active role in promoting gender equality. I commend you again for this noble responsibility you have taken up as a Foundation. Thank you.

In conclusion, I take this opportunity to sincerely thank the University of Embu Staff, Students for sparing sometime in your busy schedule to attend this forum. I wish to extend my gratitude to Men End FGM, Anti-FGM Board, I Choose Life, ODPP, Straight

Talk Kenya, Better4Kenya and the National AIDS Council and all the other partners for making this engagement possible. It will go a long way in providing essential information to our students and staff on matters of gender equality and justice for all.

I am confident that our commitment will enable this conversation to spark more and more engagement to end those retrogressive cultural practices and to ensure a better life for our women and girls, thus promoting a cohesive and caring society.

With those few remarks, it is now my pleasure to declare this **MEN END FGM Foundation Campus Dialogue** officially open.

I wish you all a fruitful dialogue and all the best for the day.

Thank you.

God bless you.

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