

**VICE-CHANCELLOR'S OPENING REMARKS DURING THE UNITED
NATIONS PUBLIC LECTURE HELD AT THE UNIVERSITY OF EMBU
CHARTER HALL ON FRIDAY 4TH OCTOBER, 2019**

- ✓ The Regional Director, United Nations Volunteers, East and Southern Africa Region - Mr. Njoya Tikum
- ✓ The UNV team accompanying the Regional Director
- ✓ University Management Members present
- ✓ Staff
- ✓ Students
- ✓ Invited guests
- ✓ Ladies and gentlemen

Good Morning.

I 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 inaugural public lecture on Demystifying Volunteerism and highlighting opportunities available in the United Nations for those us who wish to engage in volunteerism.

I thank our Guest Speaker, Mr. Njoya Tikum and his able team for honoring our invitation and accepting to join us.

I wish to thank the organizers of this public lecture for realizing the importance of volunteerism in the contemporary society and identifying the best organisation to indeed demystify volunteerism.

The theme for this public lecture is **Demystifying Volunteerism: Opportunities available for Youth in the UN.**

The objectives of the public lecture are:-

1. To influence a change of mindset about volunteerism among the youth.
2. To highlight the avenues in which volunteerism can be mutually beneficial for the volunteers and the host organisation.

In the past many people have grappled with a great deal of uncertainty about what volunteerism, commonly known as voluntary work has to offer. Volunteerism has been viewed as a non-profitable venture, in a global economy that is so capitalist, that many people just look for opportunities to make money. When such opportunities are not forthcoming, many will shy away from such interests. This has contributed to the high levels of unemployment witnessed across the World.

Volunteerism is an important addition to an individual's profile because it is work experience and community service. Volunteerism therefore offers everyone an avenue to acquire experience and exposure at the international and national levels. Such experience and exposure is more often than not sought after by individuals and organisations that wish to raise their competence and distinguish themselves in a highly competitive world. Volunteerism will expose a person to cultural convergence points and make such an individual well adapted to serve across the nations. The benefits are varied as will be explained by the UNV team here today.

Further more, I expect that the public lecture will break-ground for active engagements of everyone and especially the youth in University of Embu as well as elicit discussions that will engage the University's fraternity in learning and service experiences for holistic growth.

As a University we appreciate our place as a hub of youthfulness, a convergence point of diversity, talent and innovation among people and a one-stop-shop for youth development. Therefore, I wish to reiterate my support of the zeal and commitment of UNV to this initiative. I extend a hand of partnership to the United Nations, towards establishing a mutual MoU to ensure that, this and other initiatives to come are sustainable, and to assure the UN of my unwavering support.

Indeed, it is my sincere hope that at the end of today's lecture, the participants will have developed a deep awareness and interest in volunteerism and offer their talents, skills and energies to gainful community service.

Given the multi-national exposure of the UNV team with us here today, I envision that the public lecture will be very exciting and very informative.

Mr. Njoya you are indeed a great resource to us. We are proud to be associated with you.

It is now my pleasure to declare this Public Lecture officially open and to invite our Guest Speaker, Mr. Njoya Tikum to make his presentation.

Thank you.

Prof. Daniel Mugendi
Vice-Chancellor, University of Embu