

**Speech by Prof. Daniel Mugendi Njiru, Vice-Chancellor, University of Embu
During the 3rd University of Embu Careers' Day Held on Saturday, 9th
February, 2019**

- University of Embu Management and Staff
- Principals of invited schools
- Invited Guest Speakers
- Students
- Teachers

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning,

I take this opportunity to welcome you all to the University of Embu. I also thank you very much for coming in large numbers to participate in our Annual Careers Day.

This is the 3rd Careers' Day event we are hosting at the University of Embu. The event's main aim is to equip high school students in the region with the necessary information to help them make informed career choices in life.

Our goal is to let our students understand the career opportunities available in the labour market and how they can plan their academic journey to achieve their individual career goals.

The theme of our Careers' Day is **“Transforming Career Decisions through Information”**

I wish you all the best as you interact with us and learn more about careers.

I am sure that in the course of your studies you must have asked yourself many questions like, what type of career is best for you, where will you be in the next 10 years, will you be able to find a job or a suitable career in the future?

This event will provide you with an opportunity to network and interact with our University Schools and Departments, Career Advisors and Employers; who will give you first-hand information on what you need to know when choosing a career and how your education and talents can fit in different careers in your life.

Even if you are still pondering over what subject you should study, you will get an opportunity to look at different career options to help you to make that decision. It is a fact that many students do not know what they would like to do or what they will be doing in 5 years' time after secondary school and also after higher education.

What I can assure you is that it doesn't really matter for now even if you are not sure which career you want to be in or not. Things will work out well for you as time goes on with the help of your teachers and your parent. What matters most is your ability to know yourself, your talents, your strengths and what you like to do most as well as appreciation of the opportunities available in the labor market.

This is the reason why we have organized this day so that we give you an opportunity to evaluate yourselves and understand where you are likely to fit in the world of work.

As you continue with your academic journey, you will have to undergo more years of education and professional training as you prepare for your career or professional life. At the University of Embu, we will help you to get yourself a degree, a diploma or a certificate for just about career you would like to join; from becoming a Nurse, to a Teacher, an Engineer, a Doctor, an Agriculturist, a Researcher, or an Accountant, a Business Manager to an IT Expert; you name it and we can help you get there. And soon we will start offering courses in Law and Medicine.

In his autobiography – Long Walk to Freedom, the late South African President Nelson Mandela wrote that “Education is the great engine of personal development. It is through education that the daughter of a peasant can become a doctor; that the son of a mine worker can become the head of the mine; that a child of a farm worker can become the President of a great nation.”

I am glad that each one of us here today has chosen the education path as the ticket to our personal development. Through education we are able to eradicate ignorance, instill values and give our students the necessary skills to help them grow and prosper in their lives.

My words of advice to you this morning, on the occasion of our 2019 Careers Day, are follows;

1. It is never too early or too late to figure out what you would like to be in the future.
2. Be open to exploration and ready to try out new things - you may find that what you thought you are not good at is exactly where your talent lies.
3. Be courageous - Don't let anyone tell you that you can't do something just because of who you are or where you come from. Think of something that you are passionate about, and go for it no matter what the challenges may be
4. Be committed to your chosen career - And if you are working hard for something you love, then you will enjoy doing it.
5. Don't be scared to ask for help - people will want to help you if they see that you are committed to your career path.
6. Don't be afraid to venture into unknown territories sometimes they are the most productive and rewarding.

Ladies and gentlemen;

Allow me to take this opportunity to thank the Committee that has been organizing of this event, led by Dr. Simon Karuku, for a job well done. I also thank the Principals and Teachers of our secondary schools in Embu and the neighboring counties for the support you have continued to accord the University of Embu and for sparing time to attend this careers day for the benefit of the students.

The University appreciates the partnerships that we have forged with our Secondary schools and colleges in the region and from the feedback that we get from our students who come to your institutions for teaching practice; we know that you have treated them very well in addition to mentoring them for their future careers as teachers. We look forward to working together even more to raise the standards of education in our schools.

In conclusion, I wish you all a successful day as you meet and interact with our experts in various fields. We look forward to answering any questions you may have about any topic and about any career, even for the courses that we are not offering currently, we will be able to give you the appropriate information.

I have no doubt that all of you will greatly benefit from the day's activities and I assure you that we at the University of Embu will continue to organize and participate in similar events that are intended to benefit our youth and make a positive impact in society.

Thank you.

Prof. Daniel Mugendi Njiru
Vice-Chancellor