

- **Our Guest, Prof. George Dei and his wife**
- **Prof. Njoki Wane,**
- **All invited guests present**
- **Members of Management Board present**
- **Deans of Schools**
- **Directors**
- **Heads of Departments**
- **Staff and Students of Embu University College**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen.**

Good Morning,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome Prof. Njoki Wane and Prof. George Dei, (and his wife) both from the University of Toronto to Embu University College. I also take the opportunity to welcome you all to this auspicious occasion of the University's inaugural Public Lecture.

I would like to most sincerely thank the staff, students and all our guests for finding time in their busy schedules to come and participate in this public lecture. I know that we are now at a critical stage of the Semester where some of our students are doing their CATs and for you to be able to squeeze some time to participate in this event is a sign of true sacrifice and commitment on your part. I commend you for that.

Today, we are indeed privileged and happy to have with us a renowned educator, researcher and writer who is considered by many as one of Canada's foremost scholars. Prof. George J. Sefa Dei will speak to us on the topic of **ACADEMIC ACTIVISIM: Possibilities, Pitfalls and Challenges.**

Public lectures are a traditional part of the academic process. They form part of the University's efforts to contribute knowledge, leadership and innovative ideas to the society. Lectures like these are indeed important for community development since they afford us the opportunity to share the latest ideas, thinking and opinions from a diverse range of disciplines before the University community and the general public. They also provide the opportunity for disseminating and sharing of ideas between the academia, government, professional bodies and the University community.

Some of the benefits of public lectures are:

- 1) To celebrate important milestones in society.
- 2) Provides an opportunity for the University to recognise and showcase academic achievements.
- 3) To Share with colleagues, as well as students and the public, research that is going on globally by bringing in great thinkers from around the world to share their ideas on a wide variety of interesting and topical subjects.
- 4) Represents an essential component of the University's community outreach and public events programme, helping to create a wider awareness of the latest developments in science, engineering, arts and humanities, medicine, law and the social sciences.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER;

Our speaker today, Prof. George J. Sefa Dei is Ghanaian-born. He is a renowned educator, researcher and writer who is considered by many as one of Canada's foremost scholars on race and anti-racism studies. He is a widely sought after academic, researcher and community worker whose professional and academic work has led to many Canadian and international speaking invitations in US, Europe and Africa. Currently, he is Professor of Social Justice

Education at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto (OISE/UT).

Currently, Professor Dei co-Chairs, the African Community Networking Committee in Toronto, an organization dedicated to the economic and social enhancement of African peoples in Canada. He was the First President of the Ghanaian-Canadian Union.

Professor Dei is the recipient of many awards. He has just received the 2014 Distinguished Teaching Award at OISE, University of Toronto for excellence in teaching over the years. He is also the 2014 recipient of the Ludwik and Estelle Jus Memorial Human Rights Prize from the University of Toronto for his internationally recognized work on anti-racism and social justice. His other awards include "The 'Race, Gender, and Class Project Academic Award, 2002' in New Orleans. He also received the 'African-Canadian Outstanding Achievement in Education' from the Pride Magazine in Toronto in 2003, and the City of Toronto's 'William P. Hubbard Award for Race Relations' 2003. He is also the 2006 recipient of the Planet Africa 'Renaissance Award' for his professional achievements in the field of African education, anti-racism and youth and the 2007 Canadian Alliance of Black Educators Award for 'Excellence in Education and Community Development'".

Prof. Dei is an accomplished Scholar. He has published twenty six (26) books, over one sixty (160) refereed journal articles and book chapters, has made presentations in over 160 Conferences and has examined over 40 PhD thesis and supervised over 35 PhD students.

Finally, in June of 2007, Professor Dei was installed as a traditional chief in Ghana, specifically, as the Adumakwaahene of the town of Asokore, in the New Juaben Traditional Area of Ghana. His stool name is Nana Sefa Atweneboah I.

Ladies and Gentlemen, let us put our hands together and welcome our Guest, Chief, Prof. George J. Sefa Dei, the Adumakwaahene of Asokore to address us.
Prof. Dei.

THANK YOU