

## REPORT ON A TREE PLANTING EXERCISE HELD AT KIRISIA FOREST, SAMBURU COUNTY ON 13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2023



*Photo Courtesy: Anti-FGM Board Kenya Chairperson, Anti-FGM Board Kenya CEO, Founder and Director-CTWOO, Anti-FGM Board Directors, Maralal Ward MCA, Suguta Marmar Ward MCA, Wamba North Ward MCA, and Kirisia Forest Manager and Widows present during the Tree-Planting Exercise in Kirisia Forest*

### Introduction

On 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023, we joined the Anti-FGM Board Kenya for a Tree Planting Exercise in Kirisia Forest located in Samburu County. This exercise was a commitment to **President William Ruto Government Agenda on Climate Change Action** which is to grow **15billion trees by 2032**. The aim of this Agenda is to increase the forest cover from the current 12% to 30% and also save the country from disastrous effects of climate change.

We were warmly welcomed by **Mr. Douglas Leboyiare, Chairman Kirisia Forest** and **Mr. Tiko Leng'uro- Chief, Ngari Sub-location**.

Gracing the exercise were; **Ms. Ipato Surum**-Chairperson-Anti-FGM Board Kenya, **Ms. Benadette Loloju**- CEO Anti-FGM Board Kenya, **Hon. Joseph Loloju**-Maralal Ward MCA, **Anti-FGM Kenya Board Directors**, **Hon. Silapia Lelemonatia**- Nominated MCA, Wamba North Ward, **Hon. Osman Adam** - Nominated MCA and **Hon. James** – MCA, Suguta MarMar Ward.

This exercise was also part of our **Economic Empowerment Initiative** to support **Namataru Women Group** who manage and run a Tree Nursery Project within Kirisia Forest and also to **Spread Awareness against FGM practices**. This project has served as an alternative source of livelihoods especially for them since majority of them used to depend on Charcoal burning and FGM Practises to cater for their family needs. They now run this project because they are aware of the harmful health effects and environmental effects of charcoal burning and this makes them to be at the forefront of ensuring Kirisia Forest is protected. They are not just Environmental Conservation Champions but also Anti FGM champions.



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We also supported the group's project by their products which included, **Hand-made shangaas, bracelets and necklaces, Kitchen Farm products, Honey and Tree Seedlings** that we planted in Kirisia Forest.



*Chairperson- Anti-FGM Board, CEO-Anti-FGM Board, Board Director and Founder CTWOO buying vegetables from the Namataru Women Group's Farm*



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## SPEECHES

### MS. IPATO SURUM-CHAIRPERSON ANTI-FGM BOARD KENYA



Speaking after the tree planting exercise, the Chairperson reminded the residents present that FGM is a deeply rooted cultural practice that poses severe physical and

*Chairperson Anti-FGM Board Kenya watering a tree at Kirsia Forest*

psychological consequences for women and girls. She added that its crucial for everyone to collectively condemn the violation of human rights and work towards eradicating such harmful traditions. She thanked Namataru Women Group for their bold step in standing out as FGM champions by shifting from engaging in FGM practises to owning a recommendable project that preserves the environment as an alternative and sustainable source of livelihood that does not cause harm to both the environment and health of Women and Girls.



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**MRS. BERNADETTE LOLOJU-C.E.O ANTI-FGM BOARD**



*CEO Anti-FGM Board Kenya watering a tree at Kirisia Forest*

After participating in the tree planting exercises, the CEO urged everyone to stand united in promoting a world where every individual regardless of their gender is free from such harmful experiences. She also acknowledged the resilience of survivors who speak out against FGM, as their stories are powerful catalyst of change. She affirmed that creating a world where an individual has a right to live free from the physical and emotional scars of Female Genital Mutilation is possible.

**DR. DIANAH KAMANDE-BOARD DIRECTOR, ANTI-FGM BOARD KENYA,  
FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CTWOO**



*Dr. Dianah Kamande planting a Tree at Kirisia Forest*

Dr. Dianah focused her speech to the widows present during the tree - planting exercise. She encouraged them to emulate an example from Namataru Women Group by organizing themselves into Widow Groups.

She emphasized that the Widow Groups will help them to benefit a lot from the

Government projects that are tailor-made for Widows. She also added that the groups will act as their social support system where they can learn and share together as widows as they walk through the journey of Widowhood. She emphasized that Widow Groups help in giving



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Voices to the widows because it is through their collective action that they can Speak Out Against Violence that they face including FGM.

**HON. JOSEPH LOLOJU & HON. JAMES- MCAS, MARALAL WARD &SUGUTA MARMAR**



*Hon. Joseph Loloju-MCA, Maralal Ward and Hon. James- MCA Suguta Marmar Ward during in a Tree Planting Exercise at kirisia Forest*

In their impassioned speeches, the members of MCAS declared their dedication to combating Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) within their respective wards. With a shared commitment to championing the cause of Forests Conservation, they pledged to join forces with the Anti FGM Board to push the Anti-FGM Policy for Samburu County. By forging this alliance, the MCAS created a formidable force that will safeguard the Well-being and Rights of the Girl

Child, paving the way for a brighter and more equitable future for Samburu County.

**CONCLUSION**

The harmonious blend of Environmental Activism and Community Empowerment, our collaboration with the Anti FGM Board at Kirisia Forest was very inspiring. The commitment of the MCAs, led by Hon. Loloju, to combat FGM and champion Forest Conservation reflected a profound dedication to a better future. Their promise of joining forces to Protect Women and Girls echoed a powerful narrative of positive change therefore promising a flourishing Samburu County where both its people and its natural treasures thrive.



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