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# Pokot leaders declare war on female cut

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Pokot leaders have made a declaration to end cattle rustling, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and other outdated practices.

This is in a bid to eradicate high illiteracy and poverty levels bedeviling the community.

MPs Wilson Litore (Sigor) and Julius Murgor (Kapenguria) led the leaders to endorse the declaration at Ortum Boys High School.

This was after they presided over the ground breaking of the construction of a new administration block and received a bus for the school. Dubbed the 'Ortum declaration', leaders spelt out severe punishment on cattle raiders and advocates of FGM.

"We are trailing behind in development because of these retrogressive practices. And we are not going to relent in the fight against these primitive cultures that have ruined the community," said the MPs.

## RETROGRESSIVE PRACTICES

Earlier, the students of the school moved the crowd with a traditional song that challenged leaders and parents to denounce rustling and other retrogressive practices, which have remained bottlenecks to development.

Sounding a stern warning to warriors that rustling has been overtaken by time, the leaders asked elders to stand by the declaration and have those breaching it punished.

Kitale Catholic Church Bishop Maurice Crowley blessed the bus and the construction site and praised the school for being picked as a centre of excellence in the district.

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