



UNIVERSITY OF EMBU

SPEECH BY

PROF. PAUL MUSILI WAMBUA,

CHANCELLOR,

UNIVERSITY OF EMBU

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE
2ND GRADUATION CEREMONY**

OF THE UNIVERSITY

ON 15TH SEPTEMBER 2017

- The Chair of University of Embu Council, Dr. Margaret Gikuhi
- Acting Vice-Chancellor, University of Embu, Prof. Daniel Mugendi
- Chancellors of other Universities
- Members of the University of Embu Council
- Chairpersons and Members of other University Councils
- Vice-Chancellors of Sister Universities
- Members of the University Management Board
- University of Embu Senate
- University Staff
- Distinguished guests
- Graduands
- Continuing Students
- Parents and guardians
- Ladies and gentlemen

GOOD MORNING!

It is my privilege and singular honour to welcome you to this Graduation Ceremony, the second for the University of Embu since its inception. This day is significant in the history of the University of Embu because it is actually the first Graduation Ceremony since the University attained the status of a fully-fledged public University in Kenya following the award of charter by H.E. the President on 7th October 2016.

I am similarly honoured to join the University of Embu community, our Graduands and their families during this historic occasion as we celebrate the 1st Graduation Ceremony.

The Graduation Ceremony is an important occasion at any University as it marks the highlight of the academic calendar.

I wish to thank all of you for gracing this occasion and making it all the more meaningful for our graduands.

I must note that it is truly a great privilege for me to participate in this ceremony as the 1st Chancellor of this great University and to preside over this ceremony that will forever be immortalised in the history of the institution.

I wish to thank the University of Nairobi Chancellor, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi and the University Senate led by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi and his predecessor, Prof. George Magoha, for accepting to patiently nurture, groom and mentor this young University from its humble beginning to reach the level we are at today. I must also express my gratitude to The President of the Republic of Kenya, His Excellency, Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta, C.G.H., for

finding me worthy to be the Chancellor of this great University. This is a rare honour.

This Graduation is of great symbolic and sentimental significance in the life of this great institution. It bears testament to the defiance of this University to the roughness of the seas and the battering winds against her sails; it bears testament to the resilience of the pioneer students and staff, their refusal to sink and their determination to reach the shore.

In this regard, let me therefore, thank most sincerely, our able acting Vice Chancellor, Prof. Daniel Mugendi, the ever committed Chairperson of the University Council, Dr. Margaret Gikuhi, the Council Members, the University Management Board, Staff, Students, graduands, the community around the University, and all our stakeholders as well as our

well-wishers for being part of this outstanding accomplishment.

This University is starting on the right track with a blank slate from which the Council, management, staff, and students may together fashion a model University. We neither have the history nor the retrogressive traditions to hinder our progress; we neither have deep rooted political nor personal interests that may derail us; we are children of fortune with nothing less than a bright future that lies before us. The University of Nairobi which was charged with the noble responsibility of nurturing the former Embu University College to a fully-fledged University looks to us to use that foundation with the right formulae, the right governance and support structures, discipline and dedication to secure ourselves tomorrow's university of excellence.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me now take this moment to congratulate the University of Embu Graduating Class of 2017 for completing this very significant milestone in their lives. Your earning a University degree from this prestigious institution on this day is also both historic and significant. You will be the **first** graduates to earn the **first** Degree Certificates of the University of Embu. Indeed, you deserve a big applause!!!

Thank you.

You arrived with extraordinary skills and talents, scholarly commitment and discipline, creativity and the will to succeed, as well as valid dreams. As students and members of our community, you put all of these to good use for your own benefit and that of the University community.

Today, as we send you back to the community, we are here to publicly commend you for your efforts.

May I remind you that you are the most powerful young generation in human history? You are powerful because you have the most amazing technology at your command which no other generation could previously have dreamt of.

I want to urge you to use that power for your own good and the good of the society. Do not waste it away. As you graduate, get ready to convert all impossibilities that you may encounter into opportunities brought about by the amazing technologies of this generation.

Dear Graduands,

As you start a new chapter in your life, you will begin to write your own story. We are all aware that up until this point in your life, you have been under the care of your parents, guardians and teachers. Your education has almost been a mandatory affair. It was almost a matter of “whether you like it or not”, you had to get up every morning and attend to your academic work.

But now you have reached a stage where the choices become yours.

Many of you will go on to further your education here at the University of Embu while others will join other Universities across the world. Some of you will take up jobs in the labour market and others will opt for self-employment.

The most important thing to note is that these decisions will be out of your own choice and in areas that you are personally interested in. And if you are not sure yet what it is that really interests you, don't worry, give it time. Go out there with your eyes and mind wide open and you will figure it out soon enough.

My advice to you is; do something, find something to do even if it is not interesting at first, give it some time. When you immerse yourself in something, you may be surprised at the things that will grab your innovative attention.

Combine your creativity with the solid educational foundation that you have gained from the University of Embu and you are well prepared to take your next steps in life.

I urge you all to take those steps **CONFIDENTLY** because you have been well prepared by your lecturers and mentors.

Go ahead, and create a world which will be different, which will be way much better. Go ahead, and create a world where there will be less poverty and unnecessary suffering, be the source of change that this country needs.

Please go ahead and make us proud.

This University will be proud of you because you have learnt how to use your power to change the world. Use this University, your *alma mater*, as the hub of all your creative minds and initiatives. We would like to learn from you, and pass this learning to the next generation of young people so that they can follow your examples.

Once again, congratulations to all of you for qualifying to attend today's ceremony. Congratulations to all the parents who are present here to witness the great moment in the lives of their sons and daughters. Congratulations to the friends and relatives for being here to make this event memorable. Let us give our combined best wishes to these young men and women for their journey ahead.

As the Chancellor, I am proud of the many opportunities that the University of Embu offers to students to help them build their knowledge base and grow to be skilled, competent and dependable people. This is precisely why the University exists for the mutual benefit of the Institution, the students and indeed the entire society. That's what this graduation ceremony is all about.

Let us celebrate the day and make it uniquely memorable.

Thank you and May God bless you all.

Prof. Paul Musili Wambua, LL.D

Chancellor