



UNIVERSITY OF EMBU

SPEECH

BY

DR. MARGARET GIKUHI, PH.D

CHAIRPERSON,

UNIVERSITY OF EMBU

COUNCIL

DURING THE

UNIVERSITY OF EMBU

2ND GRADUATION CEREMONY

ON

FRIDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER, 2017

- ✓ The Chancellor, University of Embu, Prof. Paul Musili Wambua,
- ✓ Chancellors of Sister Universities,
- ✓ Acting Vice-Chancellor, University of Embu, Prof. Daniel Mugendi,
- ✓ Chairpersons of Councils of other Universities,
- ✓ Vice-Chancellors of other Universities,
- ✓ Members of University of Embu Council,
- ✓ Members of other University Councils,
- ✓ Members of Universities' Management Boards and Senates
- ✓ University of Embu Staff and students
- ✓ Invited guests,
- ✓ Parents, Family and Friends of graduands
- ✓ The Class of 2017 Graduands,
- ✓ Ladies and Gentlemen

A VERY GOOD MORNING TO YOU ALL !

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

First,

It is with great pleasure and honour that I welcome you all, our guests and our graduands, to Embu for this important occasion of the 2nd Graduation Ceremony of the University of Embu.

I also extend this welcome to our Chancellor, Prof Musili Wambua as he prepares to preside over what will go down in the history of this University as the greatest moment that we – the Council, Management, Senate, Staff and students - have been waiting for since the establishment of this institution.

Secondly,

On my part, I feel very proud today that God has enabled me to witness this great day in the history of our University.

This day is truly historic because it marks our first graduation ceremony as a full-fledged and chartered public university.

Prior to the award of charter in October 2016, we were a constituent College of the University of Nairobi and our 1st Graduation Ceremony held on 30th September 2017, was conducted by the Chancellor of the University of Nairobi, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi. Similarly, the students who graduated during that ceremony were conferred with degrees and awarded certificates of the University of Nairobi.

Today, we have our own Chancellor, Prof. Paul Musili Wambua, presiding over the 2nd Graduation Ceremony and our students are, for the first time, going to be conferred with degrees and awarded certificates of the University of Embu.

On behalf of the Council, I pass our sincere appreciation to our mother, the University of Nairobi, through the Chancellor, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi and the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi and former Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha, for nurturing us patiently and helping us crawl until today when we are able to walk and run as well. You will forever be part of us, we cannot forget you. May God grant you favours and mercies so that you can flourish even higher and continue giving us that helping hand whenever we call upon you in our journey to overtaking you.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

To the Graduands,

I say congratulations for making it to the history books of this prestigious University. We are very proud of you for this great achievement.

Yes, Life is a journey, but along the way, we must stop to celebrate our milestones, and your graduation today is a big big milestone, not only for you, but also for all of us in the University including the Council, the Management, the Senate, our lecturers, staff, parents, friends and family, and even the continuing students that you have left behind - and who have been looking at you as their worthy mentors.

You have all worked very hard to get to this point and it really is worth celebrating.

It is a good time to look back on all that you have accomplished and all the good times you have had along the way, while understanding that your future is full of opportunities that await you.

Today, you are celebrating both an ending and the beginning of a great life after University and to some of you, an ending to a very long long and

tiring education journey that you began at the primary school level.

The ending today, of course, is that of your university education and certainly not the end to learning. You will be empowered in a few minutes; you will be given the power to do all that appertains to that degree; your knowledge and skills have been sharpened and you have a better understanding of the world of work that you are graduating to join. You have had the benefit of interacting, and have been mentored by qualified, dedicated and experienced lecturers at the University of Embu.

The power that is going to be bestowed upon you today is to change the world and make it better than you found it.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

I have no doubt in my mind that the students who are graduating from this University today are well

prepared to venture into the world and make the best contribution that will improve the welfare of our nation and all humanity in general. Many of them took advantage of the wide range of opportunities available at the University for Personal Growth, intellectual stimulation, co-curricular activities and other programmes that the University offered. Most of them have excelled, thereby learning the value of dedication and teamwork.

On our part, we must continue assisting them as they go out into the world and praying to God to grant them mercies and special favours and open paths and opportunities for them so that they can make their contribution to society; of which I am sure that they so much desire to make.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

Allow me also to take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to the President of the Republic

of Kenya, H.E. Hon. Uhuru Muigai Kenyatta and the Government through the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, Dr. Fred Matiang'i, for appointing me to Chair the University of Embu Council for another term and for giving me yet another opportunity to make a difference in the lives of so many people that are connected to our great University.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

Allow me also to call upon the members of the new University Council who were appointed with me to rise up so that we can appreciate them.

- ✓ Please wave to our guests.
- ✓ Let us appreciate them with a clap.

Thank you.

I take this opportunity to congratulate them. The new Council was appointed by the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education and appeared in the Kenya Gazette Notice No.7600 and 7601

dated 7th August 2017, and was inaugurated on 6th September 2017 at a brief ceremony held at the University.

We as a Council pledge our total commitment towards the realization of the University Vision and Mission through quality leadership.

We will remain fully committed to enhancing the University's standing as a place where gifted scholars focus on research, teaching, and mentoring the rising generation to become engaged citizens and tomorrow's leaders in all walks of life.

More importantly, I wish to recognize the commendable efforts of the previous University of Embu Councils, the Management, and the staff in steering this University towards attaining success after success since it was established.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

The University of Embu has been on an upward growth trajectory since its establishment in 2012. We have carried out extensive infrastructural improvement and development initiatives to match the needs of our increasing student and staff population.

To our continuing students, I wish to assure you, on behalf of the University Council that the University of Embu will continue to maintain high standards of excellence in academics, teaching, research and service to community.

Over the years, we have tried our best to ensure that we keep improving over and over; and we are not about to stop in this endeavour. We will continue to implement major development initiatives geared towards ensuring quality teaching/learning environment so that everybody

is motivated to do their best. All I ask of you all is to continue being good ambassadors of this great University.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

Distinguished guests, graduands, Ladies and Gentlemen, In conclusion, on behalf of the University of Embu Council, and the entire University of Embu fraternity, I wish to once again convey our appreciation to the Government through the Ministry for Education, Science & Technology for the financial allocation we have been receiving since the University was established, without which some of our development projects would not have taken off.

I also thank our development partners for continuing to support us and also our members of staff for working tirelessly to ensure that the University meets its targets as outlined in our

current 2014-2018 Strategic Plan. In order to incorporate emerging issues, this Strategic Plan is under review to 2018-2028.

I wish to assure all students and staff that the Council is committed to improving your welfare. Indeed, a good learning and working environment is critical to the success of any academic institution.

Finally, I wish to commend all those who have made this day a success. I thank the Acting Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Daniel Mugendi and the University of Embu management and the entire team of staff and students for their commitment in making this day very colourful, hospitable and memorable for our guests and our graduands.

I also thank our Guests for sparing some of their time in their busy schedules to come and celebrate this day with us.

Thank you all. May God bless you.

Dr. Margaret Gikuhi

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

It now my great pleasure to invite you to address the congregation and thereafter, confer Degrees and award Certificates and Diplomas of the University of Embu.

Welcome, Mr. Chancellor Sir.