



# **UNIVERSITY OF EMBU**

**SPEECH**

**By**

**Dr. Margaret Gikuhi  
Chairperson,  
University of Embu Council**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Graduation Ceremony  
Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2018**

- The Cabinet Secretary; Ministry of Education, Science and Technology,
- The Chancellor, University of Embu, Prof. Paul Musili Wambua
- Our Guest Speaker, Prof. P.K. Nair, University of Florida
- Chancellors of Sister Universities present
- Embu County Government Representatives
- Chairpersons of Councils of other Universities present
- Vice-Chancellors of other Universities present
- University of Embu Council Members
- Principals of University Colleges
- Members of University Councils,
- Members of University Management Boards and Senates
- University of Embu Staff
- The Students Council
- Our Graduands, and your families and friends
- Continuing Students
- Invited guests
- Ladies and Gentlemen.

## **GOOD MORNING**

**Mr. Chancellor Sir,**

First, I start by welcoming all our Guests, Graduands, Parents, Guardians, Family Members, Well-wishers and all our Stakeholders to the University of Embu and to this important celebration in our University calendar.

On behalf of the University Council, I thank you all for Coming.

Secondly, I want to appreciate our Chancellor, Prof. Paul Musili Wambua, for gracing this occasion and for his focused leadership which has enabled the University to make great strides of development over the last two years since the award of Charter. Specifically, I thank the Chancellor for shedding off his ceremonial position of Chancellor and folding his sleeves to get to work as a hands-on leader of the University. The University is experiencing phenomenal growth as a result of your continuous engagement with Council, Management, Staff and Students. Please keep up the good work.

My sincere congratulations also go to the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Daniel Mugendi for his historic appointment as the First Vice-Chancellor of the University of Embu. On behalf of the University Community, I thank the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education for the appointment after a highly competitive recruitment and interview process conducted by the University Council.

I have worked as the Chairperson of Council for this University since it was established in 2012 with Prof. Mugendi being the pioneer Principal, later the Ag. Vice-Chancellor after the Award of Charter in 2016 and now the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chancellor in 2018. I have no doubt that we have the best Vice-Chancellor we could get for this University.

I also welcome our Guest Speaker Prof P.K. Nair, the Supervisor of Prof. Daniel Mugendi during his Ph.D studies, for travelling over 12,000 Kilometers over seas and over vast lands to come to Kenya to not only give a key note Speech during our 3<sup>rd</sup> Graduation, but also to witness and support his former

post-graduate student, Prof. Mugendi, during his installation as the Pioneer Vice-Chancellor of this University. I can assure you that the University of Florida is producing great leaders and we are happy to be associated with you. I thank you for the wonderful speech that you have given

**Mr. Chancellor Sir,**

This is yet another great moment when we gather to celebrate the success of our 3<sup>rd</sup> Cohort of graduands - the Class of 2018.

It is especially gratifying to see so many of people - friends and relatives - who have put aside all their activities and work to come over to Embu to be with our graduands during this auspicious occasion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Graduation Ceremony.

I must say that as Council, we are happy with the work that the University Management, Senate, Staff and Students are doing for this University. You have all continued to impress us with your commitment to the realization of the Mandate of the University. Indeed it is as a result of your hard work and dedication that we have managed to shape and guide our graduands on a success path that will enable them to attain meaningfully better lives. On my part, as the Chairperson of the University Council, I must say that I truly appreciate your efforts and it is indeed a privilege for me to stand here before you and share in the joy of such a wonderful day.

In the same vein, I salute our parents, guardians, sponsors, partners and friends who supported these students in the course of their academic journey. We know the sacrifices you have endured to get these wonderful students to

where they are today. Please receive our appreciation for your contribution to the realization of this occasion. Congratulations are also in order for our stakeholders and partners especially the Embu Community and the Embu County Government. Thank you for your support. May you continue to receive more favors and abundant blessings.

### **To the Class of 2018 –**

I say a big Congratulation to you; this is your day, we cherish you and we celebrate you. Your class joined this University in September 2014 and since then, yours has been a smooth journey with minimal disturbances. You all know the experiences that other Universities have gone through during the same period and that your contemporaries there are yet to complete their studies. I must say that your group is a great one. Despite the teething problems and the challenges that we faced during the formative stages of the University when you reported, through your understanding and teamwork, you have not only survived the challenges and emerged victorious, but you have also thrived, and you have broadened your knowledge, expanded your world-view and also extended your horizons. Congratulations, once again.

You are among the first students in this University to enjoy many of the new facilities that we have been developing here over time unlike the 2012 and 2013 groups who joined when this University was just crawling. With your support and understanding, we have managed and continue to build a transformative University environment designed to support a vibrant teaching and learning space, academic excellence, creative thinking, as well as productive collaborations and partnerships.

Your class will always be remembered for the zeal and determination that you came in with in September 2014. At that time, your group recorded the highest number of students to join the University of Embu, numbering about 1500. The Vice-Chancellor tells me that during the orientation week it was even difficult to fit you in the Multi-purpose Hall (MPH) which was the largest hall, where the library was later located. This led to the rapid construction of more facilities like the Charter Hall and the Tentatorium Hall to accommodate the increasing number of students.

Today's occasion therefore gives us an opportunity to reflect on the journey and take stock of our achievements as we move forward with our transformation agenda.

**Mr. Chancellor Sir,**

Let me also appreciate you in a very special way first, for accepting to confer Degrees and award Diplomas and Certificates to our Graduands today.

I assure you of the commitment of the University Council to provide adequate resources for the smooth operations of the University for the realization of the University's objectives. And because of the team work effort and spirit that exists among the University Council, Management, Senate and Staff, I am confident that graduands have been well prepared; they have put in a lot of effort and are now ready to receive their well-deserved reward from you.

**Mr. Chancellor Sir,**

I cannot forget to appreciate the Council members that I work with for their commitment and focus on the interests and good of this University; I

appreciate my Council members for their great ideas and expertise which has made our work very easy. On behalf of the Council and that of my own, I want to renew our promise to the University of Embu Community that we shall work tirelessly for this University with a view to elevating the status of this institution to be at par with the best in the profession through quality leadership and governance.

As I have said in previous events in the University, as a Council, we will remain fully committed to enhancing the University's standing as a place where gifted scholars focus on research, teaching, and mentoring a new generation of leaders who will become better citizens of the world.

I also commend the University Management, the Staff and the students for their role in maintaining the smooth operations of the University and ensuring that we continue to celebrate success after success. I am particularly happy to note that the University has successfully transitioned from ISO 9001:2008 to ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System. A new quality management standard known as ISO 27001:2013 Information Security Management System (ISMS) has also been implemented to improve the quality of services and customer satisfaction. I am informed the University of Embu is the first University in Kenya to receive this certification. There is gradual transformation all round and we are receiving positive information about the University from Stakeholders and the community. This clearly shows that we are moving towards the right direction.

**Mr. Chancellor Sir,**

Lastly, On behalf of the University Council, the Senate and the University of Embu, I wish to thank the Government through the Ministry of Education - University Education & Research, for the support that they have accorded the University, without which, some of the development projects we are undertaking would have stalled or not taken off at all.

In conclusion, ladies and gentlemen, today, in the presence of the Chancellor, the University Council and Management, Senate, Staff, Students, Parents, Guardians and Sponsors, it is my sincere privilege to welcome our graduands to the honorable community of scholars and educated citizens from whom a lot is expected. You have earned your rightful place in society and as you join the alumni of the University of Embu. I know you will contribute to the enhancement of the legacy that has been cultivated by your predecessors.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**I leave you with one final thought to our graduands.**

Lift up your eyes and dare to stare at your future because your future is here for you to seize. Go ahead and live your Dreams. I wish you all the best for your future.

Thank you.

**Dr. Margaret Gikuhi – Chairperson, University of Embu Council**