

**SPEECH BY PROF. DANIEL MUGENDI,
PRINCIPAL, EMBU UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
DURING THE EMBU UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
STAKEHOLDERS' FORUM HELD ON
FRIDAY, 6TH NOVEMBER 2015 AT 10.00
A.M.**

- Honorable Lenny Kivuti - Senator Embu County
- His Excellency, The Governor, Embu County, Hon. Martin Nyaga Wambora
- County Executive Committee (CEC) Members ,
- Ministry of Education officials present
- Embu Community Leaders
- Members of the National Assembly
- Members of the County Assembly
- Members of Embu University Council
- Staff and students of EUC,
- Invited Guests
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good Morning,

First and foremost I want to take this opportunity to appreciate each one of you for accepting our invitation and for finding time in your busy schedules to attend this very important forum bringing together the stakeholders of Embu University College.

On behalf of the University community, and that of my own, I wish to convey our sincere gratitude to the Embu Community, the political leaders of the County Especially the MPs and the Senator, the County leadership led by the Governor, Embu Professionals, Religious leaders as well as the National Government for the support you have

continued to accord this University since its establishment.

Our sincere appreciation also goes to the University Council, students and staff of Embu University College for the great work they are doing here. We cannot forget our parents, guardians and sponsors for walking with us and encouraging us in this important journey of establishing a world class university in Embu.

May God Bless each one of you abundantly as you continue to support this great institution.

Today is indeed a momentous occasion in the history of Embu University College. The initiative that has brought us together, namely the Stakeholders' Forum, is meant to

give us an opportunity to chart the way forward for the future of this University. It demonstrates the importance in which the University Council and Management attach to the need for sustainable partnerships with the community so as to remain relevant and achieve the objectives for which EUC was established.

This day therefore, marks the beginning of this strong partnership between the University and our stakeholders as we dialogue on the way forward for the future of our University.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you are all aware, Embu University College was Established as a Constituent College of the UON through Legal Notice

No. 65 of 17th June, 2011 by H.E. the former President Mwai Kibaki . It therefore, became the successor to Embu Agricultural Staff Training (EAST) Institute.

After establishment, the University College was not allocated any finances because the National budget for the 2011/2012 Financial Year had already been finalized. It was not until 2012/2013 Financial Year when the new University College was allocated financial resources.

Some of you may be aware that at the time of the establishment of EUC, the infrastructures, and especially the academic facilities belonging to the former EAST College, were in a state of disrepair. We therefore had to embark on major repairs

and renovations of buildings to prepare for the pioneer students.

The first batch of 123 students reported to Embu University College in April 2013.

I am happy to inform you that this first group of students who joined EUC in 2013 are now in their final year. They will be completing their courses in April 2016 and be presented for the 1st Graduation ceremony thereafter.

I want to specifically thank the pioneer students for their courage and perseverance. They joined the University at a time when we were facing very many constraints and by working together through understanding and constant dialogue, we were able to overcome the challenges and enable them

reach where they are now. Indeed, God has been very kind to all of us and we do not take it for granted.

Our beloved stakeholders

I am also happy to note that many of the successes we are celebrating today are directly attributable to each one of you the friends of Embu University College;

1. You successfully lobbied the government to establish the University in Embu
2. Some of you even used your personal resources to oversee the process of starting this University
3. You accepted us, our students and staff with open arms and gave us

accommodation, food and even welcomed us to your homes as friends

4. You identified a suitable location for the new University. In fact it is one of the best settings for a University

Embu is a richly endowed county with wonderful people and resources. It is indeed a blessed land of opportunities with beautiful and agriculturally productive landscape, water, pasture for livestock, forests, hills and fascinating natural sceneries all around. Our students get amazed and happy when they arrive in Embu and soon realize that there is plenty of food and clean drinking water for all. They are happy because of the warmth and kindness of the Embu Community. We thank you for this.

Today, I stand proud in front of you all to declare that we have dutifully and diligently carried out the assignment entrusted unto us. Just three years down the line, Embu University College is indeed a giant that is just rising up to claim its rightful position in the league of world Universities. We stand tall amongst our peers; and our students, staff and the community will bear me witness that the impact we have made in the County is being felt in every corner of the County and especially around the University.

This is just the beginning of great things to come.

Our dear friends

Allow me now to briefly mention some of the milestones we have recorded as a

University since we commenced operations in 2013.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

1. STUDENTS ENROLLMENT

From an initial student enrollment of **123** students in **2013**, our students' population has increased steadily to **2,695** in **2015**.

This is a big leap and a demonstration of the potential for growth that EUC has. This is attributable to our increased publicity, marketing and visibility campaigns. Another factor that is attracting students to Embu University is positive talk and referral by the current students and staff. When they go home they tell their relatives and friends how wonderful Embu is and this encourages

prospective students and parents to come to EUC.

The community around Kangaru has also been kind, accommodating and supportive to the students and the students have been quite comfortable living and integrating with them.

Let us maintain this good image that we are trying so hard to maintain; even though we have a few challenges of bad publicity here and there, I am sure with your help we shall overcome.

2. ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES

Our menu of academic programmes offered at EUC has also grown tremendously from **8** Bachelors' degree programmes in **2013** to **48**

programmes in 2015; (Certificate – 2; Diploma – 2; Bachelors – 21; Masters – 11; and PhD - 12 programmes)

3. STAFFING

To serve the growing number of students, EUC has recruited the most qualified and talented staff from across the Country. The staff list has also been growing of course with the usual challenges of attracting and retaining the best candidates for various positions. Currently we have **223** staff in both teaching and non-teaching categories up from 11 staff who were working here when we inherited the institution from EAST College.

4. INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

a. Lecture halls – We inherited 8 classrooms from EAST and now in 2015 we have 27 classrooms

New classrooms have been built in the upcoming Administration building while some unused storage buildings in the farm have been renovated and converted into beautiful lecture halls called the Learning Centre (LC).

b. Students Hostels – Our hostel capacity in 2013 was 125 beds and in 2015 we have increased the capacity to 743 beds.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is important to know that the government through the Ministry of

Education Science & Technology is currently following a policy that delinks admission to University on availability of accommodation space. This is intended to allow the community to benefit economically by putting up decent student accommodation facilities for rent. That is why most of the students in EUC, over 2000, live in private accommodation facilities all around the institution. This definitely spurs the economic growth of the County.

c. Planned facilities

I am sure that you have noticed the Building coming up near Isaak Walton, this will be our Main

Administration Block for the University and once completed sometime in 2016 it will change the landscape of this entire area.

Currently we are completing a 500 capacity Multi-Purpose Hall and within this financial year, we will break the ground for commencement of the construction of a modern Library, a Tuition Block and an Office block.

Other ongoing projects include:

- Construction of a New Gate as well as acceleration and deceleration lanes.
- Construction of footpaths and improvement of Internal Road Network

- New Science complex – with
Labs, Lecture halls, Offices
- Rehabilitation of the water
supply system
- Construction of an Amphitheatre

5. INSPECTION BY THE COMMISSION FOR UNIVERSITY EDUCATION AND PROGRESS TOWARDS AWARD OF CHARTER

Legal requirements under the University act
2012:

Under Universities Act 2012 Part V:

42. (3) A constituent College shall
within a period of **THREE YEARS** since
its establishment, apply to the

Commission for grant of a charter under the Act.

42. (4) Where the Commission is not satisfied, it may recommend to the Cabinet Secretary an extension for a period of **ONE YEAR** or conversion of the Constituent College to a **CAMPUS** of the mentoring University.

The third option is to have the Constituent College **CLOSED** and the government may take over and convert the facilities for other uses.

INSPECTION BY THE COMMISSION FOR UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

The Technical Inspection Team from The Commission for University Education carried

out an inspection of Embu University College on 19th February 2015 to assess the progress made by Embu University College in mobilizing academic resources to meet the objectives for which it was set up and the extent to which the resources meet the Commission's Standards.

1. The Inspection Team made observations and recommendations that required the University College to immediately address and report back to the Commission.
2. The University College then embarked on implementing the recommendations and addressing areas that needed immediate / urgent attention.

3. EUC prepared and sent a detailed report to CUE detailing the areas and the action taken to address the issues.
4. The report was based on the preliminary findings of the Inspection Team which contained recommendations categorized into:
 - Must Do
 - Other observations
5. The Commission sent to EUC a final Comprehensive Inspection Report and asked that the University submits another report on the actions taken in each of the areas.
6. The CUE wrote back to the University on 23rd June 2015 and advised that a confirmatory inspection will only be

carried out once the University College has acquired a Title Deed for its land.

7. EUC then worked tirelessly to have the process of acquiring the Title Deed expedited and we finally got it. (I want to immensely thank the Senator, Hon. Lenny Kivuti for greatly assisting us in this process)
8. A Confirmatory Technical Inspection was then carried out on 27th August 2015.
9. The Commission then asked the University to prepare the required accreditation documents and the necessary instruments in readiness for the award of charter to Embu University College.
10. The Commission has now approved the commencement of the process towards

the award of charter to Embu University College

6. NAMING OF THE UNIVERSITY

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The award of Charter to EUC will mean that the present name, ‘Embu University College’ will have to change. The Commission for University Education therefore expects the University College to propose a name for the Chartered University. Such a name should meet the future growth interests of the university as well as satisfy legal requirements.

This is one of the reasons why we have called you here today so as to make the process consultative and all inclusive. To

facilitate this process, the University Management appointed a working Committee called the **University Naming Committee** to coordinate the process of collecting views from various stakeholders about the name of the new University. We will be presenting to you the proposals that have been forwarded to us by the stakeholders and the suggested Name for the New University at Embu.

7. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, ladies and gentlemen, I must once again say ASANTE SANA for your support. It is our strong belief that this University will continue to stimulate economic growth and the revival of fortunes

and opportunities for the benefit of our community.

My appeal to you as our stakeholders is to continue engaging with Embu University and assist us in developing the University to be one of the best in the region. We do appreciate that along the way we will face some challenges but the challenges that we face on this road must only serve to make us strong and determined to achieve that which we value so much – a more developed, a more prosperous County and a world class epicenter of excellence in training and research and for service to humanity.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is now my pleasure to invite the Chairperson of the Embu University Council, Dr. Margaret Gikuhi, to

give her remarks before we present to you the report and recommendation of the Committee that has been collecting views from our stakeholders and compiling reports on the suggested names.

Welcome Madame Chair.

Thank you