

**SPEECH BY DR. MARGARET GIKUHI,
CHAIRPERSON, 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,

Good Morning.

Today is indeed a happy and historic day.

First, I take this opportunity to welcome all our guests to Embu University College.

Please feel welcome and appreciated.

I thank you all for taking time off your schedules to attend the Embu University College stakeholders' Forum this morning. As Embu University College, we have taken a conscious decision to organise this important stakeholders' session with you all to share our progress since the inception of the University College and more so now that we are about to transform into a full-fledged University.

Apart from the topic of the day as mentioned by the Principal, our aim is also to facilitate constant dialogue and sharing of ideas between the University and our stakeholders on issues that affect the institution's future as well as forge lasting partnerships for the betterment of Embu University and the Community.

As you all may be aware, stakeholder involvement in the affairs of Universities is increasingly gaining ground worldwide as a form of promoting key values of democracy on the one hand, while promoting peaceful co-existence and the stability of an institution on the other. Stakeholder engagement therefore implies a mutual willingness to listen and dialogue with one another and to

discuss issues of interest to both the stakeholders and the institution.

We at Embu University College have resolved that everything we do should be geared towards building long lasting relationships with our stakeholders. The University prides itself in establishing unique perspectives that will help bridge the gap between the academia, the community and all our friends and benefactors.

We believe that strong relationships with community, businesses, industry, government and non-governmental organisations and working together as partners and friends will enable us to play a major role in coming up with innovative

strategies that will benefit our people, our students, staff, researchers and ultimately our graduates.

As a University, it is our strong desire to bring to the communities around this University the benefits and advantages brought about by a leading, international institution of higher education by paying close attention to community empowerment, innovations for business and industry as well as the general improvement of families through sustainable economic empowerment.

Ladies and gentlemen

For us to make an impact in the society we definitely need a lot of good will from our stakeholders.

On our part as the University Council, I want to assure you of our commitment to support the University Management, staff and students so that together we can build a great University in this region.

Specifically;

To our students

- we will endeavour to provide the best learning environment in which they can be successful and reach their full potential by developing quality infrastructure and modern facilities for both academic and social welfare

To our parents;

- We promise to provide the best quality education and experience to our youth and prepare them for the challenges that await them in a dynamic and technologically fast-paced global village.

To the Community;

- we promise to build a cohesive and trust-filled relationship for peaceful co-existence
- We are committed to developing mutually beneficial partnerships and teamwork for community and University prosperity.
- we will work together to stimulate economic growth for all by creating opportunities for employment, business growth and investment aimed at providing quality services for those seeking to work or study at Embu University.
- We will focus on excellence in research that is of strategic and practical importance to the community

- We will work with the community in areas where our expertise is desired and relevant to the needs
- We will disseminate research findings to the community so as to assist them in solving their problems

To the Employers

The University will seek to:

- provide employers with a stream of suitably qualified, all-rounded and practically minded able graduates
- we will train students who are able to make a sound contribution to the sustainable development of their employer's business
- we will support the continuing professional development needs of employers and employees in every sector of our economy

- and match graduates and employers for the mutual benefit.

To the Staff;

- We will consistently and continuously seek to provide a good working environment and competitive terms of service to encourage growth and development of the staff

To the Government, our aim is to;

- Work closely with the County and National Governments in whatever area we can to help them achieve their aims, or improve their delivery of services to wananchi.
- We will work in partnership with all stakeholders to meet the educational needs of our youth and adult learners

- We will make Embu University College the University of choice in the specialised Academic, science and technological programmes that we offer at EUC

We will do this because we know that for us to succeed we need to be bold, we need to have a change in mindset, we need to be innovative to unlock the great potential that we have as a University.

On the issue of the name to be adopted by the new University, I wish to inform you that the Embu University Council has been following closely the process towards the award of charter since the Commission for University Education started the inspections.

In conclusion, my appeal to you as our partners is to engage with the University,

and assist us in the implementation of some of the critical projects that will see the dream of a world class university come true sooner than later.

I cannot promise that the march towards the attainment of the Embu University vision is going to be easy; but I am confident that the challenges that we have faced in our journey and those that we will face in the future will only serve to make us even stronger and more focused to the achievement of the Embu University dream of a great University and a prosperous Embu County.

God Bless Embu University.

Thank you