

**SPEECH BY DR. MARGARET GIKUHI, CHAIR, EMBU UINIVERSITY
COLLEGE COUNCIL ON THE OCCASION OF THE 2015 STAFF END OF
YEAR LUNCHEON TO BE HELD ON FRIDAY , 18th DECEMBER 2015 AT
12.00 P.M. IN THE DINING HALL**

- ✓ The Principal, Embu University College, Prof. Daniel Mugendi,
- ✓ Council Members
- ✓ The Deputy Principals
- ✓ Members of the University College Management,
- ✓ Deans and Directors
- ✓ Heads of Departments,
- ✓ Academic and Administrative staff,
- ✓ Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon,

I **feel humbled** and greatly privileged to join you in this very special occasion marking the end of the year 2015. I am happy that the University Management thought it fitting to throw a luncheon for all the staff as a way of saying thank you all for the wonderful job that you are doing. It's wonderful to see your bright faces today. I am sure you are as happy as I am. I thank you all, especially the Principal and the Management for inviting me, the members of the council to this important occasion.

Indeed, this is an exciting time to be at EUC. I can assure you that the community, the nation and world are clearly taking notice of our

achievements. So it is only right that we, too, should pause as a university community to reflect on our collective accomplishments.

I must say that we have a reason to celebrate; as the Principal has enumerated in his speech our achievements during the year 2015 are tremendous. The university is strongly on course and on behalf of the University Council I can say without fear of contradiction that we are very excited about our achievements and we look forward to a brighter future.

To the University Council,

I am proud of our continued rise and rise to the top as a University; distinguishing ourselves in the eyes of our peer institutions is an even greater testament to our resolve to build a great University here at Embu County for the benefit of the community.

I must commend you all the council members for being available for the University. I am always happy to lead a team of people who care deeply about the wellbeing of this University with all its staff and students. May God bless you abundantly and give you more energy in the coming days so that you can continue to serve this wonderful University.

To the University Management

I am proud of you the Management of Embu University College because through your leadership, EUC has continued to make great strides in all its areas of operations. We have acquired ISO 9001:2008 Certification for embracing quality management systems; We have been recognized for excellence in performance contracting in the year 2014/2015; in my view,

Embu University College is slowly taking over the reins of leadership in higher education both regionally and nationally through our commitment to academic excellence, sustainable and good governance practices across our research, teaching and learning, and all management and operational activities. All I can say is “Watch this space”!!!

To the staff

I am proud of you the staff of Embu University College. You have done your work well and that gives us a reason to be happy as a council knowing that we made the right decision during the interviews by selecting each one of you to join Embu University.

With the mentorship of our outstanding staff, our students are also breaking new ground, earning major recognitions and having a powerful impact in society. I am sure that when our first group of students graduates they will confirm that we have a strong faculty and staff at EUC who are committed to providing nothing but the best of the best.

To the Students

I am very proud of our students for when all other institutions are grappling with student demonstrations, strikes and confrontations with police, our students have remained calm even in the face of the challenges we have of inadequate facilities. Let us not imagine even for a moment that the students here are different from the students in other universities or other institutions;

Students are students, it is the way we treat them as staff and as management that differs; you may provide all the facilities and luxuries that students desire in a university, but what really keeps the students happy is our ability to connect with them through dialogue; through

treating them well in whatever area we serve them; and most of all sharing in their challenges and agonies before they explode.

This is an area that I must commend the Management and staff of Embu University for being among the best in the country when it comes to managing students. Congratulations and please keep it up.

To the community

I am also proud of the Community around the University. For those of you who are from the surrounding communities and neighbors of the University, I request you to kindly deliver this message to the community – the Message is ***“We, members of the Embu University Family appreciate your warm welcome to our students and staff and we indeed are grateful for the support you have given to us since we opened the University. We will continue to deepen our economic impact in the County — by providing employment, accessible quality education and stirring economic activity in Embu County especially the areas surrounding the University like Kangaru and Gakwegori among others; This way we aim to greatly enhance the lives of the community through our leadership and partnerships in technology transfer and support for local business - and don't forget to add ‘ I wish all our community members, neighbors, friends and stakeholders a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2015”***

Ladies and Gentlemen

Today we also celebrate the exemplary performance by Embu University College in 11th cycle of Financial Year 2014/2015 performance contract.

As the Chairman of the University Council, I have been involved in all PC activities from negotiation, vetting, signing, cascading and evaluation, representing the University.

Therefore, this performance gives me a lot joy in my heart; knowing the short time we have existed as an institution; yet we can favorably compete against top Universities and other state corporations in Kenya. This is a clear testimony that we have started on the right footing and our determination to make Embu University College a preferred destination of higher learning in Kenya and around the globe is no longer a dream but a reality.

This achievement wouldn't be possible without the contribution of each and every one of you. I therefore, thank the University Management and each one of you for a job well done. I encourage you to continue with the same spirit. Particularly, I am always impressed by the PC & ISO office whose team work, cooperation and meticulous coordination during PC exercises have seen us get commendations from the negotiating team from the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, vetting and independent evaluators from the Performance Contracting department in the Ministry of Devolution and Planning as one of the most organized teams.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Remember, getting to the top is very difficult but remaining at the top is even more difficult so to retain the excellent score calls for hard work and resilience on the part of each one of us.

I encourage you to work harder to ensure we score even better in future.

In this regard, I wish to assure the University management, staff and students of the Council's support and com

mitment towards maintaining this performance and generally ensuring an enabling environment to enable you drive the institution to the levels that we envisage.

In conclusion, I want to reiterate our commitment to making Embu University a hub of excellence through innovation, research and service to humanity.

I pledge the full support from the University Council for the Management initiatives to improve the status of Embu University College and to drive the institution to even higher levels.

I wish you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year 2016.

Thank you

God bless you,

God bless Embu University.