



**EMBU UNIVERSITY COLLEGE**

**SPEECH**

**BY**

**Dr. Margaret Gikuhi**

**Chairman,**

**Embu University College Council**

**1<sup>st</sup> Graduation Ceremony**

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2016**

- ✚ The Chancellor, University of Nairobi, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi
- ✚ Vice-Chancellor, University of Nairobi, Prof. Peter Mbithi,
- ✚ Chancellors of Sister Universities
- ✚ Principal, Embu University College, Prof. Daniel Mugendi
- ✚ Vice-Chancellors of other universities
- ✚ Members of University Councils,
- ✚ Members of Universities Management Boards and Senates
- ✚ Embu University College Staff and students
- ✚ Invited guests,
- ✚ Family and Friends of graduands
- ✚ Graduands,
- ✚ Ladies and Gentlemen

**Good Morning.**

**Madam Chancellor,**

I am most delighted and greatly honoured to join the University community to celebrate this big day. Thank you very much for being part of today's important event. We welcome all of you with open arms.

Today's occasion marks the first graduation ceremony of Embu University College for the conferment of Degrees, award of Diplomas and Certificates for students of University of Nairobi at Embu University College. On behalf of the University Council and on my own behalf, it is my pleasure to welcome you all to this first Graduation Ceremony of Embu University College.

I also take this early opportunity to congratulate all our graduands for qualifying to be in today's graduation list.

Congratulations are also in order for our parents, guardians and sponsors who are present here with us today to witness this great moment in the lives of our sons and daughters.

I also thank your friends and family members for being here to make this occasion a memorable one. I wish you all the best as you prepare to go out and celebrate after the conferment and awards.

This is a time, not only for celebrating, but also a time to reflect and look back at the inventory of all the things that you have invested in and those that you have acquired and in the course of your academic journey. It is also a time for both University of Nairobi and Embu University College to celebrate a strong working relationship that was geared towards your success.

Embu University College has been on an upward movement trend since its establishment in 2012. We embarked on extensive infrastructural improvement and development initiatives to match the needs of our increasing student population.

Alongside the development of infrastructure, the University College also engaged in capacity building to ensure that our students and staff are fully equipped to cope with the demands of the modern world.

I thank the University of Nairobi, led by the Vice-Chancellor and the Senate for mentoring us in the right direction.

Let me also recognize the remarkable efforts of the Embu University College Council, the Management, and the entire Embu University College staff for steering this University towards attaining the success we are celebrating today.

## **To the graduands,**

As you know, Embu University College has always upheld high quality standards in its academic activities as well as performance. I want to assure you that you are the products of concerted efforts by the University of Nairobi Senate and the Embu University College Academic Board. We have spared nothing in giving you the best that there is and now you are ready to join the market.

I am confident that your contribution in society will be of immense value and that you will have a positive impact to all those you will be called to serve. It is therefore important that you continue to uphold the good name of Embu University College, your Alma Mater.

I sincerely congratulate you for your success. There are a number of your colleagues with whom you started the journey with but have been unable to finish the journey, therefore count this as one of your blessings and give yourselves a pat on the back. Just like the Bible says; a farmer may plant seeds but depending on the soil and the location, some of the seeds may grow into fine seedlings and others may just wither and die or get chocked by the thorns. Consider yourselves excellent fruits because you have overcome the thorns, the bad weather, and the poor soil conditions and here you are, shining and ripe.

I know that the training you have received at Embu University College and the knowledge and skills you have acquired will make you an important resource towards development of our nation and the world in general. This is because you have been trained to apply innovation, solve problems, manage crisis, resolve conflicts, apply latest technological methods for the well-being of the society, nation and the world.

**Madam Chancellor**, Embu University College is committed to providing innovative, relevant, high quality education that is geared towards meeting the needs of a dynamic, modern society and technology-driven economy. I believe that we have the capacity and infrastructure to train and mould very responsible citizens whom we can look up to as futuristic leaders of our nation and the world. Soon we shall be coming up with strategies and platforms geared towards making our facilities state-of-the-art, technologically advanced, user-friendly and up-to-date with market needs and trends.

As you can see, Madam Chancellor, as you look around the University College, quite a number of new facilities have come up and additional ones are on the way. We have the new Library coming up, the New Administration Block that will house many offices and Lecture Halls, a Science Laboratory as well as a tuition block.

As a result of these and other efforts, we are experiencing a gradual transformation. We are receiving positive information about the University College from stakeholders and the community and this is surely a good sign that we are driving towards the right direction. Our student numbers are rising and our programmes are beginning to be in demand.

Part of the progress we have made is attributable to the support we have received from our stakeholders and partners.

On behalf of the Embu University College Council, the Management and Academic Board and the entire Embu University College community, I wish to thank the government through the Ministry for Education, Science & Technology for the support the University has been receiving without which some of our development projects would not have taken off.

I also wish to thank our development partners for continuing to support us and members of staff who have worked tirelessly to ensure that the University meets its targets as set out in its Strategic and Vision Plan.

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

**Finally, Madam, Chancellor allow me to direct a few comments to the graduands.**

You are graduating today because you satisfied your dedicated lecturers who, since your arrival at University, guided your academic development. You are also here today because of the many sacrifices made by your parents, guardians and well-wishers who have invested in your education.

The best way you can show them your gratitude is by making them proud of you through service to the nation with singular devotion in your areas of expertise and any other roles that may come your way. Let your performance and your work confirm that you are exemplary ambassadors. We have faith in you and we have no doubt that you have what it takes to meet our expectations.

Finally, I wish to commend all those who have made this day a success. I thank the Principal Prof. Daniel Mugendi and the Embu University College management for being committed and focused. Your visionary and selfless leadership have steered this University to its current position.

Thank you.

Dr. Margaret Gikuhi