



UNIVERSITY OF EMBU

SPEECH

By

PROF. PAUL MUSILI WAMBUA

Chancellor,

University of Embu Council

6th Graduation Ceremony

Friday, 17th September, 2021

**SPEECH BY PROF. PAUL MUSILI WAMBUA, CHANCELLOR,
UNIVERSITY OF EMBU DURING THE 6thGRADUATION CEREMONY
AT UNIVERSITY OF EMBU ON FRIDAY,17THSEPTEMBER, 2021**

- The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, Prof. George Magoha
- The Chairman, University of Embu Council, Dr. Kennedy Okong'o
- The Vice-Chancellor University of Embu, Prof. Daniel Mugendi
- Embu County Government Representatives
- Members of the University Council
- Members of the University of Embu Management Board and Senate
- Graduands
- University of Embu Staff and Students
- Parents and guardians
- Distinguished guests who are following this event online
- Ladies & Gentlemen

GOOD MORNING

Today is a very special day for all of us gathered here at the University premises and online, it is yet another of our Graduation Day. This day marks the end of our students' long academic journey from kindergarten, to primary and secondary school and thereafter four years at the University of Embu. This is the culmination of hard work and sheer determination.

Today, we also celebrate the end of a very stressful Academic Year marred by the COVID-19 Pandemic. I admire the resilience of both staff and students because, despite the challenges, we have managed to record many achievements, of course with God's grace. Our focus and team work is what has made us get through these difficult times successfully.

I start my speech by thanking our Cabinet Secretary, Prof. George Magoha, the Chief Administrative Secretary, and the Principal Secretary, Ministry of Education for gracing this occasion. It is indeed a great honour for us to have the Ministry of Education leadership here with us today as we celebrate this important milestone.

I also thank the Chairman of the University Council, Dr. Kennedy Okong'o, Members of the University of Embu Council, the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Daniel Mugendi and the University Management, Senate, Staff, Students, the graduands and all our stakeholders for working tirelessly towards the realization of this great day.

Further, I would like to congratulate the graduands and their families for their commitment to the objectives for which you joined the University of Embu. It is your day and I am sure all of you are also individually proud of your wonderful achievements.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

It is indeed very unfortunate that, for the second year running, we are unable to host our traditional large Graduation Ceremony gathering where we invite our parents, guardians, relatives, well-wishers and friends to come and celebrate with our students as they graduate. The COVID-19 pandemic has made it difficult for us to gather and so we must hold this Graduation Ceremony on a very scaled-down basis to prevent the spread of the disease. That is the reason why the Ceremony is being held virtually with just a handful of guests and a few graduands to represent the Class of 2021. The Ceremony is therefore, symbolic of what we have had to go through during the last one and a half years since the first COVID-19 case was reported in Kenya in March, 2020. Observance of COVID-19 prevention protocols has become the order of the day and a

lifestyle for all of us. This is what has now become popularly known as “the new normal”.

Even in the midst of all this, however, we should be grateful, that we are able to gather, both physically for a few of us, and virtually for majority of you, including our students, stakeholders, families and well-wishers. Also, above all, it is good to appreciate that we are well and healthy to join in congratulating our graduands for their singular achievement. We cannot take this for granted because there are millions of people around the world, including our own family members and friends, who have suffered or have been affected by this deadly virus.

My message today to the Graduating Class of 2021 is to urge you to be strong and rise above the social and economic challenges brought about by the pandemic. Be courageous and venture into the world with your heads high because you have been empowered with quality education and skills for life. Continue, after your graduation, to practice what you have learnt and seek to make the world a better place through your contribution to betterment of the community.

One way that you can use your future efforts to build a better world is to maintain the interaction with your fellow graduands of the University of Embu through the alumni network. The pandemic has proved that apart from online lessons and examinations, even meetings, conferences, seminars, workshops and many other forms of professional interaction including official work, can be done comfortably online. The online interaction tools you have been accustomed to here at the University of Embu will be great weapons for your success in the future world of work and business.

As you are all aware, this year in July, I joined the University Community to celebrate the ranking of the University of Embu at Number One

position among all state corporations during the 2019/2020 Financial Year performance evaluations by the Government. I take this opportunity to congratulate the University community for the achievement. Let us keep up the spirit of maintaining quality and excellence in all our University operations. There are many achievements that we have recorded since the award of Charter in October 2016. This is an indication of the commitment of the Council, Management, Senate, Staff and the Students' body to make the University the best.

I can only hope that the Class of 2021 graduands will continue to uphold the good image of the University in whatever you do and wherever you go. I call upon you to try as much as you can to contribute to the development of the University in your own way, even if it is by talking good about the University of Embu or referring students to study at this University. Tell them it is a good place to be in, there are lots of good people, and that although it sometimes gets a little chilly during the cold season, it's the best place to be for your undergraduate and postgraduate studies because you are assured of quality education and completion of your studies on time.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

We have built a name for this institution nationally and internationally. As we now enter our 6th year, we are humbled by the successes we have achieved and we resolve to raise the bar higher and sustain this amazing University to the highest levels of success. For this, we count on your continued support as Council, Management, Senate, Staff, Students, Alumni, and all Stakeholders.

On my part, I will be completing my term as the Chancellor of this great University on the 7th October 2021 and therefore this is certainly my last Graduation Ceremony to preside during my term.

When I became the Chancellor, I visited the University and I was very much impressed by its uniqueness, in terms of location, potential for growth, management commitment and the high value staff and students that the University has been recruiting. I resolved to give it my total commitment and support and I assure you I have never regretted.

I believe that the University of Embu is indeed a great place to be; I am sure that even visitors coming to the University for the first time can feel the spiritual power of nature that resonates all around. We get re-energized by the natural ecosystem inside the University, from the lush green lawns and beautiful flora and fauna around the Administration Block, to the impressive dams and beautiful indigenous trees in the University compound, not forgetting the adorable snow white peaks of Mt. Kenya seen every day just across the academic buildings. Whenever I come to the University, I often feel renewed by the energy from mother nature. I hope that many of you agree with me. I am proud that together we have managed to make this institution what it is today.

Lastly, I thank you all, the Council, Management, Staff, Students and all the University of Embu stakeholders, for the support you have accorded to me during my term as the Chancellor. I pray that God will continue to keep all of you well as you continue to serve this institution.

I congratulate our graduands, once again, for your graduation and wish you the very best for your future.

Long live the University of Embu

Thank you and may God bless you.

Prof. Paul Musili Wambua, LL.D,FCI Arb.

Chancellor