



UNIVERSITY OF EMBU

SPEECH BY

PROF. PAUL MUSILI WAMBUA

CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF EMBU

DURING THE

4TH GRADUATION CEREMONY

AT

UNIVERSITY OF EMBU

ON

20TH SEPTEMBER 2019 AT 9.00 A.M.



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- The Speaker of the Kenya National Assembly, Hon. Justin Muturi
- Chair of University of Embu Council, Dr. Margaret Gikuhi
- Vice-Chancellor, University of Embu, Prof. Daniel Mugendi Njiru
- Embu County Government Representatives present
- Chancellors from other Universities
- Members of the University Council
- Chairpersons of other University Councils Present
- Vice-Chancellors of Sister Universities Present
- Members of the University Management Board
- University of Embu Senate
- University of Embu Staff and Students
- Graduands
- Parents and guardians
- Distinguished guests
- Ladies & Gentlemen

Ladies and Gentlemen,



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Good morning!

I am delighted to join the University community, our graduands, parents, family and friends for our 4th Graduation Ceremony. This is a celebration of hard work and commitment to purpose – a feature that makes the University of Embu unique among other universities in Kenya.

I thank all our guests for coming today; and you have come – from all corners of the Country - to support our graduands. On behalf of the University community, I wish to let you know that we appreciate you very much for the support that you have accorded us in this journey; when you support our students you are also supporting us as a University.

I believe that you will always remember this day as a very special day for us all, more so for the graduands and their families. I trust that our graduands will



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continue to follow in the footsteps of your predecessors as you transition from the University to the real world. I have no doubt that the University has equipped you with the necessary skills to live a distinguished life and enjoy considerable success in all that you do.

My special congratulations go to each graduand today. Your graduation is one of your greatest lifetime achievements and we are proud to be associated with you.

First, I want to say *Karibu Sana* the Speaker of the Kenya National Assembly, Hon. Justin Muturi and thank you for gracing this occasion. We are happy to have you among us. This is indeed a great honour to us.

I also thank the Chairperson of the University Council, Dr. Margaret Gikuhi, the Vice Chancellor,



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Prof. Daniel Mugendi, the Council Members, the University Management, Senate, Staff, Students, the graduands, the community around the University, and all our stakeholders and well-wishers for working tirelessly towards the realization of this great day; and for being part of this outstanding accomplishment by our students and staff.

Secondly, I thank our parents and guardians for supporting our students in their entire academic journey from pre-school to university level. We all share in your joy today and pray that you will continue to support them even more to realize their full potential.

Dear Graduands,

As you start a new chapter in your life, I want to wish you all the best. Many of you will go on to further your education here at the University of Embu, while others will join other universities across the world.



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Some of you will take up jobs in the labour market and others will opt for self-employment.

My message to you today is that you need to go out into the world with your heads held high. Excelling in academics requires not only ability and talent, but also hard work, personal commitment and dedication. We are very proud of your successes. We are also proud that, like previous cohorts of students who have graduated from the University of Embu, you will be going out to the world with the requisite knowledge, skills and values that will help you to contribute to the advancement of the societies where you will live and work.

Today marks a major turning point in your life. You will be empowered to go into the world and do all that appertains to the qualifications you have attained. As you move to build your career, my advice to you is that in addition to your degree, you must pay attention to the relationships you build, the skills



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you acquire along the way and how much you learn from the mistakes you make, because these will also play a big role in what kind of a professional you will be and the professional options that will be available to you. Absorb and consider everything; this is a time to be a sponge and learn as much as you can.

Here are five tips on qualities that will help you break the barriers and emerge victorious in your careers as you begin your post-university life:

1. Beware of Perfection

As we all know, none of us is perfect. We all keep trying and doing our best. Sometimes the best outcome you're going to get from what you do may not be as good or as perfect as you expect. Do not get too stressed up because there will always be another chance for you to get better results and experience. Just be encouraged and keep working.



2. Avoid Discouragement

Many of us in this congregation know that when one graduates from university, there is a period of time that you tend to feel discouraged and unable to tell the direction where your life is headed. This happens to almost everyone. Keep away from the company of the prophets of doom who exaggerate talk about unemployment, jobless graduates, declining economic prospects and other discouraging phrases that make you feel like there is nothing left in the world for you. Look for something to do and do it so well like no one has ever done it before and you will have cut out your niche.

3. Be Creative

Creativity is the foundation of life. It gives rise to innovation and spurs entrepreneurship. I am sure that each one of you here has some idea inside of you that you always wanted to develop. Don't let those ideas



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that you have die away. Research by the World Bank shows that young, growth-oriented ventures contribute significantly to net employment growth and help enhance competitiveness and economic productivity of populations by introducing new products, developing fresh novel business ideas and opening new markets. Don't be left out; go out and grow your ideas into big initiatives and ventures. You will not know how big your ideas can get unless you try them out.

4. Keep Your Values Strong

In the current world, ethics and integrity are becoming more and more important to employers and the society as a whole, in addition to competence and qualifications. Recruiters are now using values-based job interview questions, which aim to assess whether a candidates' values are in tandem with the values of the organisation. People of high integrity



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and good moral standing are currently the most sought after.

5. Never Stop Learning

Lastly, do not let yourself become outdated. The people who succeed in their life plans and careers are those who are able to quickly adapt, learn and evolve in the environments and situations that they are in. They are in constant search for new skills and are able to control their circumstances. They take personal responsibility for their failures and mistakes and make efforts to rectify and move ahead.

Dear Graduands,

I believe that if you combine these qualities with the educational foundation that you have gained from the University of Embu, then you will be well prepared to take your next steps in life. I urge you all to take those steps **CONFIDENTLY**.



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Go ahead, and create a world which will be different, which will be way much better. Go ahead, and create a world where there will be less poverty and unnecessary human suffering, be the source of change that this world needs.

Please go ahead and make us proud.

This University will be proud of you because you will make a great impact in society and when you are successful you will also pass this learning to the next generation of young people so that they can follow in your footsteps.

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In conclusion,

Once again, I congratulate our graduands for qualifying to be on the roll of graduands in this 4th Graduation Ceremony. Congratulations to all the parents who are present here to witness this great



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moment in their lives; thank you our guests for coming; thank you our friends, relatives and family members for being here to make this event a most memorable one.

Thank you and May God bless you.

God bless the University of Embu.

Prof. Paul Musili Wambua

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