



# **UNIVERSITY OF EMBU**

**SPEECH BY**

**PROF. DANIEL MUGENDI NJIRU**

**VICE CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF EMBU**

**DURING THE**

**4<sup>TH</sup> GRADUATION CEREMONY**

**HELD AT THE**

**UNIVERSITY OF EMBU**

**ON**

**20<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2019 AT 9.00 AM**



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- The Speaker of the Kenya National Assembly, Hon. Justin Muturi
- Chancellor, University of Embu, Prof. Paul Musili Wambua
- Chair of University of Embu Council, Dr. Margaret Gikuhi
- 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

Good morning.



*(Acknowledge special guests present, Chancellors, Chair of Councils, Vice-Chancellors of other Universities, DVC's representing, County Leadership and Politicians)*

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all to the University of Embu and to this 4<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony. We thank God for giving us the opportunity to be here to celebrate the success of our students and our institution. A very special welcome to you parents, guardians and family members of our graduands.

Thank you for turning up in large numbers to witness and celebrate our students as they graduate. I want to thank our Special Guest the Speaker of the Kenya National Assembly, Hon. Justin Muturi, for sparing some time out of his busy schedule of National duties to be with us today. This is a demonstration that the Government takes pride in the achievements of our students.



Thank Mr. Speaker, Hon. Justin Muturi for supporting us and for coming to celebrate this day with us. I can comfortably tell you that because of your support both inside and outside Parliament, the University of Embu is today a force to reckon with in the higher education sector.

I also would like to extend my appreciation to the Government of Kenya, through the Ministry of Education for the immense support that it has and continues to accord us especially in the development of academic facilities and infrastructure.

I thank the Chancellor, Prof. Paul Musili Wambua for his wise counsel and wisdom. He has been a pillar of strength to us all. Mr. Chancellor Sir, we thank you for your great leadership.

I appreciate the commitment of the University Council for the support it continues to accord the University Management and ensuring that we as a



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University are able to offer our students excellent services. I would also like to appreciate the University Management, Staff and Students. Without you we would not have realized the success that we are celebrating today.

We recognize the good will and support that we have continued to receive from the Embu County leadership. We do not take your support and good will for granted and we look forward to even stronger collaborations to enable us give our students and our people the best higher education opportunities in the land.

We as a University will continue to strive to produce knowledge that is of local relevance. We shall endeavor to include the perspectives of the local community in all our activities for the benefit of the community, and we are committed to making a



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difference here at Embu County, where the University has found a home.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, I am proud to report that the University of Embu has continued to excel in the public sector reform programme, commonly referred to as Performance Contracting by being ranked in the excellent category for the 4<sup>th</sup> year running. The University is alive to and attuned with the Government's efforts to have a public service which is responsive, prompt, effective, impartial and one that provides its services equitably and efficiently.

In 2019, the University has recorded some major milestones. In March, we moved into the magnificent New Administration building that is now home to the University Administrative and Academic Offices. Construction of the new University Main Gate is complete and in use. Remarkable progress has also been made in the construction of the Tuition Block



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and the completion of an international standard, Olympic-size athletics track and other sports fields which will all be in use very soon.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, The University has recently launched the Bachelor of Laws programme under the new School of Law. The pioneer class joined us at the beginning of this Academic Year in August 2019. The establishment of the School of Law was your brainchild Mr. Chancellor Sir. I am happy to report that through your efforts, we have finally managed to have this programme take-off in record time. We thank you so much Mr. Chancellor Sir, for your foresight and great thoughts for this University.

Currently, we are working to launch new programmes in Hospitality and Tourism Management, Architecture, Medicine and Engineering.



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I am also happy to report that in October 2018, we successfully launched the University of Embu Endowment Fund. The Fund will be key in assisting our needy students to complete their studies as well as assisting in other University development initiatives. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for giving us your support in this noble initiative, and to appeal for more support towards the same to enable the fund to realise its target.

In our quest to establish ourselves as a centre of excellence in teaching, research and service to community, we also experience challenges; among the challenges that the University is grappling with is reduced funding from the National Government, diminishing student enrollment and difficulties in attracting and retaining highly skilled and competent staff. We are however positive that with time, we will overcome these challenges and realize our vision of



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being a dynamic epicenter of excellence in training and research for service to humanity.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, As I conclude, allow me to once again congratulate the Class of 2019. This is the day and the place for your parents, peers, mentors, supporters, family, friends and admirers to gather together to recognize and celebrate your accomplishments. We also celebrate you and are very proud of you. This graduation is yet another feather in your cap. I am confident that we have equipped you with the necessary knowledge and skills that you need as you venture into the world of academia, entrepreneurship, employment or being employers.

**Dear Graduands;**

Today not only marks the culmination of your four year journey through University but also the beginning of your journey into the future. I certainly know that this will be an exciting future of adventure



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and self-realization. Travel well in your journey of life. Use the knowledge and skills you have gained to shed light to those who may be in the dark. Be curious. Be creative. Be a champion for integrity and the good. Show the world that University of Embu has helped you to become your best.

I hope that your journey sometimes brings you back to Embu; we will be glad to welcome you again, as continuing students, as staff, as lecturers, as suppliers, as mentors, as parents, as alumni and as friends.

I wish you all the best in your future.

God be with and bless you.

Thank you.

***It is now my pleasure to invite the Chairperson of the University of Embu Council, Dr. Margaret Gikuhi, to address the congregation.***

Prof. Daniel Mugendi Njiru, Ph.D  
**VICE-CHANCELLOR**



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