

ADDRESS BY DAVID KARIUKI, DEPUTY GOVERNOR EMBU COUNTY DURING THE 3RD GRADUATION AND VICE CHANCELLOR INSTALLATION HELD ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2018 AT THE UNIVERSITY'S GRADUATION PAVILION

Chancellor, University of Embu

The Guest of Speaker,

Vice-chancellor, University of Embu

Chairman of the University of Embu Council

Member of the University Council

Management Board

University Senate

Graduands

Staff

Students

Parents and guardians

Ladies and gentleman,

Good Morning,

I wish to first and foremost take this great opportunity to, on behalf of his Excellency, Governor Martin Nyaga Wambora, welcome you to Embu County, the land of opportunities. The County Government of Embu is indeed privileged to be part of this propitious occasion where conferment of various degrees and award of diplomas and in addition, installation of the University First Vice-Chancellor will take place. I take this early opportunity to, undoubtedly, applaud and congratulate the University Management for a job well done.

LONG WAY

As we celebrate this milestone today, it is important to remind ourselves of the long and certainly convoluted journey that our far sighted leaders took to establish a fully chartered University in Embu County. As envisaged in their vision, the University today is reported to be gradually transforming the face of our county besides providing education and skills to both the young and old people for the job market. As a young leader born and bred in this great County, I salute all the leaders who came and reasoned together to lobby for the establishment of this great learning

institution for posterity. These leaders clearly understood the power of education and its inherent potential in transforming people's lives and communities.

COUNTY ECONOMIC GROWTH

Embu County government is highly committed to supporting smooth running of all institutions within its area of jurisdiction without any discrimination. My government will always ensure any support that such institution require is extended with speed and flexibility to ensure timely realization of their set strategic objectives. Apparently, establishment of the University of Embu has clearly demonstrated that a previously unexploited area can realize unprecedented economic and social growth, thus improving the overall nation's Gross Domestic Product. Kangaru and Gakwegori areas near this University were two sleepy villages. Today, the two roar like a wounded lion due to new massive economic strength. Thanks to University of Embu. The University infrastructural growth is phenomenal and I see Embu County attaining city status in a matter of years. I promise this University in particular, that the County government of Embu will walk with you every step of the way.

We shall continue to partner with University of Embu with a view to establishing more beneficial engagement. Already the University of Embu, in conjunction with Embu County government will soon be putting up School of Medicine that will see the students undertake their studies in Embu Level 5 Hospital. This engagement will elevate Embu Level 5 to a full Teaching and Referral Hospital and put it in the league of Kenyatta National Hospital in Nairobi and Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital in Eldoret. Embu County Government is ready to actualize this plan. Vice-Chancellor Sir, you have our support and that is why the local politics never find its way into the University system.

STABLE GOVERNANCE

I'm indeed happy to report that there have been peace and tranquility between the University and communities living nearby. This I attribute to availability to stable governance structures and high level of discipline by the entire University community. Students, the world over and mainly when in a group are a bit petulant but this has not been experienced here. Vice-Chancellor Sir, your student value peace, order and systems. Potential employers out there, come for your new employees here. A well prepared group for the job market.

University of Embu does not disappoint

And finally...

Graduands. reality check.

I strongly believe that you are well prepared to fight for your space in the job market out there. It is true; you are certainly going to find a crowded field of job seekers. All you need is a positive and conquering attitude. Patience out there is key. Slight adjustment of your current lifestyle is advisable. Your first employment might not pay you well. Out there, people start small and go up the ladder with time. Out there, one's ego must be managed in order to survive. You are the one to alert potential employers of existence. They will not know until you appear into the scene. A good resume will definitely take you where money is. And once where money is, you must develop a saving plan from day one because your employer can sack you. The savings can push you for some time before you land on another job

Once again, I congratulate the graduands for finishing this very engaging academic race. I, also congratulate Prof. Daniel Mugendi for being installed as the first University of Embu Vice-Chancellor.

Thank You