

SPEECH BY CHAIRPERSON OF COUNCIL DR. MARGARET GIKUHI
DURING THE CHARTER AWARD CELEBRATION OF UNIVERSITY OF
EMBU HELD AT UNIVERSITY OF EMBU, 26TH NOVEMBER, 2016

The Chancellor, Prof. Paul Musili Wambua

Governor, Embu County- H.E Martin Wambora

Senator Embu County, Hon Lenny Kivuti

Members of Council

Acting Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Daniel Mugendi

The Management Board

Members of the University Senate,

Vice Chancellors of sister Universities,

Members of County and National Parliament,

The Entire Embu County Leadership,

Staff and students,

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Afternoon

First, I take this early opportunity to congratulate Prof. Paul Musili Wambua, MCI Arb. LL.B (Nbi); Dip. Law (KSL); LL.M (Lon); MBA (USIU); LL.D (Ghent) for being appointed the first Chancellor of the University of Embu. These are credentials of a highly qualified person fit to be appointed to the highest post in university hierarchy. On your behalf, I wish to thank him for accepting to take up this big responsibility. Mr. Chancellor, Sir, we welcome you wholeheartedly to this great institution.

Secondly, it is my great pleasure to welcome all our guests to the University of Embu. Today we celebrate two remarkable milestones in our University's history; the first is the Award of Charter by His Excellency, President Uhuru Kenyatta on 7th October 2016. The second is the installation of the first Chancellor today 26th November 2016. Our great appreciation is to our President for appointing a highly qualified Lawyer, dedicated teacher and mentor to be at the helm of this University.

It is indeed a great honor and privilege for me to serve as the first Chairperson of the University of Embu Council as we celebrate these milestones. Allow me therefore Mr. Chancellor Sir to recognize in a very special way all those who have played a key role in shaping the history of this University.

I would like, especially, to thank the pioneer Ag. Principal Prof. Paul Kanyari who is the current Chairman of Council Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology and his team from University of Nairobi for

starting this university. To our great team led by the Ag. Vice-chancellor Prof. Daniel Mugendi Njiru. Prof. Kiplagat Kotut Ag. Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic, Research and Extension) and Prof. Eucharia Kenya Ag. Vice-Chancellor (Planning, Administration & Finance) thank you for dedicating many hours away from the comfort of your families and even slept in the dormitories as you worked to develop the infrastructure we are enjoying today. Our appreciation is also extended to the management and all the staff for serving this institution with a lot of dedication. Our wonderful and very disciplined students together with our parents and guardians. Thank you for the faith and trust you had in our ability to deliver our mandate and ignored the condition of the infrastructure because deep in your minds you shared our vision

We are delighted to see so many of our stakeholders joining us this morning to celebrate with us. On behalf of the University Council and the entire University Community, I thank you all most sincerely for your continued support. It is because of your goodwill and prayers that we have continued to scale to greater heights of success.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The year 2016 has been a remarkable year for us all at the University. On 30th September, you witnessed our first Graduation Ceremony when we released our first group of students to go into the world and use the knowledge and skills we had imparted in them to contribute to the development of this great country.

Another great achievement that I am proud to report to you stakeholders is the excellent grade the University attained in Performance Contracting for the Financial Year 2014/2015 among many other achievements. These are indicators that the Council and all the staff are in sync with the mandate given to us by the government. Allow me to appreciate the enormous support we have received from the government through the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology led by the Cabinet Secretary Dr. Fred O. Matiang'i and his Principal Secretary Prof. Collete A. Suda. Thank you all of you Stakeholders for your support in many and varied ways during these 5years that have propelled this institution to the Chartered status.

A big thank you to our Mother University headed by the Chancellor Dr Vijoo Rattansi; the Former Vice- Chancellor Prof George Magoha and the Current Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peter Mbithi; the Council and Senate for being great mentors to us and equipping us with the skills required to develop a great University

These milestones that we are celebrating today are the culmination of the enormous resources that have been invested by all the stakeholders. However, we are still facing a lot of challenges in financial resources that we require so desperately to develop the requisite infrastructure to enable us mount many programs to meet the skill deficit among the residents in Embu County, Kenya, and Africa. It is also a great challenge to attract and retain

qualified staff. Nevertheless, we have no doubt that these great minds gathered here today will come up with sustainable solutions to the problems.

Mr. Chancellor, Sir,

I wish to affirm to you that since the University opened its doors, we have been working very closely with the community to improve their living standards. We have provided opportunities for employment and have developed various courses that have enabled our people to increase their knowledge and skills in different areas. We have also trained and will continue with our Corporate Social Responsibility of ensuring that the farmers are equipped with modern methods of farming. In addition, we ensure we mentor students from the county to excel in their academic enterprise as having the right knowledge helps in making informed decisions.

Ladies and gentlemen

Although the University is categorized as being under the National Government in the devolved system of governance, I would like to appeal to the County government to lend a helping hand to this University which is in the County of Embu through financial grants and other resources like Land. Increased resources will facilitate the development of the infrastructure required to increase enrollment of students in different courses. This will go a long way in spurring economic growth of the County by expanding the opportunities I have mentioned earlier. As you are all aware, already the economic impact of the University is being felt far and wide all over the County, be it in business, families, and provision of accommodation services,

staff housing, and schools for children of staff, supermarkets, entertainment industry, transport sector, food and agricultural sector among others.

I call upon the County Leadership to consider partnering with the University to expand these opportunities even further for the benefit of the community.

We the University Council, pledge to keep our focus on improving the staff and student welfare by providing quality education, training and research as well as service to community. It is also our responsibility to increase access to higher education, as the University strives to remain at the forefront in training quality manpower to steer the region and the country towards greater economic and social development. I envision a future where faculty, staff and students will be living and working in a vibrant world class University here at Embu.

Mr. Chancellor, Sir

I would like to conclude my remarks by affirming the commitment of the Council, all the staff and students of our unwavering support to you as you take up this noble assignment of being our chancellor.

It is now my humble request for all of us to stand up and welcome the Chancellor of the University of Embu Prof. Paul Musili Wambua to address this congregation.

GOD BLESS US

THANK YOU

