

**SPEECH BY THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, STATE DEPARTMENT FOR
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK &
FISHERIES PROF. HAMADI BOGA**

**ON THE OCCASION OF CELEBRATIONS TO MARK ISO CERTIFICATION
AND LAUNCHING OF THE UNIVERSITY OF EMBU STRATEGIC PLAN 2018-
2028 TO BE HELD AT THE UNIVERSITY OF EMBU – CHARTER HALL ON
FRIDAY, 5TH OCTOBER 2018 AT 9.00 A.M.**

- ✓ The Chancellor, University of Embu – Prof. Paul Musili Wambua
- ✓ The Chairman of University of Embu Council – Dr. Margaret Gikuhi
- ✓ The Vice-Chancellor – Prof. Daniel Mugendi
- ✓ University Council Members
- ✓ University Management & Senate
- ✓ Staff and Students
- ✓ Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good Morning.

I am pleased to be at the University of Embu today to witness the **launch** of the University's Strategic Plan - 2018-2028; as well as participate in celebrations to mark the University's **re-certification** to ISO 9001:2015, Quality Management System (QMS) and **certification** to ISO 27001:2013, Information Security Management Systems (ISMS).

I am pleased to note that the University of Embu has continued to live up to its expectation of being a market leader in the provision of quality education, agricultural training, research and extension services. Prior to becoming the University of Embu, this institution was previously established in the late 1940s

as an agricultural training institute it was well known for training top-notch agricultural staff who were then posted in every part of the country to help farmers in their farms.

The Government recognizes the significant contribution that the University is making in the community and the entire Agricultural Sector in the Country by equipping the people with training and skills that in turn enable them to participate fully in food production and contribute to sustainable economic development.

The Ministry also recognizes the strategic role that the University is playing in the promotion of multi-disciplinary Agricultural Research and collaborative research efforts with our institutions, international universities and partners geared towards helping our people to better their skills in agriculture and general food production.

Today, we all know that Governments worldwide as well as development Partners are appreciating the role of knowledge as a major resource that can contribute enormously to and ensuring the sustainable development of economies. That is why we have placed a lot of emphasis on higher education in our efforts to boost productivity, development and growth.

I must congratulate the University of Embu Council and Management for being focused and committed in ensuring that the University objectives are achieved. I am informed that by getting certified to ISO 27001:2013, which is an internationally recognized standard for Information Security Management Systems (ISMS), the University of Embu is not only the first

University in Kenya to be certified to this standard, but also the first education institution in Kenya to attain ISO 27001:2013 Certification.

This is an indication that the University Community has fully taken up the challenge of being the leader while others follow. This is no mean achievement and I urge you all to keep up the good work and work even harder to grow this young University further. I believe the University has what it takes to forge ahead with greater determination to register greater success. The future is indeed very bright for the University of Embu and what I can tell other institutions is to watch this space.

The benefits of ISO certification are many but the most crucial one is that certification to the international standards enables an institution to join the league of internationally acclaimed and respected institutions. It also helps to ensure that the University provides the highest standards of quality services to its customers and stakeholders using efficient and accountable processes that at the same time leave the room for continuous improvement.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The launch of the University Strategic Plan 2018-20128 today, is also another major accomplishment for this institution; I am also certain that this new plan will bring benefits to all the stakeholders of the University in the medium as well as the long term. The new Strategic Plan must transform the University in the coming years to make it a unique institution that will be the first choice for prospective students, a place of joy for continuing students, a highly sought after employer by staff and the envy of many institutions. I believe that as institutions of higher education, our first duty to society is to ensure

that we empower our people to meet their needs and reach their potential. This is central to all our plans for the future and I am sure that this is well captured in the new University of Embu Strategic Plan objectives.

As we now move to a new phase of development, I would ask you all to join hands and faithfully follow the plan that you have collectively come up with. As I have said before, building a great University is not easy, there are many challenges along the way - ranging from inadequate resources to lack of sufficient support from stakeholders; but we must forge ahead against all odds to achieve that which we have planned. This University holds great potential benefits for the community and we cannot afford to sleep on the job.

I do expect that you will keep everyone informed and as involved as possible during the various stages of implementation of your New Strategic Plan. I look forward to coming here once again in the future to find out how you have fared with its the implementation of the Plan that we are launching today.

Otherwise, I wish you all the best and abundant blessings as you endeavour to meet and even surpass your customer's needs through maintaining high quality standards and performance.

Last but not least, I commend you all for your hard work and dedication in serving the Nation.

Thank you