



UNIVERSITY OF EMBU

SPEECH BY
THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, UoEm
PROF. DANIEL MUGENDI NJIRU
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.



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- ✓ Mr. Harry Mwangi Gioche, Director, Livestock Production **representing** the Principal Secretary, State Department for Agricultural Research, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock & Fisheries, Prof. Hamadi Boga
- ✓ The Chancellor, University of Embu – Prof. Paul Musili Wambua
- ✓ The Chairman of University of Embu Council – Dr. Margaret Gikuhi
- ✓ Invited Guests
- ✓ University Council Members
- ✓ University Management & Senate
- ✓ Staff and Students
- ✓ Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good Morning.

I feel deeply delighted that we have all gathered here today to witness the launch of our Strategic Plan - 2018-2028; as well as to celebrate the University's **re-certification** to ISO 9001:2015, Quality Management System (QMS) and **certification** to ISO 27001:2013,



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Information Security Management Systems (ISMS). This is a historic day that we have all been looking forward to and I thank God that it has finally arrived.

First, I want to welcome all our Guests to the University of Embu and specifically thank the Principal Secretary, State Department for Agricultural Research, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock & Fisheries, Prof. Hamadi Boga, the Chancellor, Prof. Paul Wambua, the University Council, the Embu County Government and County Administration and all our distinguished guests for finding time to come and celebrate with us.

I thank the staff and students and the Committee that organized this occasion for putting their best feet forward and working very hard to ensure that we have everything in place.



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Secondly, I want to pass our sincere appreciation to the following committees and individuals whose efforts have brought us to this day.

1. The University Council for providing resources that has enabled the implementation of the Quality and Information Security Management Systems and their invaluable input during and after the Strategic Planning process
2. University Management, for leadership and commitment to the implementation of the Quality and Information Security Management Systems and the Strategic Plan
3. The Strategic Planning Committee
4. Quality and Information Security Management Representative (QISMR)
5. ISO Steering Committee
6. Directorate and staff of PC & ISO
7. Maier Consulting Limited
8. Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS)



9. UoEm - ISO Internal Auditors for ensuring that we are all constantly working to maintain the standards
10. Process Owners – heads of Departments and Sections
11. All Staff for contribution to the Strategic Plan and embracing the quality culture brought about by the requirements and implementation of the Quality and Information Security Management Systems

I think we have done very well and we have every reason to celebrate our achievements. Just 5 years ago in 2013, we started the journey of building a new University in Embu. We brought in the pioneer staff, admitted the pioneer students, established the first Schools and Departments and started the journey. We then drew the first Strategic Plan for the period 2014-2018 and since then we have never



looked back, everything in our University has been on an upward trajectory.

Today, we are launching a new roadmap for the University of Embu, the 2018-2028 Strategic Plan - after successfully completing the phase of implementation of the First plan which covered the period 2014-2018. This has ushered us into the new Strategic framework which will be a continuation of the unfolding story of our University and our legacy for future generations as we enter into our next phase of development which promises to be very exciting and fun to be part of.

The Launch of the 2018-2028 Strategic Plan has come at the best time in the history of the University when we are celebrating certification to two very key ISO Standards – the ISO 9001:2015, Quality Management System (QMS) and ISO 27001:2013, Information Security Management



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Systems (ISMS). Whereas the Plan gives a clear road map and the directions to where we want to be in the next 10 years, the ISO standards that we have successfully implemented and tested, through both internal and external audits will come in very handy as the means or the vehicle to get us to the desired destination.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Strategic Plan 2018-2028 captures the aspirations of the University and that of its founders, the Country's requirements for manpower needs in the realization of the Kenya Vision 2030 and the Big Four Agenda.

The Plan focuses on the following key areas:

- 1) Developing and enhancing infrastructure and systems for effective service delivery;
- 2) Enhancing human capital management through the integration of best practice in the



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- recruitment, management and optimization of the workforce;
- 3) Promoting effective governance and leadership practices;
 - 4) Expanding the capacity of the University operations and services;
 - 5) Establishing and expanding linkages, partnerships and collaborations with other institutions; and
 - 6) Achieving financial stability and enhancing long term sustainability.

Through this new Strategic Plan, we hope to see major transformations in the University with the key objectives of re-affirming our commitment to our mission and purpose while undertaking significant and bold steps to enhance our image and our students' and staff experience as we forge ahead for the next 10 years.



Ladies and Gentlemen,

On ISO certification, I must say that I am also very happy with the way we have worked together, united as a family bound together by our collective determination to ensure that our customers get the best quality and highest standards of service.

The Journey to **re-certification** to ISO 9001:2015, Quality Management System (QMS) and **certification** to ISO 27001:2013, Information Security Management Systems (ISMS) began in May 2017 and one year later on 28th June 2018, the University of Embu became not only the first University but also the first education Institution in Kenya to attain ISO 27001:2013 Certification. This landmark achievement was also coupled with the **re-certification** to ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management Systems by transiting from ISO 9001:2008.



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The certification and recertification reaffirms the University's commitment to ensuring that our processes adhere to the requirements of the standards for information confidentiality, integrity, security, accuracy and availability. It is also an indication of the University's unrelenting commitment to adopting best practices and processes for quality management and customer satisfaction.

As I conclude, once again I want to thank all those who made these achievements possible for your contribution. The achievements have indeed transformed the University's landscape and elevated our rank higher above our peers.

I also thank the Community, the Government, through the Ministry of Education and all our well-wishers for the support that you have given us along the journey. So much of what we have achieved in this University in the recent years has been because of our teamwork and strong partnerships bringing



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together our key stakeholders and the University for our mutual benefit.

I appreciate our Chancellor, Prof. Paul Musili Wambua for his wise counsel and his commitment to see the University grow. I also pass our sincere regards to the University Council led by the Chairperson, Dr. Margaret Gikuhi and the University Management, Senate and staff for their practical contributions to the development of this University and specifically for overseeing the realization of the achievements that we are celebrating today.

Finally, it is my hope that you will all continue to stick with us to sustain the tremendous and unprecedented momentum that we have recorded as a University. While there are many activities in our new Strategic Plan requiring a lot of work for us all, we may not achieve much without the support of all of you as well as our partners.



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I complete my speech today by urging each one of us here to once again refocus on our mission and our vision so that we can rededicate ourselves and our energies to the delivery of the highest quality education to our students; scaling the heights of knowledge generation and dissemination through world-leading research; promoting innovativeness and creativity and also engaging with our society to improve the welfare and condition of our people.

Please remember that destiny is not a matter of chance; but a matter of choice and we as a University have chosen the path that we want to follow. To our staff and students, I wish you all the very best for a highly successful and rewarding Academic Year ahead and the future of the University. I have no doubt that our best days lie ahead.

Thank you all for listening to me.

God Bless the University of Embu.



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