



# **UNIVERSITY OF EMBU**

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## **OFFICE OF THE CHAIR OF COUNCIL**

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**REMARKS BY THE  
CHAIRPERSON OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF EMBU COUNCIL  
DURING THE  
INAUGURATION OF THE  
1<sup>st</sup> UNIVERSITY COUNCIL  
TO BE HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY, 6<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017  
IN THE UNIVERSITY BOARDROOM**

- Incoming Council Members
- University Management Board
- Distinguished guests
- Ladies and Gentlemen

I take this opportunity to warmly welcome you to the Embu County and more specifically to the University of Embu.

May I also take this early opportunity to specially congratulate the new Council Members on your new appointment to the University of Embu Council. I thank you for accepting the appointment and for sparing some time-off in your busy schedules to be present during today's inauguration ceremony.

This is the 4<sup>th</sup> Council of the University of Embu since inception of the Institution in 2012 as the Embu University College. The Council is however the first following the award of the Charter for full-fledged University status by H.E Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta, C.G.H, the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces of the Republic of Kenya, on 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2017. The first Council was gazetted on 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2012 following the establishment of the

Institution; the second on 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2013 following the enactment of the University Act, 2012 in an effort to comply with the provisions of the Act; and on expiry of the term, the third was gazzeted on 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2016.

I have noted with satisfaction that the members of the new Council are distinguished personalities in society with a wide experience base coupled with a rich mix of professions derived from different fields. The experience and leadership qualities that you all possess will be very critical in our work as a Council especially as we continue to chart the way forward for this young University.

On behalf of the Council members, I take this opportunity to sincerely thank the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, Dr. Fred Matiang'i for finding each one of us worthy to serve in this prestigious Institution. In the same breath, I wish to express the Council's gratitude to the Ministry of Education and the National Government for the enormous support the University has continued to receive to be able to realize the achievements made this far.

In a special way, I thank the University's Chancellor, Prof. Paul Musili Wambua for his invaluable guidance and leadership acumen that has helped steer this Institution to greater heights of success since his appointment by His Excellency the President, following the award of Charter.

I must also express my great appreciation to the Ag. Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Daniel Mugendi and the entire University Management team and Senate, for the sterling job you have continued to do at this University. I greatly commend the cordial working relationship that has prevailed between the University Council and Management since my appointment as the Pioneer Chairperson of Council, to date. I am confident that the same will continue during the term of office of this new Council.

I cannot forget to also express my great appreciation to the faculty and staff, the University Community, and all other stakeholders, without whose support and contribution the Institution would not be where it is today. I will continue counting on this support to harness the synergy that comes

with this co-operation, to propel the University even higher on its development trajectory.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I must say that previous University Councils have achieved considerable results for this University despite the challenges that they may have encountered as we endeavoured to build this University right from the scratch. For instance, over the last few years, the University has managed to recruit competent, experienced and intellectually diverse staff, improved the living, learning and working environment by renovating existing facilities as well as building new facilities to create this beautiful campus; the University has also developed and implemented new high quality academic programmes which address the needs of the society and are relevant to the market.

During the last 4 years, the University has continued to make great progress in the journey towards the realization of its Mandate; our student numbers have been growing steadily from the initial 123 in 2013 to the current number standing at 5591 students as at

September 2017, 1429 of whom were admitted this September. Our staff continue to offer quality education, training and research to the students and the community; while our infrastructural development initiatives have continued to provide better facilities for our students and staff.

However, despite the good work that has been done by all of us, we still face challenges in finances, staffing, teaching and research facilities especially now that more and more Kenyans are yearning for access to higher education. It will therefore be important to note that the job for the new Council is already cut out. There is a lot to be done. Some of the greatest challenges facing the new Universities that were created by the government in recent times include;

1. Financial Constraints;
2. External interference in University affairs;
3. Competition for students with other Universities, local and foreign;
4. Attracting and retaining quality staff; and

5. Inadequate infrastructure and facilities for staff and students welfare, to name but a few.

These are real challenges that as a new Council we must be prepared to tackle head-on, as the University strives to remain at the forefront in training quality manpower to steer our Country towards greater economic and social development. As a Council, we will have to ensure that:

1. We formulate good resource mobilization strategies to provide adequate resources and facilities for teaching and learning and ensure prudent use of these resources;
2. Ensure that quality is upheld across the University; and
3. Contribute to the National Government's policy of increasing access to higher education.

In short, we are being called upon to continue the development from where the previous members left and to build a diverse, cosmopolitan and world-class University located here at Embu. It is my hope that we

will work as a team and do everything we can to make this a reality. I envision a future where faculty, staff and students will be living and working in a vibrant world-class University.

Nothing could be more important to this region's future than the task that has been assigned to us, and we must not fail. From what I have seen and learned here, I have every confidence that together, we the Council, Management, faculty, staff, students, donors, the community and our supporters – will all participate in leading the way towards the achievement of greater success at the University of Embu.

I encourage all of us to serve this University diligently, with humility and a burning passion to realize the goals for which this great Institution was set up.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As I welcome you, the new Council Members on board, I must also recognize the critical role played by the outgoing Council. I sincerely

appreciate the efforts of all members of the previous Councils for their foresight, dedication and determination to see this University grow to where it is today. I pray that God will reward each one of them abundantly for the sacrifices that they have made for the University of Embu.

Lastly, I must say that I am deeply grateful to the Government of Kenya through the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, for appointing me to chair the University of Embu Council and for giving me yet another opportunity to make a difference in the lives of so many people that are connected to our great University through quality leadership. I accept the appointment and pledge my total commitment towards the realization of the University's Mission. I am committed to enhancing the University's standing as a place where gifted scholars focus on research, teaching and mentoring the rising generation to become engaged citizens and tomorrow's leaders in all walks of life.

With those few remarks ladies and gentlemen, once again, I take this opportunity to congratulate you all as you join the University of Embu Council. I look forward to working with each one of you and making fruitful and great decisions that will benefit this University.

**Thank you.**

**God Bless you and Best wishes**

**Dr. Margaret Gikuhi**

**Chairperson**