



# **UNIVERSITY OF EMBU**

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**END OF THE YEAR MESSAGE  
TO STAFF  
BY PROF. DANIEL MUGENDI NJIRU,  
VICE-CHANCELLOR,  
UNIVERSITY OF EMBU  
DURING THE  
STAFF END OF YEAR RETREAT  
HELD AT  
WHITE RHINO HOTEL, NYERI  
ON  
20<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2017**

- ✓ University Management Board
- ✓ Senate
- ✓ Our Esteemed Facilitators
- ✓ Colleagues

## **Good Morning!**

We have come to the conclusion of yet another successful year and I would like to take this opportunity to thank each one of you for your contribution to the harmonious and sustained operations of the University during the year 2017.

The objective of today's event, which has now become embedded in our annual institutional calendar of events, is to take stock of the year that was, as we thank God for the time; pat our backs for the achievements; and redouble our efforts as we focus on where we fell short. The

occasion also provides us an opportunity to mingle, bond and break the imaginary barriers in team work and play, so that we can realise the synergy that team unleashes, which should be harnessed.

Please accept my deep appreciation for your hard work, commitment to duty, the extra effort you have put and your keenness to make the University of Embu the success story that it is today.

From the onset, let me say that UoEm starts with you – without you, it would not have been possible to come this far. We all acknowledge that we could have encountered challenges here and there. However, with your dedication, focus and teamwork, we have managed to collectively surmount those challenges and move our University to greater

success with a great sense of pride and satisfaction.

## **Colleagues,**

As I have noted earlier, this year has indeed been very successful year for us; allow me to highlight just a few key achievements that we have recorded this year:

1. Our student population rose to 5,459 in September 2017 when we received a record 1500 new students. It is worth noting that more and more students are now selecting UoEm as their First Choice University.
2. Increase in Departments, programmes offered and greater emphasis on quality education and training for our students

3. Recruitment of quality and experienced staff.
4. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Graduation Ceremony held on 15<sup>th</sup>, September 2017 was indeed very successful. The Chancellor, Prof. Musili Wambua, for the first time conferred various degrees and awarded certificates and Diplomas to a record 278 graduates.
5. The University held its 1<sup>st</sup> Open Day on 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2017. The day was very successful because of each one of you. I take this opportunity to sincerely thank you for your participation.
6. On the research front, the University has continued to do very well; our staff are engaged in major research initiatives which have attracted research and

equipment grants. University of Embu received Ksh. 63,525,403 from the National Research Fund for various research projects to be undertaken by our academic staff during the 2016/2017 FY. I take this opportunity to thank our staff for the winning proposals. I encourage all of us to continue seeking research grants so as to bolster the University research portfolio.

7. The University has continued to excel in Performance Contracting by recording major achievements and favorable performance rankings. We have managed to attain the EXCELLENT score in performance contracting for the third year running.

8. The University has also continued to uphold its commitment to its Quality Management System - ISO 9001:2008. Currently, the University is in the process of transiting to ISO 9001:2015 and implementing the ISO 27001:2013 Information Security Management System (ISMS).
9. During the February 2017 Commission for University Education Quality Audit, it was established that the University of Embu is one of the few Universities in the country that were fully complying with the University Regulations and Quality Standards.
10. We have continued to sustain our efforts to provide quality facilities as well as a

good working and learning environment through implementation of major infrastructure development projects – this year, we completed the new Office Block which now houses the Registrars, Deans, Directors and CoDs, the Guest House, Expansion of the Health Unit, New Laboratory and the ongoing Farm Modernization project.

In the coming year, we will be moving to the New Library and the New Administration Building. Also as you may have already noticed, a new University Gate A is under construction next to the Administration Building and hopefully in 2018 we will start using the new Grand Entrance in the University.



11. The University of Embu is one of three Public Universities cleared by the CS, Treasury to build hostels through PPP. The approval of the project follows a detailed analysis by the consortium of transaction advisers. Under the deal, the University will raise its accommodation capacity by 4,000 students.
12. Reliable internet connection in the University and high quality Library resources comprising; e-resources, online public access resources.
13. Establishment of Postgraduate Scholarships and Graduate Assistantship positions for the best students every year.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

The University's future growth and competitiveness will depend very significantly on;

1. Our effort to sustain the achievements we have recorded so far.
2. Our commitment to achieve more.
3. Our strategic positioning to grow our programmes and student enrollment.
4. Prudent resources management;
5. Attracting and retaining highly qualified staff; and
6. Strengthening the University branding as the trusted premier provider of higher education in the region.
7. Team work and unity of purpose, and the willingness on the part of every staff to go the extra-mile

8. Creativity and innovativeness – especially in growing our research portfolio and niche academic programmes.
9. Embracing customer focus and satisfaction.
10. Attracting research funds and equipment grants.

I look forward to the continued commitment in the coming year by each one of us, as we endeavour to make the University of Embu a brand to reckon with as a world-class institution of higher learning.

In conclusion, as we break for Christmas, later this evening, I want to request each one of us to take good care of ourselves during this festive season. You know this is the season that comes with merry-making, feasting, travelling, spending time with family and friends among

many other activities. In addition, the festive season also comes with many dangers on the roads, over-indulgence and exposure to danger. The University still needs you. Please take care so that we can all report back in 2018 safe and sound.

However, I hope that you will find some time during the holidays to be happy and to spend quality time with family and friends and that the Christmas spirit of love and sharing will prevail in your hearts.

To those of you who will be travelling, may you all have a safe and pleasant journey. If you are driving please be careful on the roads as well. To those who will not be travelling or will be working during the break, I also wish you God's Blessing and happy moments in whatever you will be doing.

With those few remarks it is now my humble pleasure to declare the 2017 Team Building session officially open.

Thank you.

Prof. Daniel Mugendi Njiru, Ph.D