

SPEECH BY THE STAFF REPRESENTATIVE, PROF. NANCY BUDAMBULA, DIRECTOR, BOARD OF POST-GRADUATE STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF EMBU, DURING THE CELEBRATION OF CHARTER AWARD AND INSTALLATION OF THE FIRST CHANCELLOR HELD AT THE UNIVERSITY OF EMBU ON SATURDAY, 26TH NOVEMBER, 2016

The Chancellor, Prof. Paul Musili Wambua

Governor, Embu County- H.E Martin Wambora

Senator Embu County, Hon Lenny Kivuti

The Chairperson of the University Council, Dr. Margaret Gikuhi

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 morning,

Mr. Chancellor, Sir

On behalf of the teaching and non-teaching staff members of the University of Embu, I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your appointment as the first Chancellor of this University. We thank the

Almighty God for giving you this opportunity. We pray he will guide your work as Chancellor.

We, the staff of the University of Embu, thank the President of Kenya, His Excellency, President Uhuru Muigai Kenyatta for choosing a renowned scholar, a man of valour and integrity to be our Chancellor.

Mr. Chancellor, Sir

We are humbled that you accepted to be our Chancellor. As you take up this enormous responsibility, we wish you success. The staff of the University of Embu are confident that with your experience, you will guide this University to greater heights.

Mr. Chancellor, Sir

The journey to becoming a chartered university began in 2014 and was not an easy one. It was punctuated with sweat and sometimes tears. The University Council and Management worked tirelessly to renovate the old structures as well as build new ones to meet the standard required by the Commission for University Education (CUE). In addition to physical infrastructure, the academic staff burnt the midnight oil to write academic programmes that meet the CUE standard.

Mr. Chancellor, Sir

To prepare the University for inspection by CUE, the University Management appointed a Charter Award Committee and established a secretariat to oversee the process. The Committee converted the CUE guidelines into a checklist of over 200 questions. On 17th February 2015 the then Embu University College (EUC) was subjected to an internal

mock inspection by the Charter Committee. Based on the checklist prepared by the Charter Committee, the College was found to conform 72% to the Commission for University Education (CUE) requirements.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of February 2015 the University College was inspected by the Commission for University Education and was found to be ready for award of charter apart from a few recommendations for improvement like availability of water drinking fountains and upgrading of the library.

The outstanding issues were addressed quickly addressed. During the second inspection by Commission for University Education (CUE) on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2015, the University was found to be ready for recommendation for charter award. In February 2016, the CUE commissioners themselves visited the university to reassure themselves that Embu University College was ready to become a fully-fledged University. After a full Commission meeting, Commissioners recommended to the President, through the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education Science and Technology, that the University College had met all the requirements for the award of Charter. The Charter was awarded a Charter on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

Mr. Chancellor, Sir

The staff of the University of Embu, appreciate the tireless effort by the University Management to ensure quality teaching, learning and research are entrenched in the University from its inception. The attention given to staff welfare by the University Management is appreciated.

Mr. Chancellor, Sir

I would like to assure you, that we the staff of the University of Embu, are committed to helping the University of Embu attain excellence in teaching, research and innovation in our service to the students, the community and humanity.

Lastly, Mr, Chancellor Sir, allow me to thank all the staff members for the effort they put during the entire journey towards the award of charter. May God bless you all abundantly for your sacrifices and the commitment that you showed throughout the process.

In conclusion, Mr, Chancellor Sir, on behalf of all the staff of the University of Embu, I want to assure you that we will not spare any effort in our quest to provide the best service to our customers and stakeholders. We pledge to work as a team and support all development initiatives by the University Council, Management and Senate so as to raise the profile of the University of Embu both nationally and internationally. We will make you proud to be our Chancellor.

I thank you all for listening to me. I wish you a Merry Christmas and Prosperous 2017 as we work together.

I now have the pleasure to invite the University of Embu Students' Association (UESA) President, Mr. Suleiman Naibei to give his remarks on behalf of the students.

Thank you.