



## **UNIVERSITY OF EMBU**

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**SPEECH BY PROF. DANIEL MUGENDI NJIRU, PhD  
ACTING VICE CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF EMBU  
DURING THE  
THE CELEBRATION TO MARK THE AWARD OF CHARTER AND  
ISNTALLATION OF THE CHANCELLOR  
ON  
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup>, 2016  
AT UNIVERSITY OF EMBU  
10:30 AM**

The Chancellor (Prof. Paul Musili Wambua);  
Hon. Lenny Kivuti, Senator Embu County  
Governor (Embu County- H.E Martin Wambora)  
The Chancellors and Vice-Chancellors present;  
Chairman of Council (Dr. Margaret Gikuhi);  
Members of Council;  
The Management Board  
Members of the University Senate;  
Vice Chancellors of sister Universities;  
Members of County and National Parliament  
The Embu County Leadership  
Staff and students  
Distinguished Guests;  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

*Good morning*

It is my great pleasure to warmly welcome you all to the University of Embu. In a special way, I would like to welcome Prof. Peter Musili Wambua, the Chancellor of The University of Embu.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

Welcome to Embu; “the Land of Opportunities”

Embu is a remarkably pleasant county with a warm and hospitable community that continues to support the growth of the University. The

ecosystem is perfect providing a serene and excellent environment for learning, research and intellectual growth for our staff and students.

The weather here is also the best with adequate rainfall spread almost throughout the year, a rich endowment with natural resources such as forests, wildlife and fertile agricultural land suitable for food production; and to cap it all, Embu County boasts of being one of the few towns in Kenya with clear clean water originating from Mt. Kenya and other natural springs.

Please welcome and feel at home.

Today's Ceremony is truly a historic one.

I would like to sincerely thank His Excellency the President of Kenya, Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta, for seeing it worthy to elevate this University from a Constituent College to a fully-fledged University. I also thank the President for appointing **Prof. Paul Musili Wambua** as the first Chancellor of the University of Embu. We are indeed honoured and privileged to have a great Kenyan with excellent academic credentials and a high standing in society to lead the University.

Ladies and gentlemen;

This is truly a day of tremendous joy and thanksgiving!

Allow me, to take this opportunity also to express my appreciation to the University Council, Management, Staff and Students for their outstanding contribution that has enabled this institution to get its current status. It has been a long and tedious journey full of anxiety and great expectations; but I am glad that at last we have made it.

We are indeed grateful and sincerely appreciate the work done by the Commission for University Education in assessing our preparedness and worthiness to be recommended for the Award of Charter. Despite the numerous challenges and hurdles that were encountered along the way, this celebration is in order and befitting for all of us.

Let me assure you that the Charter given to us is not in vain. We are up to the task and we remain steadfast in our commitment to quality and excellence for the good of our University, our staff, our students and our society.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

I would like to sincerely thank the University of Nairobi for their mentorship and unwavering commitment to support us in all ways. In a special way, allow me to acknowledge and recognize the support and encouragement that we received from the former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Nairobi – Prof. George Magoha during our formative stages. It is because of this caring nature of our mentor that we are gathered here today to celebrate one of the greatest achievement in the history of this institution.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

Allow me also to sincerely thank the current Vice-Chancellor of the University of Nairobi – Prof. Peter Mbithi. To us the VC, Prof. Mbithi is more than a mentor, he has remained our leader, brother and friend. He has indeed been a pillar of inspiration to us; he is always ready to listen to us whenever we call on him for advice. We sincerely thank him for standing with us, for giving us full access to the Senate, and access to academic programmes of the

University of Nairobi. Since we lack words to express our gratitude, we can only pray to the Almighty God to bless him abundantly.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

I cannot forget Dr. Vijoo Rattansi, the Chancellor of the University of Nairobi. She is so fond of the University of Embu; she has helped us equip the University library, she presided over the launch of our Strategic Plan and celebration of ISO Certification and she came again to confer degrees and award certificates and diplomas during the 1st Graduation Ceremony.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We are very grateful to Dr. Vijoo Rattansi for her continued support and we pray for her continued good health and long life so that we can continue working together with her for the success of this University.

This Semester has been special to the University. We thank God for the historic achievements that we have recorded. First the Number of students increased from 2705 to 4202 at the beginning of this Academic Year in the month of September. The same month on **30<sup>th</sup> of September, 2016**, we had our first graduation as a Constituent College of the University of Nairobi. The Ceremony was very successful and a total of 123 students graduated with various certificates, diplomas and degrees. I thank all those who worked tirelessly to make the occasion memorable for our students. I must single out the exceptional support we got from The Chancellor and the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Nairobi and the entire UON leadership. It is because of their guidance and mentorship that we were able to have a great occasion for our graduates.

This indeed makes us all very proud. It was the culmination of years of hard work by our lecturers and students. Some of our alumni are present here today to witness yet another milestone in the University. We are very proud of you and we hope that some of you will return to the University as postgraduate students and also join our team of staff.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

During the same semester the University of Embu was awarded a Charter by His Excellence the President at State House Nairobi on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2016. This was the climax of all our concerted efforts as has been elaborated by Prof. Nancy Budambula in her earlier remarks on behalf of the staff of the University.

Again, just last week from 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> November 2016 the University hosted the first Cultural Festival called the *Culfest 2016* in an effort to recognize and promote our students performing and creative talents as well as celebrate the diversity of our cultures as a way of encouraging national integration and cohesion. The event was the first of its kind in this region and judging by the tremendous success that was recorded in its first edition, we hope that this event will be a permanent activity in the University Calendar in the future.

Mr Chancellor Sir,

I also have the pleasure to inform you that during today's ceremony, we are launching the University of Embu Magazine called "The Flashlight Magazine." It is indeed my pleasure that this Quarterly magazine is being launched on such a historic day as this one. I thank the Edition team that prepared this magazine for spending sleepless nights and extra energy to ensure that the

Magazine is out today. We look forward to more exciting publications in the future.

At this point, Mr. Chancellor Sir, allow me to thank the Embu community leaders who had a vision of bringing a University to Embu County. Their dream of one day having a great University here has now been realized. We the University Community are indeed very grateful to these visionary leaders. They spent sleepless nights, resources and individual energies to lobby the government to convert the former Embu Agricultural Staff Training Institute (EAST) into a University. Today's celebration is a testimony of a dream come true for all of us. In a special way, I would like to acknowledge and appreciate members of the Embu community Leaders and professionals for their effort that resulted in the establishment of this University.

The following are the key community members who played a major role in pushing for the establishment of this University in Embu County.

1. Senator, Hon. Lenny Kivuti
2. Cardinal John Njue
3. Dr. Evangeline Njoka
4. Hon. Cecily Mbarire
5. Dr. Cyrus Njiru
6. Mr. Kithinji Kiragu
7. Hon. Emilio Kathuri
8. Hon. Perter Njeru Ndwiga
9. Prof. Barnabas Mitaro
10. And many others

I must as well sincerely thank the Senator of this County, Hon. Lenny Kivuti, Elected Members of the National Assembly and as well as County leadership for their support and willingness to participate in the development of this University. I also extend our gratitude to the local community for standing with the University and for especially constructing hostels to house the majority of our students. We are grateful for the good cordial relationship we have enjoyed since the University was established.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

I wish to reassure you that the University has built strong foundation to successfully implement its Strategic Plan which aims at transforming the University of Embu into a formidable University that is deeply engaged in intellectual growth of our staff and students as well as focusing on leading-edge research that seeks to address the need of the society and makes meaningful contributions to the development of our country.

We will be frequenting your office to seek advice and assistance in implementing the University of Embu strategic and master plans. I am confident that with your high standing and your demonstrated willingness to see this University scaling the heights of success, you will be very instrumental in the building of a world-class University here at Embu.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

In Conclusion, I once again appreciate you for gracing today's celebration for the award of Charter and your installation as the first Chancellor of the University of Embu. I wish you a long life and many blessings so that you can guide us in our efforts to make this University great. Please accept my



assurance that the University Management, Senate, staff and students are behind you and that we will work very hard to make you proud as our Chancellor. We will give the University our best. We will not tire or sleep on the job until we deliver on our mandate.

With those remarks, Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish you all a wonderful day as you celebrate with us and for listening to me as well. As we approach the festive season, I take this early opportunity to wish you a happy Christmas and a blessed New Year 2017.

Mr. Chancellor Sir.

It is now my pleasure to invite the Chairperson of the University of Embu Council, Dr. Margaret Gikuhi to give her remarks.

Thank You and May God Bless you.

**Prof. Daniel Mugendi Njiru,**  
**Vice-Chancellor, University of Embu**