

**SPEECH BY PROF. PAUL MUSILI WAMBUA, CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY
OF EMBU DURING THE LAUNCH OF THE UNIVERSITY OF EMBU
ENDOWMENT FUND AT UNIVERSITY OF EMBU ON 25TH OCTOBER,
2018 AT 9.00 A.M.**

- H.E. Hon. William Ruto, the Deputy President of The Republic of Kenya
- Governors
- Cabinet Secretaries
- Principal Secretaries
- Members of the Nation Assembly, Senate and County Assemblies
- Chairperson of the University Council – Dr. Margaret Gikuhi
- Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Daniel Mugendi
- University Council, Management and Senate Members
- Invited Guests
- Friends of the University
- Alumni
- Staff and Students
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning!

It is a great honor to welcome all of you to this memorable event. I would like to appreciate your Excellency, the Deputy President, for agreeing to grace this occasion of the launch of the University of Embu Endowment Fund. We

are privileged to host you today. We welcome you to the University of Embu and look forward to a long term and mutual relationship. *Karibu sana!*

In my personal capacity, I also take this rare chance to humbly thank the Government of Kenya led by His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta and you for appointing me as the first Chancellor of the University of Embu.

Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I applaud the Government of Kenya for an unwavering support towards the development of higher education. Specifically, I want to appreciate the continued support that you continue to give to this institution from its inception up until now. I thank the County Government of Embu Led by H.E. Hon. Martin Nyaga Wambora as well as the County leaders and Elders for the strong partnership and support you have accorded to us towards elevating the institution to greater heights. You are all very special to us.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The vision of the University of Embu is to be a dynamic epicenter of excellence in training, research and dissemination of knowledge for development of humanity. Indeed, the University of Embu continues to nurture and develop high-level manpower to become change agents for transformation of families, communities, organizations and agencies of governance in this country. In order to further champion this course into the future, relevant infrastructural and socio-economic ingredients will be required. We are cognizant of the fact that with the growth of a country's economy, resources become scarce due to competing priorities in other sectors of our economy.

This, at times, subjects institutions such as Universities to diminishing financial resources to support teaching, research, development and extension.

The Endowment Fund that we are launching today is one of the ways of mobilizing resources to support needy and deserving students through bursaries, upkeep and scholarships to help them complete their studies with much ease. The Fund will in the future be diversified to cover other activities that contribute to the University mission.

Allow me now, ladies and gentlemen, to appeal humbly to all institutions and men and women of good will present here today, to be part of this endeavour by giving generously. We extend our call to international organisations and corporates to support the institution with the much needed resources. This may also include donation of research equipment, financing a building or enabling exchange programmes. In exchange, the University could name the facility after you.

Today, as we launch the University Endowment Fund we are conscious of the challenges facing our Country. We are living in difficult times when the economy is not able to fully support Universities financially in terms of development which means we have to work harder to generate resources to implement our Strategic Plan.

Yet despite these realities, the University must continue to do what it is supposed to do; that is to produce top-quality graduates, improve human lives, generate new knowledge, provide solutions for community needs

through research and contribute to the intellectual capital of our nation and our world.

Therefore, it is upon each one of us to make their contribution in whatever capacity you are in so as to make the University successful.

The 2018-2028 Strategic Plan which we launched on 5th October 2018 has the following three elements are critical to the University and its success;

1. Providing adequate facilities for Teaching, Learning and Research to enhance the students' and staff experience;
2. Maintaining quality and compliance to high standards in all our operations; and
3. Building a strong brand and reputation anchored on excellence.

For us to achieve the strategic objectives of the plan, we need to develop a stable and sustainable funding model for the University that compliments government funding – which we all know might continue dwindling as the years go by. It is against this background that the University has come up with the Endowment Fund. This fund is expected to plug in some fresh resources that will go a long way in improving the University facilities as well as helping needy students to go through their studies with much less difficulty.

I therefore urge all our friends and well-wishers to join us in this journey that we have started today. Let us show the world that we can support our institutions of higher learning to continue with their mission of education,

training, research and knowledge generation to offer solutions to societal challenges.

Ladies and gentlemen, as I conclude my speech, I want to pledge before you, my personal commitment towards the growth and development of the University. I look forward to working with partners to see this noble dream becoming a reality. I thank you all once again for joining us.

Thank you once again Your excellency for coming. Please pass our regards to His Excellency the President.

May God bless you,
May God bless University of Embu,
May God bless Kenya.

Prof. Paul Musili Wambua
Chancellor, University of Embu