



UNIVERSITY OF EMBU

**SPEECH BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL,
DR. KENNEDY OKONG'O
DURING THE OCCASION OF CELEBRATIONS TO MARK THE
ATTAINMENT OF EXCELLENT RANKING AND NUMBER ONE (1)
POSITION IN PERFORMANCE EVALUATION FOR THE 2019/2020 FY
PERFORMANCE CONTRACTING CYCLE**

Thursday, 8th July 2021

4.00 pm

Charter Hall

- The Chancellor, University of Embu, Prof. Paul Musili Wambua
- Members of University of Embu Council
- Former Chairperson of the University of Embu Council,
- The Vice-Chancellor, University of Embu, Prof. Daniel Mugendi
- Members of University Management and Senate,
- Invited Guests
- Staff and Students
- Ladies and gentlemen,

Good afternoon,

This is a great day for us all. I thank God for enabling us to see this big day in the history of the University of Embu. I am humbled to stand before you today and give this speech during the occasion of celebrations to mark the

excellent performance by the University of Embu in the 2019/2020 FY Performance Contracting Cycle.

I appreciate our Chancellor, Prof. Paul Musili Wambua for finding time to come and preside over this celebration. I also thank my fellow Council members for taking time off their daily schedules to come and celebrate with the University of Embu Family.

The Council received the news of the University's impressive performance in the 2019/2020 FY performance contracting evaluations with great pride and satisfaction. In fact, since the news broke out of the attainment of the top position by the University of Embu in the Public Service Performance ranking, my phone, email and even my social media pages have been crowded with overwhelming messages of congratulations. Many of the callers and well-wishers have indicated that the University of Embu has now come of age. Indeed, the major achievements that the University has recorded over the last 8 years of its existence have catapulted us into the limelight and enhanced our reputation immensely. The University has yet again proven its leadership and commitment to the mission, and this is historic. We as a Council are very proud of being members of the University of Embu family. On a personal level, I am pleased and I feel privileged to Chair the Council of this great Institution.

As the Chairman of the 2nd University Council, I pay glowing tribute to the 1st University of Embu Council, which was chaired by my colleague, Dr. Margaret Gikuhi for their tireless effort that has finally paid dividends of placing the University at the top. The achievement that we celebrate today is as a result of the work of the 1st Council which was in office during the entire 2019/2020

FY performance cycle. That said, the University Council under my leadership is fully committed to supporting the management team in their efforts to maintain this record. There is a lot to emulate in the efforts of our predecessors to ensure that we sustain the good performance and the excellent ranking of our University throughout our tenure, and to ensure the University of Embu remains a top performing State agency and an educational institution of choice.

I would also like to commend the University Management led by the able Vice-Chancellor Prof. Daniel Mugendi, all Deans of Schools, Heads of Departments, Sections and Units in the University for this good performance. The teamwork you have displayed is unparalleled. Despite the difficult times, your commitment to duty has remained beyond reproach and we are very proud of you all. I also commend the staff, students and all stakeholders – including our contractors and suppliers - for living the vision of the University of Embu to be a dynamic epicentre of excellence in training and research for service to humanity. Your contribution to the success of this University, has taken the sacrifice of your time, effort and even your families to be where we are today. The fruits of this sacrifice is what we are celebrating today. I want to say again a special ‘Thank you’ to our Chancellor, Prof. Paul Musili Wambua and the Vice-Chancellor, Prof Daniel Mugendi. We are all proud and happy to be associated with the impressive achievements that the University has recorded under your leadership. You truly have been the keepers of our great University of Embu dream.

On this occasion, I think it is good to also reflect on what made us successful. Could it have been a good vision? Could it have been smart people the

Council engaged to realize the vision? Could it be that we are not complacent? We keep improving our operating model to make ourselves more efficient. Could it be that we plan for the very long term? Could it also be that we found good and reliable partners? Could it be that we take a very tough stance on matters of accountability? These are discussions and synergies we will have in the coming days that will help guide the University's strategic direction and build upon its longstanding success. These are conversations that must remain on the table if the University of Embu is to remain a tertiary institution of choice despite the turbulence that the global pandemic and global economies have caused. I believe as a Council, Management and Staff of the University of Embu we will seize this opportunity, to take our future to heart and to underpin the strength of our institution.

All governments in the world today, recognize a thriving higher education sector as the engine for growth and development in today's knowledge-intensive economies. The success of modern economies depend on the complex skills, agility and creativity of a country's population. Therefore, universities are conferred with the responsibility to nurture globally competitive graduates who are equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to cope with the challenges of the modern times and a much more dynamic future. Considering all these, the University of Embu has come a long way. The outstanding performance is a step in the right direction for the sector. We believe, this is an indication of a bright future ahead for this great University.

It's wise to keep dinner remarks short, as everyone is looking forward to enjoying the rest of the dinner. So please allow me to conclude by sincerely

thanking all of you once again for this milestone that will guide us in our future together. I am very, very proud of this fact. The distinction you have brought to each of your positions is deservedly recognized by the Council, and I wish every individual and the University community every success in the future plans.

Thank you.

Dr. Kennedy Okong'o, Ph.D.

Chairperson, University of Embu Council