



SPEECH BY PROF. COLLETTE A. SUDA, PhD, FKNAS, CBS, PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, STATE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ON THE OCCASION OF THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF THE 3rd EMBU UNIVERSITY COLLEGE COUNCIL, HELD ON MONDAY, 11th APRIL 2016 AT 10.00AM IN THE UNIVERSITY BOARDROOM

Chairman of the University College Council, Dr. Margaret Gikuhi

Members of the University Council

The Vice-Chancellor University of Nairobi, Prof. Peter Mbithi

The Principal EUC, Prof. Daniel Mugendi

Members of the University Management Board

Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me great pleasure to join you this morning on the occasion of the inauguration of the Third Embu University College Council. I wish, first of all, to take this opportunity, to congratulate the Members of Council on your appointment to the 3rd Embu University College Council. Your appointment was based purely on your individual merit and integrity, and I am pleased that you have accepted to place your talents and experiences at the disposal of this young institution of higher learning now in the making. Your rich mix of professionalism from different fields and wide experiences

gained in your individual careers will be a great asset in your work as a Council and as you steer the development of this University to the next level.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The responsibilities that you have been asked to shoulder are enormous. However, given the blend of your enthusiasm, experience and your willingness to serve; I have no doubt in my mind that you will contribute tremendously to the advancement of this University. We look forward to this Council accomplishing what the second Council had started, the attainment of a full-fledged university status for Embu University College during the tenure of this 3rd Council.

As you are aware, the need for increase in capacity and equal opportunity in higher education in Kenya today cannot be over-emphasized. Access, equity, quality and relevance are fundamental characteristics that define and drive education and training systems worldwide. Over the years, the Kenya Government, through the Ministry of Education, has vigorously expanded access to quality education and training, which also offers equal opportunity to all, thereby ensuring equity.

As we strive towards the realization of Vision 2030, the education sector in Kenya will be guided by the following principles:

1. Reaffirming and enhancing patriotism, national unity, mutual social responsibility and the ethical and moral foundation of our society.

2. Providing an education for all that has open door and alternative systems that ensure opportunities for continuous learning.
3. Placing emphasis on quality, access, equity, relevance and transitional issues.
4. Placing emphasis on new developments in science, technology and innovation.
5. Providing education that focuses on entrepreneurship, agricultural and industrial development.
6. Providing education that identifies and nurtures learners' talents and gifts.

In this regard, our universities must constantly seek to provide a globally competitive quality education, training and research for sustainable development. The overall goal is to reduce illiteracy by increasing access to education, improving the transition rate from primary to secondary school and from secondary school to higher education as well as raising the quality and relevance of education in society.

I would like to commend the pioneer Council of Embu University College as well as the management and staff for your ongoing and continuous efforts to build a University at Embu. We all know that it is not an easy task to start a University from scratch but with your dedication and commitment you have brought the institution this far. I also commend the University of Nairobi for agreeing to mentor this new University as its Constituent College. I am confident that in just a few more months or years, this institution will be a formidable centre of academic excellence.

The University should not only endeavour to produce high calibre manpower for all sectors of the economy, but also provide relevant skills to mitigate our regional and local circumstances. Indeed, the role of the university in the devolved government structure must be seen. I am very pleased to note that your programmes focus on providing leadership on key areas of concern by the government such as environment, agriculture, technology as well as on research. The University must also work in partnership with the government in its effort to alleviate poverty, retain our social service values and develop a cadre of competent, dedicated and professional graduates to fit in various public and private sectors. The products of EUC must not be mere employment seekers, but must be a competent workforce capable of being employers and providing leadership, direction as well as formulating ideas that can transform our public sector into an achievement and performance-oriented one as envisaged in our Vision 2030.

In maintaining the traditional concept of the autonomy of the Council, it is however pertinent to observe that institutions today are expected to identify with the needs of their immediate environment and be accountable to the community they serve. Your policies and training programmes should therefore seek to strike a harmonious balance between the academics and the pragmatic intervention to solve the needs of the broader society.

In this regard, the Council is empowered to assist the University College to achieve these goals by laying down broad implementable policies and overseeing their implementation. I am confident that

with your experience and also under the leadership of your able chairperson and with a harmonious working relationship between yourselves and the University management, many gains will be realised.

In discharging your mandate as a Council, it will be prudent for you to acquaint yourselves with the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, the Universities Act 2012, the State Corporations Act (1986) and Mwongozo, the code of Governance for state Corporations.

My office and the Government is alive to the myriad of challenges confronting this very young institution as it strives to set up and offer its programmes and services. In this regard, I wish to assure you that we will always endeavour to accord high priority in strengthening the University and addressing the challenges affecting this Institution.

In conclusion, Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish you a successful tenure in office and hereby inaugurate the Third Council of Embu University College.

Thank you