

Inaugural Speech by The Newly Elected Students Union Chairperson of UoEm His Excellency Mr. Dancan Othuon at the UoEm Main Campus on 17th March 2017 At 3.00Pm.

Vice Chancellor, Professor Daniel Mugendi, Deputy Vice Chancellor(ARE), Deputy Vice Chancellor(PAF), deans of various schools, chairpersons of departments, academic staff members, distinguished guests, my fellow colleagues in academic struggle, ladies and gentlemen, good evening to you all.

We don't observe today as a victory of students of University of Embu but as a celebration of freedom symbolizing an end of endurance as well as the beginning of change, for I have sworn before you and the Almighty God the solemn oath that my predecessors had taken.

Before I go further, let me take this opportunity to thank the Almighty God who in His power has made it possible for all of us to witness this important inaugural ceremony. I also ask the Almighty God to protect us from all inequities and make UoEm grow so that everyone shall prosper in it.

I want to thank my able Vice Chancellor and his management for everything they have done for us to make this occasion a success. I also want to thank the UESA Electoral Commission for having worked tirelessly throughout the election period to ensure elections were plausible, free and fair. I can't forget to thank the outgoing president, Mr. Mungame Naibei Suleiman and the student union body for the good work they have done during their reign. Throughout the last academic year, they have organized different successful activities and competitions such as cultural festival. Without them, we could not have enjoyed the multifaceted university life.

I also want to recognize the presence of my two opponents who were contesting for this UESA chairmanship. They have worked hard during the elections campaign; they have both endured in this struggle and made a lot of sacrifices. I respect and admire their

strength and courage. I believe that they have not lost but won because without the pressure I received from both of them; I wouldn't have put more effort to win this election. I congratulate them and welcome their ideas and support towards the development of UoEm and to seek the interest and welfare of every student at UoEm. Let us use our wisdom to bring unity amongst the students so that justice will prevail forever.

I want to convey my sincere gratitude to all my fellow students for making the right choice and to those whose support I haven't gain yet, I may not have won your votes but I believe I have now won your hearts and I will be your chairperson too.

I cannot take for granted the dedication, participation and support given by my campaign team in our common endeavour. In deed you worked tirelessly day and night throughout the campaign period to ensure we emerge victorious and I must say I'm so grateful.

UESA was founded on the values of leadership, integrity, innovation and teamwork. These are values I believe we all share and in students unionism we aren't enemies but friends though passion might have broken our relationship but it must not break our bond of comradeship and affection because a people united with the power of collective responsibility and common destiny can change their situation for a common good. As it may be, ourselves and common conscience does not and should not allow us to ask of what a personality or UoEm can give to an individual, rather every one of us must ask of himself what he is offering to UoEm. Remember we are collectively responsible for our University development and leadership is just but an opportunity for the provision of strategic focus.

I have been a member of Student Union serving as a representative for School of Business and Economics. I was able to learn a great deal. I have learnt to be independent, to be responsible, and the most important one is to work as a team, and having the same goal to achieve.

Once again I wish to reaffirm my unique and emotional commitment to the comrades of University of Embu. Commitment is what I will give to every component of UoEm community, especially to all of you, my fellow students. It is your ideas and concerns that can help in moving this University forward. I want to be the one that continues to ensure that all of the ideas of students are heard.

I'm not going to go into stating empty promises, but rather issues I believe need to be addressed. Finance has always been a critical issue and I do realize that it isn't something that can be resolved overnight but this is an issue of great concern and I intend to work to get it resolved. Concerns about the student mace, student center, accommodation, unnecessary letter writing, health and sports have constantly been brought up to Student Government. I strongly believe that we are making headways in resolving these concerns and there is still more to accomplish. I will be very much ready and available to use negotiations and dialogue with management to get solutions to challenges which affect students in this university

Fellow students, with all your support it is true that UoEm can change for the better and our student union can be perfected. What we have already achieved gives us hope for what we can and must achieve tomorrow as one family. I know the walk ahead will be tedious, the tunnel to success will be long and dark but I promise you that together we shall see the light at the end. My government wouldn't achieve everything in one day or one semester or even one academic year but we just have to start from somewhere. So let us all promote the spirit of student unionism and take responsibilities to care for one another and share with one another because when we care, we share.

I will not encourage or tolerate any member of my government who will attempt to create disunity among members or fail to take the charge in their respective dockets. Fellow colleagues, I'm grateful to you all for all the sacrifices you've made to make this day a possibility. I want to assure you that my government will be the government of students by the students and for the students. I pledge that I will do all that I can to take the university to a better place and redeem the faith and trust the students have placed in me.

The energy, the faith, the devotion, the commitment which we bring to this endeavour will light our institution and all who serve it.

I Love You All Comrades

Long Live UESA! Long Live UoEm! And Long Live The Republic of Kenya!

God Bless You All and Thank You.

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