



University education is critical for the country's future, so it must be in the nation's interest to effectively fund universities.

At Egerton University we have taken important steps to broaden our funding base, especially in the area of research. Over the last four years, the University has significantly expanded donor funded research, starting with the flagship World Bank funded Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Agriculture and Agribusiness Management (CESAAM). Total cumulative research funding over the period stands at over KES 2 billion, with 25 significant projects currently funded. These programs have been critical in maintaining Egerton University's continued drive to remain a world class university. An important aspect of the University's capacity to attract and retain funding has been the exemplary hard work of the faculty and the disciplined financial management of research funds. The University has also revived the almost 3000 acres Ngongogeri Farm together with ARC Hotel and Lord Egerton Castle, which are managed by Egerton University Investment Management Company (EUICO), finally turning the enterprises to profitability after years of crippling losses and inherited debt. These enterprises should generate significant income for the University going forward in addition to providing practical education to students.

As we embark on our 2021 calendar, I would like to assure students, academic, administrative and support staff that the University will continue, relentlessly, with its mandate as one of the leading higher learning institutions in this country. As noted, the financial challenges facing the University are not unique to our institution. My attention is drawn to recent adverse press coverage alleging that the University is in a financial crisis due to corruption and mismanagement. Nothing can be further from the truth. These allegations are based on unfounded distortion of the facts and unsubstantiated innuendos. The truth is patently transparent. With the funding deficit, and the scale of prior losses at EUICO in particular, it is a miracle that the University is stable and thriving.

