Statement from the Vice-Chancellor

When the Employment and Labor Relations Court finally delivered its judgement on May 15, 2019 that the Vice-Chancellor was irregularly and unprocedurally suspended, it was a triumph of resilience. The road leading to that decision had been long, and the journey weary; but when you come from a position of truth and are anchored in integrity, the mist of personal agenda shall lift, and the night shall turn into day, paving the way for a diverse yet collaborative vision. For over a year now, there has been a rumbling hazy mist within the governance organs of the University which has nationally exposed a dirty underbelly of discord within the institution. In such an environment of leadership friction, it can be easy to lose sight of the University’s core values which include a passion for excellence, devotion to duty, social fairness, integrity, transparency and accountability. It was infidelity to these principles that led the University to rely on an impartial arbiter.

At its core, this case has been about transparency, it has been about process, and about following policies and procedures. These principles underlie the only effective way to manage a University. Adherence to these tenets ensures that all stakeholders, from students to faculty and staff, have confidence that they are part of an equitable and fair system. It was the departure from these principles by the Egerton University Council that got us here, and the judgement rendered by the Employment and Labor Relations Court is a timely affirmation of the centrality of these principles in the University governance.

For over thirty years the motivation for my service at Egerton University has always been the welfare of my students, faculty and staff. It has been disheartening to watch as various University leadership across the country have engaged in endless, fruitless fights. One would be left to wonder if it has been lost that the primary purpose of the University governance is to prepare our students for their roles as the future leaders of Kenya. We should ensure that the decisions we render provide our students and the University with the requisite tools and guidance that propel us forward together, and in-turn, the Nation.

Rose A. Mwonya
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