

## **Engineering Students Rewarded for their Innovations**

Several Engineering students from the University of Nairobi, School of Architecture and Engineering were jumping with joy and celebration as they received cash awards. The best student took home a cheque of over Kshs. 200,000.

The cash awards, courtesy of Hon. Dr. Patrick Mweu Musimba , Member of Parliament for Kibwezi West Constituency who came up with the idea of rewarding engineering innovations and to spur innovation among the students. According to Dr. Musimba, “Engineering is the backbone of the economy and indeed it’s one of the Big Four agenda of the Government.” Dr. Musimba was accompanied by Siaya Gubernatorial Aspirant, Eng. Nicholus Gumbo.

The Chief Guest, Dr. Mweu Musimba, observed that “Engineers are the pillars and backbone of this great nation”. He noted that the awards are part of the Corporate Social Responsibility and a way to encourage the young innovative minds to come up with solutions to the challenges facing our Nation..

Prof. Peter Ngau, Principal, College of Architecture and Engineering, attributed many innovations that are coming forward from the College to the cash award by Dr. Musimba. “I have witnessed enthusiasm and motivation among students. That is the energy we need to transform the nation. Transformations, Engineering, Innovation come as a result of Engineers, “he said. Prof. Peter Ngau represented the University of Nairobi Vice Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi at the event.

The Dean, School of Engineering, Prof. Jackson Mbutia, thanked the event sponsor for catalyzing engineering innovations within the School of Engineering. He observed that the school has become an envy of many schools as they channel out many innovations. Recently, the School designed a nano-satellite that will be launched into space in May 2018. Prof. Mbutia revealed that in total, Dr. Musimba has donated close to 9 million shillings that has gone towards supporting innovations at the School of Engineering.

Engineering Students Association Chair, Nelly Omina observed that as the students body, their duty is to empower students to delve deep into innovations, get funding and develop their startups into viable businesses. Students expressed the need to have both local and international internships to help increase their experience and worldview.

Going forward, the winners from the past events will have a session to pitch their innovations to a team of investors. Those who will be lucky will have their innovations taken to the next level as they commercialize them and develop ready to market products and solve societal challenges.