



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

**REMARKS BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROF. PETER
M.F. MBITHI DURING MEDIA ENGAGEMENT AND
DUMMY CHEQUE HAND OVER CEREMONY AT THE
UNIVERSITY'S VICE CHANCELLOR'S PARLOUR ON
TUESDAY, JULY 26, 2016 AT 10.30 A.M**

Our strategic Partners

Invited Guests

Staff

Media representatives present

Ladies and Gentlemen

I sincerely thank you for coming and expressing your interest in partnering to build our Innovation Ecosystem.

I would like to announce that the details of the program for the Nairobi Innovation Week are now finalized and we will be hosting an expected 1500 people between the 1st and 5th of August 2016 at the University grounds.

So far, this forum has attracted the five strategic partners:

- 1. Ministry of Education**
- 2. Ministry of Industry, Trade and Cooperatives**
- 3. Ministry of ICT**
- 4. UNICEF**
- 5. KEPSA**

These partners are contributing not only by funding the Innovation Week but more importantly in kind, by attracting the partners and other resources into the innovation week.

For example, UNICEF is funding the head of Innovation from the Global office to give a keynote speech, is facilitating a number of colleagues from the regional offices and will be facilitating pre-events and two panels. The ministry of Industry, Trade and Cooperatives has identified and funded startups who will exhibit the entire week and also pitch their work on the 5th of August before the closing ceremony.

There are a total of 16 partners and sponsors who have committed to support the movement, some of whom will present their cheques today

Sponsor Option	Confirmed Partners
Platinum Sponsors:	Kenya Revenue Authority Barclays Bank of Kenya
Gold Sponsor:	Equity Bank
Silver Sponsor:	Safaricom
Bronze Sponsors:	IBM Research,

	General Motors East Africa, Israel Embassy, Konza Technopolis, UoN Alumni Office
Other Partners (contributing in kind)	ADMI, Samsung, I Choose Life, KCB, Cooperative Bank, National Bank and Uber

There will be a total of 13 pre-events happening on Monday the 1st and Tuesday the 2nd.

These pre-events focus on Innovation Policy engagements and capacity building. There will be workshops, boot camps, Hackerthons, Makerthons, master classes and seminars.

On the 3rd and 4th of August, we will have a series of key note presentations and panel discussions on a variety of topics including but not limited to “Innovation Framework for the country”, “Innovations and Sustainable Development Goals”,

**“Commercialization of Research and Innovations”,
“University of the Future” “Innovations for Children
and Youth” and “Real-time Data and Innovations”.**

**Friday the 5th is a Startups Day. We will have an
opportunity to engage with emerging and innovative
companies who will showcase and pitch their solutions
to attract funding and partners. We have invited banks,
fund managers, venture capitalists and angel investors
to start engaging with us and the startups with the aim
of investing and supporting them.**

You can get a copy of the program from the secretariat to get a sense of how all these activities are distributed across the five days.

The Caliber of keynote presenters, exhibitors, panelist and facilitators is extremely varied, dynamic and encouraging. The spread will make anyone want to attend this forum. Below is a summary of the outline that is confirmed:

- 1. Three cabinet Secretary**
- 2. Two Principal Secretary**
- 3. The World Bank Director**

4. One Ambassador

5. Four International guests from USA, Israel and UK

**6. Five regional guests from Zambia, South Africa and
Nigeria**

**7.22 local CEOs, Country Directors and Managing
Directors**

8. Five Vice Chancellors from our partner Universities

9. Six High Schools

10. 100 exhibitors

It is my hope and that of the University of Nairobi that delegates will get value for the time. They will see, engage, learn and build new partnerships. We hope that this forum will continue to influence and shape our policy environment, inspire new and current entrepreneurs, strengthen the skills of our partners, staff and students to build more human centric innovations.

To the media, I hope that you will have plenty to report on. Five days of conversations and exhibitions will generate plenty of content that we will all be proud

of. Please, be proactive in engaging us and our partners, as well as our startups in highlighting and showcasing the good and progressive contribution of our talented community.

I thank you very much for coming and for being part of this movement.

God Bless you and God Bless Kenya.

PETER M.F MBITHI, PhD, EBS

VICE-CHANCELLOR

AND

PROFESSOR OF VETERINARY SURGERY