

## **School of Business launches Executive Development Programmes**

The University of Nairobi, School of Business, has launched a series of Executive Development Programmes.

The programmes aim at equipping executive managers with practical leadership skills to help them steer their organizations to greater levels of success. The programmes were launched on October 19, 2017 at the Chandaria Auditorium, University of Nairobi Towers.

Speaking during the event, Vimal Shah, Chief Executive Officer, Bidco Group of Companies, challenged the School of Business to benchmark with the best schools in the world, so that learners can get maximum return on their investment.

“We need more case studies of African businesses,” he said. “We read books on Microsoft, Apple, Google and overseas companies but not local companies. We need to read and learn about local companies too.”

Vimal Shah said that Kenya is the next frontier.

“The economy of Kenya is growing and doing better than its counterparts in the continent like South Africa and Nigeria and hence the country needs to take its rightful place as a leader in the region and in the continent,” he added. “Coupled with the highest internet speeds in the region, Kenya is ready for take-off. More over Kenya has been able to attract multinationals like British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), CNN, Google, Microsoft, among others. To be competitive in today’s technology era, we need to think on our feet. We need to embrace lifelong learning. I challenge graduates to embrace digital economy and create more jobs. For us to succeed, we have to learn, unlearn and relearn.”

Mr. Shah also appealed to the financial institutions to fund youth startups. He called on corporations to hire young people if they wish to see more innovation at the work place.

Presiding over the launch, Chairperson, Public Service Commission, Prof. Margaret Kobia, observed that most employees in the public sector lack competencies for the jobs and hence the executive programmes should be need based. She challenged the School of Business to train manpower that will create jobs and wealth.

Speaking on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs, Prof. Henry Mutoro, noted that the programmes will help business executives keep updated with the latest trends in the market. He said that staff development is key, for any organization that wishes to succeed. He observed that employees who benefit from company training programs tend to be more productive at work compared to non-trained ones. They are also more loyal and likely to stay at the organization.

The programmes will be packed with practical leadership skills that will help executives develop broader perspectives in business. The executives will be equipped with skills to enable them lead cross-functional teams. Prof. Mutoro noted that the University is ready to work with the private, public sector and countries to develop leadership skills.