REMARKS BY PROF. PETER M.F. MBITHI, VICE CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI DURING THE INNOVATION PUBLIC LECTURE ON THE ROLE OF UNIVERSITIES IN BUILDING KENYA’S INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM, HELD ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2016 IN TAIFA HALL AT 2.00 P.M.
Eng. John Tanui, CEO Konza Technopolis,
Partners,
Staff,
Students,
Ladies and Gentlemen, Good afternoon,
Let me start by welcoming all our visitors to the University of Nairobi, for this first in a series of innovation lectures planned in collaboration with our partners.

As an outcome of the Nairobi Innovation Week 2015 that was held in August last year, we have initiated various programs to keep this conversation going as we seek to energize the country’s Innovation Ecosystem.
The Innovation public lecture series will be held on a quarterly basis, as part of the build up to the Nairobi Innovation Week 2016 and beyond.

As a leading University in the region, we recognize the critical role we have to play at the center of the innovation ecosystem on the African continent. Therefore, we have positioned innovation as one of the defining pillars of our leadership. These innovation forums will be part of the effort to nurture an innovative culture for our students, staff and partners.

We recognize the key resources we have got – students, faculty, infrastructure, partners – which are critical feeders
of a vibrant innovation ecosystem. We also recognize that innovation will not just happen. Rather, it takes disciplined, focused and dedicated effort to identify gaps in society, generate alternative ideas, manage these ideas, develop prototypes to be tested, develop business models around them, engage users and finally scale them.

Our discussion today will touch on role of University as well as the Konza Techno City. While the University has a lot to do with talent, the Konza city has a lot to do with Technology and Infrastructure. When we combine the two, we get value that is more than the sum of the two!
This is the inaugural innovation forum, which I hope you will enjoy, learn from, identify individual and corporate opportunities and finally explore how you and I can be part of shaping the innovation agenda for this country and the region.

I also look forward to inviting you to the other three innovation forums of 2016 as the months roll by.

With those remarks, it is now my pleasure to invite Eng. John Tanui to make his presentation.

God bless you all.
PETER M.F MBITHI, PhD, EBS
VICE-CHANCELLOR
AND
PROFESSOR OF VETERINARY SURGERY