UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

REMARKS BY PROF. PETER M.F. MBITHI, VICE CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI DURING THE NATIONAL THOUGHT LEADERSHIP FORUM HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2017 AT THE CHANDARIA CENTRE FOR PERFORMING ARTS AUDITORIUM AT 7.00 P.M.
• Cabinet Secretaries
• CEO Nation Media Group
• Your Excellencies, the Ambassadors
• Our Strategic Partners
• Industry Captains
• Panelists
• Staff of the Nation Media Group
• Members of the University Community
• Invited Guests
• Ladies and Gentlemen
Let me take this opportunity to welcome you to the University of Nairobi. Specifically to this National Thought Leadership Forum.

This national conversation is the beginning of a series of the discourses that we are going to hold together with policy makers, policy implementers, policy influencers, advocacy groups, the academia and all the likeminded people who are keen to provide solutions to our development challenges.
In the good old days, the University of Nairobi's Taifa Hall was reminiscent with the national discourses that greatly shaped our national history. We contributed to the enhancement of the democratic space and the shaping of our national development path right from independence. Somehow along the way, we went off the track and left the stage for every Tom, Dick and Hurry.

The consequence is that our national discourse has gone too low and our intellectual contribution to national development has suffered a great deal. This
is a situation that we must reverse. That is why, we together with the Nation Media and other strategic partners have come together to provoke your thinking and incite you to be part of the solution and not passengers.

The conservation will not be a talk shop but a catalyst for national reawakening. I welcome you to this new beginning!

Thank you.

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