REMARKS BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROF. PETER M.F. MBITHI DURING THE BUSINESS, ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION (BEI) CONFERENCE 2018 AT THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS, UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI ON APRIL 11, 2018 AT 9.00 A.M
• The Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Industrialization and Enterprise Development: Hon. Adan Mohamed, EGH,
• The Japanese Ambassador to Kenya: H.E. Mr. Toshitsugu Uesawa
• The Chinese Ambassador to Kenya: H.E. Dr. Liu Xianfa
• The Executive Director ICDC: Mr Kennedy Wanderi
• The Principal, CHSS, Professor Enos Njeru

• The Dean School of Business, Prof. James Njihia,

• Other distinguished guests,

• Faculty members,

• Students

• Ladies and Gentlemen
Good morning,

I take this opportunity to welcome you all to the University of Nairobi, School of Business and to this year’s Business, Entrepreneurship and Innovation (BEI) Conference.

In 2008, the government of Kenya flagged off a development plan aimed at making the country a middle-class economy by 2030. The government has further narrowed her focus to the following key
pillars: Food Security, Improved Housing Healthcare facilities and Manufacturing. The key driver towards the realization of this vision is industrialization, with manufacturing being at the core.

For us to attain the forecasted 5% GDP growth, we must attain food security which warrants new technology and innovation; especially in the Agribusiness sector. Additionally, the youth need to
be trained on new production techniques and value addition.

To achieve improved healthcare in the country, our medics have to be trained on new medical technology. This has seen the University of Nairobi partnering with external industries and international universities such as the University of Kanazawa in Japan in order to be at par with new improvements in the medical sector.
I also take this occasion to encourage more postgraduate students, specifically those holding a post-graduate degree in internal medicine, to apply for the fully paid Medical Oncology fellowship program which is sponsored by Merck Foundation, Takeda Pharmaceuticals and Roche Pharmaceuticals as part of our external partners.
More courses are being introduced in various academic institutions with a bias towards science and technology. The University of Nairobi, being a premier university, not only engages in training but also conducts research in various areas through its Research Production and Extension Division. This ensures that new technology is harnessed to improve efficiency.
Academic institutions should foster industrial development through mentorship programs and rewarding innovations. The University of Nairobi has always and will continue to promote this through forums and conferences such as the BEI conference. This conference not only mentors upcoming innovators but also brings brilliant ideas to life.
The BEI conference is an annual two-day event meant to enlighten students and other stakeholders on the practical aspects of the business of business startups, entrepreneurial spirit and innovation.

This conference is a powerful platform for investors looking to create or inspire business opportunities and thus spurs economic growth through innovation and industrialization.
This being its sixth edition, this conference has seen many ideas being turned into realities and great businesses being created.

As institutions of higher learning, we are key stakeholders in the realization of vision 2030. We have a mandate to adequately mentor and train our youth if ever we are to realize our economic
aspirations. This should be put into practice while embracing innovation and entrepreneurship.

On this note, let me thank you all for your attendance and wish you fruitful deliberations even as you turn ideas into realities.
Thank you.

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