UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

REMARKS BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROF. GEORGE A.O. MAGOHA, DURING THE LAUNCH OF COMPUTING AND INFORMATICS ALUMNI CHAPTER AND ACTIVATION OF THE COMPUTING FOR DEVELOPMENT (C4D) INNOVATION LAB, AT THE SCHOOL OF COMPUTING AND INFORMATICS (SCI), CHIROMO CAMPUS, AT 5.00 P.M,
• Dr. Fred Okengo Matiang’i, the Cabinet Secretary for ICT
• Dr. Betty Gikonyo, the Chair University of Nairobi Alumni
• Prof. Peter M.F. Mbithi, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (A & F)
• Partners from Industry and the Public Service
• Alumni and Prospective alumni
• Ladies and Gentlemen
Ladies and gentlemen, I take this opportunity to welcome all of you to this function. In particular, I welcome our Chief guest, the Cabinet Secretary of Information Communication and Technology, for finding time to come and officiate at this function.

Ladies and gentlemen, universities are key to human resource capacity building and technological innovations which are now recognized as essential drivers of the social, political and economic development.

One of the most important drivers of national development is Information and Communication Technology (ICT).
It is noteworthy that most of the ICT innovations witnessed in the last 10 decades have emanated from universities.

The Internet, came out of the U.S. government’s Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency and MIT’s Lincoln Lab, way back in the 1960s. In 1939, with the encouragement of their Professor and mentor, Frederick Terman, Stanford alumni David Packard and William Hewlett established a little electronics company in a Palo Alto garage. That garage would later be dubbed "the Birthplace of Silicon Valley." Google came from Stanford, Cadence from Berkeley and Akamai from MIT, to just name a few.
The University of Nairobi, the largest and the top performing University in the region plays a big role in ICT human resource development.

It established the Institute of Computer Science (later to become the School of Computing and Informatics) in 1977 to execute its computing and ICT mandate. Since then, the School has produced and continues to produce high calibre ICT human resource for the country, region and beyond.

This is achieved through the quality degree programmes on offer at undergraduate, masters and Ph.D. levels.
The School remains the first choice for prospective students looking to developing careers in computing and ICT and the Alumni of the School are the leading ICT players in industry, commerce, public service, and education sectors in this country. The School has also played its leading role and will continue to do so in aligning with the national vision and mission.

Indeed this School is the benchmark for computing and ICT training in the region.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the University of Nairobi, being strategically positioned and endowed with a huge pool of talent and resources also continues to provide leadership in technology innovation. In this context,
the School of Computing and Informatics (SCI) is establishing a multi-disciplinary Centre of Excellence (CoE), called the Computing for Development (C4D) Centre, at the University of Nairobi. The centre is aligned with Vision 2030, Science, Technology and Innovation (ST&I) policy, the National ICT Master Plan, the current University of Nairobi Strategic Plan and the Performance Contract (PC) between the University and the State Department of Education, Science and Technology. Indeed, it has become one of the Vision 2030 flagship projects in the University PC.

Ladies and gentlemen, alumni are the university’s ambassadors and it is reasonable to expect that the
quality and image of a university is reflected and demonstrated by the quality and image of its alumni.

Further to that, the University recognizes alumni as key stakeholders and partners in the realization of its vision and mission. Indeed, it is now policy that alumni participate in the university’s activities including influencing governance by participating in nomination of Chancellor.

I take this opportunity to challenge the alumni of the School to take up their role and help the School achieve its vision of excellence in computing science, technology and innovation.
I hope that this launch will marshal the SCI alumni, to join the faculty members, graduate students, and corporate partners together to share, network, reminiscence and support the School and the C4D Lab in:

- Infrastructural development
- Internet Connectivity
- Financial support to incubator
- Commercializing the Innovations
- Recognition of the Innovators
- Software provision
- Training & Mentorship
Help us sustain and continually improve our quality in all areas of activity. More specifically on this occasion help make the C4D project a reality!

Thank you