UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

REMARKS BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROF. PETER M.F. MBITHI DURING THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE NAIROBI INNOVATION WEEK, 2018 HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 2018 AT 9.00 A.M. IN TAIFA HALL
Cabinet Secretary for Education

The other Cabinet Secretaries present

Madam Chancellor

Your Excellencies the Ambassadors

Distinguished CEO’s of Companies

Title Sponsor, Strategic Partners and all Sponsors

The College Principals

Stakeholders

Members of the University community

Ladies and Gentlemen
It is my privilege and honour to welcome you all to the University of Nairobi for Nairobi Innovation Week, 2018. First of all, I would like to thank you all for being a part of this important movement. It is a clear indication of your commitment to enhance innovation as a vehicle through which Kenya can develop effective solutions for her development challenges. Innovation is the key driver of the global evolution towards a sustainable development.
This innovation week brings together partners from government, the private sector, development partners and research centres with an aim of providing a platform for showcasing and encouraging innovation. The themes and sub-themes are valuable towards advancing the Governments big 4 agenda i.e. manufacturing, universal healthcare, affordable housing and food security.

As a University, we have created an atmosphere fit for growing student creativity and innovation and consequently entrenching a culture of innovation
among students. Recently, for example, our student named Cynthia Allela who is a product of NIW, 2016, became the winner of Bata Apprentice competition after displaying her creative expertise by creating an adaptable design that can be adjusted to assume different forms. Her designs will now be sold in select Bata outlets countrywide. Our resolve as a university is to continue to be a leader in innovations for a better tomorrow.
Our School of Engineering has also recently put Kenya on a global map by developing a satellite that is due to be launched into space in May this year.

Our long history of contributing to the national development through innovation and research activities would not be possible without the strong support from the government. I therefore take this opportunity to thank the Government for the steadfast support and request that we continue to receive the good will to not only inspire us but also challenge us to work even harder.
We are developing a UoN Tech-Pac, an initiative to support research and innovation. It will be among the many Research Development and Startup Incubation hubs in Kenya. I seize this opportunity to seek partnerships with more government organizations, non-governmental organizations, private sector and foundations, scientific and research organizations, other universities, development agencies and other entities interested in joining us to further our innovation efforts, promote development-oriented research, foster synergy and broaden our reach.
With those few remarks, thank you very much welcome to the Nairobi Innovation experience.

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