UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

REMARKS BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR PROF. PETER M.F. MBITHI DURING MEDIA ENGAGEMENT AND CHEQUE HANDOVER CEREMONY TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2018 IN THE VICE CHANCELLOR’S PARLOUR AT 9.40 A.M.
• Our strategic partners and sponsors
• University of Nairobi Management
• The Nairobi Innovation Week Secretariat
• Members of the fourth estate
• Ladies and gentlemen
Good morning!

It is a great pleasure to welcome you all to the University of Nairobi. I sincerely thank you for coming and expressing your interest in partnering with us for the Nairobi Innovation Week 2018. Together let us build our Innovation Ecosystem.

I wish to recognize the following strategic partners and sponsors present here today. Namely:

- Ministry of Industry, Trade and Cooperatives
- Ministry of ICT
- Ministry of Education
- Finnish Embassy
- UNICEF
- AfDB
- I Choose Life
- NETFUND
- IITA
- GIZ
- Villgro
- National Research Fund
- UON Alumni Office
- IBM
- Israel Embassy
In addition, we appreciate and recognize over 20 other partners who are supporting this year’s Nairobi Innovation Week in kind. Thank you.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Nairobi Innovation Week is now in its 4th year. Over the years, we have seen tremendous results of our efforts to build a global forum here in Nairobi. We now have many local and international partners converging here in Nairobi to be part of this success stay.
We appreciate your enormous contributions in supporting research activities, commercialization and scale up of startups, and above all creating an enabling policy environment for innovation.

The finer details of the 4th Nairobi Innovation Week are now finalized and are as follows:

- There will be 100 startup pitches between 5th and 9th March 2018.
- There are over 50 side events, most of which will take place in the University Towers between
Monday 5\textsuperscript{th} and Thursday 8\textsuperscript{th} March 2018. The side events range from breakfast meetings, workshops, boot camps, seminars, among others. These side events have been organized by over 20 different partners.

- The official opening ceremony will be on March 7\textsuperscript{th}, 2018.

- March 8\textsuperscript{th} is the international women’s day where UNESCO will lead an effort to celebrate and energize young women in technology.
• March 9th is our startups day where the 15 most promising startups will pitch in front of an audience of investors, startup enablers and partners.

The full program is now available on the website:

www.innovationweek.co.ke

Exhibitions

There will be more than 100 exhibitors from the local and international community that will showcase their
innovative work from Monday 5th to 9th March. Most of the booths are now taken.

It is our hope that delegates will get value for their time. They will see, engage, learn and build new partnerships. We believe that this forum will continue to influence and shape our policy environment, inspire new and current entrepreneurs, strengthen the skills of our partners, staff and students to build more human centric innovations.
To the media, I hope that you will have plenty to report on. Five days of conversations and exhibitions will generate plenty of content that we will all be proud of. Please, be proactive in engaging us and our partners, as well as our startups in highlighting and showcasing the good and progressive contribution of our talented community.
I thank you very much for coming and for being part of this movement.

God Bless you and God Bless Kenya.

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