

## University honoured at the Nairobi International Trade Fair.

**Date and time:** Wed, 2017-10-04 20:33

**Location / Venue:**

Nairobi International Trade Fair

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University of Nairobi has stood out as the best university during the ongoing Nairobi International Trade Fair and has been given a trophy by President Uhuru Kenyatta. The University won the best university stand, the stand that best interprets the show theme in the education and research category and the best stand in research and development

The award was given today, October, 4, 2017.

Speaking at the Trade Fair, President Uhuru Kenyatta, reiterated several measures his government has taken to improve agriculture in the country. Such measures include: Kshs. 30 billion budgetary allocations to agriculture that was used to finance various projects that would ensure food security and affordable food prices in the whole country, farm inputs like fertilizer have as well been lowered. The President also mentioned steps that have been taken to ensure that post-harvest losses are dealt with, pests like army work are eradicated.

To help farmers deal with the effects of drought, the government has put in place livestock and crop insurance. To lower the cost of maize flour, the President announced plans by the government to spend Kshs. 6 billion towards the project. To help farmers deal with access to credit, Equity Bank will

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disperse Kshs. 12 billion to the farmers at 12% interest. The President urged farmers to take the credit facilities and expand their operations.

Following the construction of the Standard Gauge Railway, SGR, the President observed that farmers now have a chance to access markets easily and hence will reduce post-harvest losses. Together with partners in the agricultural sector, the President suggested annual farmers reward scheme, where top performing farmers will be rewarded for the exemplary performance.

Nairobi Governor, Mike Mbuvi Sonko, thanked the exhibitors who graced the Nairobi International and urged them to take the opportunity to network and improve trade. He promised to give incentives, implement policies that will attract investment to the city of Nairobi.

The Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Willy Bett, observed that its only via technology that as a country we can deal with effects of climate change. He took the opportunity to thank the President for massive investments in agriculture. Such investments include mechanization, lowering the cost of subsidies and bringing more youth into agriculture.

Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi who was accompanied by the University Chancellor, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi urged student exhibitors keep refining their innovations and to commercialize their projects. "Never give up working on your ideas and innovations," said Prof. Mbithi.

Among the projects exhibited at the event are: car parking and automated payment system, e-learning for 60,000 plus students, bio-pesticides, convertible bed and table, University online repository among others.

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