

## Nairobi Innovation Gets Sponsorship from Corporates.

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The University of Nairobi annual technology symposium, popularly known as Nairobi Innovation Week, has received a boost from the industry players and the corporate sector after more sponsors come up to support the national technology event which aims at supporting business startups.

More than 5 industry players donated cheques to the Nairobi Innovation Week at a breakfast meeting held at the Vice-Chancellors Parlour, on February, 14, 2018. This year's theme is "Innovating for a Better Tomorrow."

Speaking during the event, the Cabinet Secretary, Industrialization, Trade and Cooperatives, Mr. Aden Mohammed, observed that the event is meant to nurture business startups which will create jobs for the youths and will help deal with the challenges of unemployment. He commended and congratulated the University and its partners on the successes of the Nairobi Innovation Week. "Many successful businesses were once startups," he said. The CS, revealed that the government plans to support about 5,000 small businesses through capacity building.

University of Nairobi Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi outlined the events program, "There are over 50 side events, most of which will take place in the University Towers between 5th and 8th March, 2018. These side events range from breakfast meetings, workshops, boot camps, seminars, among others and have been organized by over 20 different partners," he continued. "The official opening ceremony will be on March 7th, 2018.

At the event, some partners presented their cheques in support of the Nairobi Innovation Week 2018

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to the Vice-Chancellor. They include: I Choose Life- Kenya, National Research Fund and NetFund each gave Kshs. 1 million and the University of Nairobi Alumni Association gave Kshs. 500,000.

As part of the activities scheduled for the Nairobi Innovation Week 2018, 100 startups will pitch their innovative ideas. From this, the 15 most promising startups will try and win investors, startup enablers and partners to buy into their ideas and secure support.

“During the week-long event, March 9th, 2018 is our startups day,” announced the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi.

Some of the key partners that have supported the University of Nairobi Innovation Week in the recent past include: Barclays Bank, Equity Bank, Equity Bank, Safaricom, UNICEF, Africa Development Bank, Ministry of Industry, Trade and Cooperatives, Ministry of ICT, Ministry of Education, Finnish Embassy, UNICEF, IITA, GIZ, Villgro, IBM and Israel Embassy among others.

For more details on Nairobi Innovation Week, please visit : [www.innovationweek.co.ke](http://www.innovationweek.co.ke) [8]

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