



## **UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI**

**REMARKS BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROF. PETER  
M.F. MBITHI DURING THE INNOVATION PUBLIC  
LECTURE SERIES – QUARTER 2 HELD IN TAIFA HALL  
ON THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2016 AT 2.00 P.M.**

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**Your Excellency Amb. Yahel Vilan**

**Partners,**

**Staff,**

**Students**

**Ladies and Gentlemen, Good afternoon!**

**I have the pleasure to invite all our guests to the University of Nairobi, and in particular, to this second 2016 Innovation Week Public Lecture.**

**As an outcome of the Nairobi Innovation Week 2015 that was held in August last year, we initiated various programs to keep this conversation and activities on-going as we seek to energize the country's Innovation Ecosystem.**

**The Innovation public lecture series, initiated by the C4Dlab, is one of those initiatives that we are supporting as the University leadership. These innovation forums happening on a quarterly basis are**

**part of the build up to the Nairobi Innovation Week 2016 and beyond.**

**We had the first forum at this venue in February this year where we discussed the Role of Universities in building Kenya's Innovation Ecosystem, led by Eng. John Tanui from Konza. We plan to have another forum in Quarter 3 at a date we will be announcing soon.**

**As a leading University in the region, we recognize our critical role at the center of the innovation ecosystem on the African continent and as such, we have positioned innovation as one of the defining pillars of our leadership. These innovation forums will be part of**

**the effort to nurture the innovative culture of our students, staff and partners.**

**We recognize the key resources we've got – students, faculty, infrastructure, partners – which are critical feeders of a vibrant innovation ecosystem. We also recognize that innovation will not just happen. Rather, it takes disciplined, focused and dedicated effort to identify gaps in society, generate alternative ideas, manage these ideas, develop prototypes to be tested, develop business models around them, engage users and finally scale.**

**This is the second innovation forum, which I hope you will enjoy, learn from, identify individual and corporate**

**opportunities and finally explore how you and I can be part of shaping the innovation agenda of this country and region.**

**Amb. Yahel Vilan and indeed, Israel are friends of the University of Nairobi. The embassy supported the Nairobi Innovation Week 2015 and I am optimistic that the Embassy will participate in this year's forum in the first week of August 2016.**

**We value this relationship and the commitment of the Embassy of Israel to Kenya to the common mission of innovating to make life better.**

**With those remarks, it is now my pleasure to invite  
Amb. Yahel Vilan to make his presentation.**

**PETER M.F MBITHI, PhD, EBS**

**VICE-CHANCELLOR**

**AND**

**PROFESSOR OF VETERINARY SURGERY**