

**INTRODUCTORY REMARKS:
THE UON INCUBATION POLICY STAKEHOLDERS' FORUM
NAIROBI SERENA HOTEL
FEBRUARY 4, 2015**

- Principal Secretaries
 - Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Mbithi
 - Deputy Vice-Chancellors
 - Chief Executive Officers, Directors, Director Generals and Managing Directors
 - Distinguished guests
 - Ladies and Gentlemen
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I take this opportunity to welcome all our guests to this stakeholder's Forum on UoN Draft Incubation Policy

This forum brings together leaders in government ministries, CEO's of state corporations, industry, development agencies and the private sector whose line of work presents potential in contributing by critiquing and providing feedback on the UoN Draft Incubation Policy as well as the implementation and operationalization of the same. As you are aware for successful

Technology transfer and commercialization of innovations to take place Government, academic and Industry (commonly referred to as the Triple Helix) have to collaborate very closely.

Today's Stakeholders' Forum is essentially a brainstorming session but it also presents us with the opportunity to network with our stakeholders and secure buy-in from the various sectors.

One of the key products of research is innovation and being an institution of higher learning, the need to impart a culture of creativity and innovativeness as we create, preserve and disseminate knowledge is critical to sustainable national development.

The University of Nairobi has diverse discipline-based Centres of Excellence that have the capacity to provide leadership and support incubation and sustainable entrepreneurship within the country. Notable Centres that are already incubating businesses and technologies within the University are the Science and Technology Park (STP) and the Computer for Development Lab (C4DLab) from where successful start-ups have originated. The University has also commercialised new bean varieties and

organic fertilizer through the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Science.

While the University has participated in and supported the development of several products from these Centres, the incubation process of the same has been fairly informal. Thus the commercialization of these available viable ideas and products has not been effectively streamlined for the university and its partners to realize their optimum benefit.

For instance, at least two companies incubated at the STP already have a presence in the market, and the C4D Lab has successfully incubated one fairly successful company and yet they have not been able to enter appropriate contractual engagements with the incubatees that could enable both the university and the incubatees to fully benefit from the incubation system.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is against this background that the University took the initiative to develop and implement an Incubation policy for the University of Nairobi to guide the incubation system.

The main purpose of this policy is to guide the establishment and sustainable operation of incubation centres in the University that

can nurture new enterprises that have innovative products and services for local, regional and global markets and grow them into sustainable and competitive businesses that contribute to the realization of the Kenya Vision 2030.

The policy provides a framework for the establishment, management, monitoring and evaluation of all university incubation centres and related incubation engagements.

The specific objectives of this policy are to:-

- a) Guide the creation, management and governance of an incubator
- b) Define the incubation framework in terms of the products and services provided by either party (incubator and incubatee)
- c) Guide the processes of admission, incubation, exit and graduation of incubatees, and to;
- d) Enhance the innovation capacity in the University and the country

The proposed incubation system is strongly linked to and will complement the national and institutional policies and strategic plans, whose aim is developing a prosperous Kenya with high standards of living, increased industrialization and sustainable

entrepreneurship through effective and productive interaction between the University, the private sector and policy makers for the achievement of university core mandates and to spur sustainable national development.

It is my honor to welcome you to this Forum and my sincere hope that the contributions made here will stimulate a substantive discussion that will improve this draft policy.

I wish you all a fruitful discussion.

Thank you.