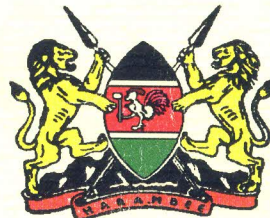


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**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**

**THE PRESIDENCY  
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SERVICE, YOUTH AND GENDER AFFAIRS**

**SPEECH BY MRS. ZEINAB W. HUSSEIN, PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, STATE DEPARTMENT OF GENDER AFFAIRS, MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SERVICE, YOUTH AND GENDER AFFAIRS DURING THE STAKEHOLDERS' EVENT AND LAUNCH OF THE MAKER SPACE HELD AT THE UPPER KABETE CAMPUS, UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI, JUNE 29, 2016.**



**The Vice Chancellor, University of Nairobi - Prof. Philip Mbithi,**

**Ms. Lily Torros - CEO Kenyatta National Hospital,**

**Pam Bolton, Vice President - Concern Worldwide, US,**

**Distinguished Guests,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is my humble delight to join you on this auspicious occasion of launching the Maker Space of the University of Nairobi. My delight draws from many sources. Foremost among these is the commonality of agenda between the focus of your Maker Space aspirations and our aspirations at the State Department for Gender Affairs - and indeed at the Ministry of public service, Youth and Gender Affairs.



I am enjoined with you in our common overriding commitment to empowerment of our citizens. The University of Nairobi has over the decades distinguished itself as the foremost institution of higher learning in our region. You are outstanding for bringing out enterprising and respected graduates who are trailblazers in their fields. Besides, you stand out as leaders in research. Today, our country is respected the world over for its leading role in ICT and in telecommunication innovativeness, courtesy of our young people - many of whom were trained in this university. Our MPESA innovation is now a world-class model and we have cause to feel proud of ourselves. As a nation, we are leaders in medical research, agroforestry, biotechnology and in many other sciences. The role of the University of Nairobi in all this cannot be overemphasised.

At the State Department for Gender Affairs, one of our key foci is women and youth enterprise through government-initiated affirmative action funds. Entrepreneurship itself goes hand in glove with innovation. Since its inception, these Funds has given out up to Kenya Shillings 25 billion to young people, women and persons living with disability to enable them start and manage their own enterprises. At the heart of these funds is the need to generate employment, grow wealth and empower both the individuals who are

