



KENYATTA UNIVERSITY

SPEECH

By

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VICE- CHANCELLOR

IBM Meeting

Thursday, 7th May, 2015

- + Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of ICT - Dr. Fred Matiang'i;**
- + Mr. Nicholas Nesbit- The IBM Country General Manager;**
- + Members of Management Present;**
- + Instructors;**
- + Staff;**
- + Students;**
- + Invited guests;**
- + Ladies and Gentlemen.**

Good morning.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to Kenyatta University, and to this KU-IBM partnership. I would like to start by thanking the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Information Communication and Technology - Dr. Fred Matiangi for finding time once again to grace this occasion. Our Chief Guest we are always privileged to host you at Kenyatta University.

Our Chief Guest, this event is most timely, coming as it does, at a time when most of our students who were trained passed their IBM Mobile Applications Developers Specialist test. Kenyatta University's collaboration with IBM started in early 2014 with various discussions at management level. We are happy that the collaboration has achieved a lot over a short period of time.

I am also happy to note that to date; we have **26** Faculty members trained on mobile technologies, and a similar number trained on cyber security. As for the students, **133** are trained on mobile tracking systems. It is even more encouraging because most of the students trained can build their own mobile applications and create their own income.

After signing an MOU with IBM, the initiative has achieved the following:

- ✚ Training of instructors that took place in August 2014
- ✚ Installation of a cloud platform at Kenyatta University
- ✚ Training of students that started in November 2014
- ✚ Training of more instructors

The current training programme which also incorporates mobile administration and cyber security is being offered to 44 faculty members from eight (8) Universities. This includes Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Kabarak University, United States International University-Africa,

Strathmore University, Riara University, Africa Nazarene University, Catholic University and Kenyatta University.

I wish to thank IBM for taking the initiative to establish the Middle East and Africa University Program, and for including Kenyatta University in the list of the very first lot to participate in the programme. We appreciate the investment you have made to ensure the programme succeeds here at Kenyatta University. Indeed, we do not take for granted the fact that IBM found it fit to install a high value server valued at **USD 120,000** and cloud environment and the related software in this University valued at **USD 1.7 Million**.

In addition we also appreciate the sponsorship of trainers of instructors from foreign countries to train our staff. We appreciate the commitment, focus, and determination of your officials in overseeing the project, particularly Mr. Andrea Emilliani, and Mr John Matogo.

Kenyatta University further appreciates the donation of the IBM Faculty grant of **US \$20,000**. The University is using the funds for research by staff and students in mobile applications and information security related areas.

Kenya and Africa in general is experiencing a shortfall between demand and availability for skilled staff. In addition, many companies are reporting a skills gap amongst graduating students and the industry needs.

In particular, there is a significant skills shortage within the IT industry across Africa and IBM is playing a key role in addressing the problem by actively implementing long-term initiatives that will provide Resources, Education and Training. IBM is doing a good job in implementing partnerships with the Universities to minimize this gap.

The courses that are offered through the IBM initiative are:

1. Cyber Security Specialist

- Security foundations
- Application Security Specialist
- Security intelligence Analyst

2. Data Management Specialist

- Data management Foundations
- Big Data Specialist

- Data warehouse analyst

3. Business Analytics specialist

- Business analytics Foundations
- Business Intelligence specialist
- Predictive Analytics

To further entrench mobile technologies in the country, Kenyatta University in collaboration with IBM is planning to

1. Run the other tracks specifically business analytics and Big data within the next one month.
2. Incorporate the Ministry of ICT in a research project that will promote ICT uptake in the counties.
3. In-cooperate IBM courses in our BSC programs
4. Develop further mobile initiatives in other areas such as health management.

Our Chief Guest, Kenyatta University is committed to enhancing the use of ICT in different spheres of life with the knowledge that ICT is the solution for many of the challenges that we face. I am happy to point out that with Government's commitment towards enhancing the use of ICT in order to transform this country, we are going to see more and more initiatives such as this emerging to benefit the people. With the advent of emerging

technologies such as mobile technology, Kenyans stand to benefit immensely from social learning and other emerging technologies. It is therefore possible that the gains earned from such innovations will position our students on a competitive edge in the rapidly evolving knowledge society.

With those remarks, I now wish to invite the Chief Guest - **Dr. Fred Matiang'i, the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Information, Communication and Technology** to make his remarks.

Thank you.