

SPEECH

BY

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2nd Investors Conference 2015

Thursday 11th June, 2015

**+ Our Chief Guest, the Chair
and CEO of Comcraft
Group of Companies, and
Philanthropist - Dr. Manu
Chandaria;**

+ Venture Capitals;

+ Angel Investors;

+ Distinguished Partners;

**+ Members of Kenyatta
University Management;**

**+ Director, Chandaria
Business Innovation &
Incubation Centre;**

+ Mentors;

+ Incubates;

+ Invited Guests;

+ Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good Afternoon.

**On behalf of Kenyatta
University and on my own**

behalf, I am delighted to welcome you all to Kenyatta University and to the 2nd Chandaria Business Innovation and Incubation Centre Investors Conference 2015. This is an important occasion not only for Kenyatta University but also for our country, considering the extent of the impact that

this initiative is envisaged to make on growth and development, now and in the future.

I am proud of the Chandaria Business Innovations and Incubation Centre for the notable role in transforming students, staff and the community in general from

being job seekers to being job creators. Such initiatives as today's Investors Conference are indeed critical to providing opportunities for innovative young people to meet potential funders and successful business mentors. I am sure that through this platform, our budding entrepreneurs will gain

access to both material and knowledge support from the investors. Undoubtedly, this support will enable them to transform their innovations into successful businesses that will not only improve their own lives but also uplift others through creation of employment opportunities and provision of better quality

and affordable products and services.

Ladies and Gentlemen, you will agree with me that our nation and indeed the whole of the African continent are experiencing high unemployment rates. This challenge becomes even more compounding with the

continued increase of the youthful population. As a result, this inadequacy in employment opportunities continues to create a growing gap between the expectations of the youth, and their real potential. This situation therefore calls for a paradigm shift from educating young people to

chase after the scarce white collar jobs but more to providing an enabling environment for them to harness and actualize their creative ideas and innovations into successful businesses. I am delighted to note that Kenyatta University through Chandaria Business Innovations and Incubation

centre among other initiatives is steadfast in building this environment for the University community and beyond.

Ladies and Gentlemen, to address the prevailing challenges in our society today including poverty, unemployment, diseases,

insecurity and youth related destructive behavior calls for concerted efforts from all stakeholders. As the government invests in health, education and infrastructure such as technology and roads, education institutions like the universities need to make their programmes and curricula more relevant to

address these needs. The private sector on the other hand needs to rise to the challenge by partnering with both the government and education institutions through initiatives like Chandaria Business Innovations and Incubation Centre to translate the immense potential in the

youthful population into solutions for the existing problems in the society. These partnerships will accord the youths the platform to contribute towards the socio-economic development of the country and the region.

In this regard, I would like to thank Chandaria Foundation, Youth Enterprise Development Fund, National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation, Centre for Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship, University of Western Ontario, Philips Electronics among others

that have partnered with Kenyatta University to make this Centre a success. The generous support from these partners has ensured that appropriate entrepreneurial training and other backing is provided to many young people who come to this Centre.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I further would like to express the desire for Kenyatta University to continue strengthening our existing partnerships and extend a big welcome to other guest organizations such as Centum Foundation, Safaricom, AGRA, KCB Foundation, Intellectap, Africa

**Capacity Alliance, Africa
Harvest Biotech Foundation
International, Junior
Achievement and Lions of
Science among others to
support Kenyatta University
in its efforts to ensure that
the incubates get the best.**

**I also take this opportunity to
challenge the incubates to**

maximally use the centre to develop robust ventures whose premium products and services will easily penetrate the market and rival those from other parts of the world. As Kenyatta University, we are glad to be part of this profound success story of enabling young people to transform themselves,

households, the nation and ultimately the entire African continent.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, with those few remarks, I once again welcome you to Kenyatta University and declare the Chandaria Business Innovation and Incubation

Centre 2nd Investors
Conference 2015 officially
opened.

Thank you.