

SPEECH

BY

Prof. Olive M. Mugenda, PhD, MBA, EBS, CBS
Vice-Chancellor

**Stakeholders Meeting on Solar
Photovoltaic project in Kenyatta
University**

Tuesday, 30th June 2015, 2015

**+ Chairman of University
Council – Prof. Ratemo
Michieka;**

**+ Vice-President
International, Urbasolar –
Mr. Paul Keurinck;**

**+ CEO, Africa Solar Designs
– Mr. Mark Hankins;**

**+ Members of Kenyatta
University Management;**

+ Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good Afternoon.

I would like to welcome you all to this stakeholders' consultative forum to share more about the Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Project to be hosted at Kenyatta University. I am happy that from our invitation, most of you have found time to come

and participate in this important occasion.

This day marks a remarkable moment for Kenyatta University as we continue pursuing our institutional commitment to innovation for sustainable development.

As a hub of innovation that aim at addressing societal needs, Kenyatta University has been keen to develop novel solutions for meeting the energy requirements in the country and the region. Through research and experience, power generation from Solar Photovoltaic technology has been found to

be clean, cost effective and sustainable. This is because it draws upon the Planet's most plentiful and widely distributed renewable energy source, the Sun. This technology therefore has been of great interest globally as we move towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

I am sure that this project will avail a rich platform for students and researchers in the University to develop innovations powered by solar energy. It is for this reason that the University entered into serious consultative discussions with Urbasolar and the African Solar Designs

Limited to establish this Project.

The process of setting up this most crucial project is envisaged to be implemented in three stages:-

First, a feasibility study will be carried out on the viability of commercial production of power on a 5-10 Mega watts

**ground-mounted,
photovoltaic, solar powered
plant for self-consumption.
Secondly, there will be the
pursuance and creation of a
Centre of Excellence on
photovoltaic technology. And,
thirdly, we plan to develop a
pilot photovoltaic plant in
Kenyatta University, Main
Campus.**

I am delighted to report that, the University is at an advanced stage in the establishment of an Industrial Park on the land across the Thika Superhighway. This park will provide the required space and resources to facilitate commercial exploitation of innovations that have the potential to

respond to societal needs.

We envision the solar photovoltaic project to be the first large project to be hosted in the University's Industrial Park.

As a University, we are glad that this project has received support from the Government of France through the Private Sector Study and Aid Fund

(FASEP) financing facilities.

We are therefore grateful to the Government and people of France for this support.

Ladies and Gentlemen, since H.E the French Ambassador to Kenya, Mr. Remi Marechaux will be joining us later in this function, allow me on behalf of the University to convey my appreciation

and assurance that as a University, we will ensure that the project develops the necessary power solutions for this country and the region.

With those few remarks, I thank you for honoring our invitation. May I now invite the Chairman of Council –

**Prof. Ratemo Michieka to
make his remarks.**

Thank you.