



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

**SPEECH BY PROF. ISAAC MBECHÉ, DEPUTY VICE-
CHANCELLOR (STUDENT AFFAIRS), UNIVERSITY OF
NAIROBI, DURING THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE
SECOND AFRICAN BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT
(ALBUMA) CONFERENCE AT KICC – NAIROBI**

LADIES and GENTLEMEN,

It gives me great pleasure to be called upon to make remarks during the opening of the Second African International Business and Management (ALBUMA) Conference on “Building Synergies for Better Performance”. I have noted that the Conference Organizers and the University of Nairobi’s School of Business seek to enhance, through this Conference, a better partnership between business and management practitioners.

The conference provides a forum for sharing knowledge to enable businesses and public sector organizations in Kenya, Africa and the world as a whole to grow and be sustainable. Research ideas will be showcased from different parts of the world in this forum and I hope it will provide a platform for collaboration between academics and leaders in private sector organizations and the government. To all our visitors, I say “karibu” Kenya and a warm welcome to you all.

I wish to thank the keynote speaker, Prof. John Gallagher, who is an Associate Professor of Information Systems at Boston College’s Carroll School of Management, for sparing time to be with us in this Conference.

I note with appreciation that the ALBUMA Conference seeks to showcase world class research that is relevant in Africa from both the academia and business and management practitioners which is well captured in this year's theme "Building Synergies for Better Performance".

The output of this Conference should therefore, put emphasis on real world business applications which is also multi-disciplinary and has the potential to provide sustainable solutions for development.

Let us remember that we in Africa can only survive in the current globalization challenges through partnership at various levels. We need, for example, partnership at the

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**ence cohesion between individuals
and communities. we need partnership at the level of
communities to enhance socio-economic capital so as to
reduce poverty levels and we need partnership between
Africa states to enhance productivity, efficiency and
effectiveness.**

**For participants at this Conference, there is an urgent
need for partnership between scholars and business
leaders, which I believe will lead to the strengthening of
our business and management practices, in order to make
our organizations competitive in the global market place.**

**strengthen the partnership through
various means.**

Through conferences such as this, our business leaders can benefit from local research that is likely to be relevant for transforming business practices.

We also know that the internet is increasingly becoming dominant as a channel for communication. Our scholars and business people must contribute to the wealth of knowledge that resides in this infrastructure.

We must also encourage a flourishing publishing culture in Africa so that our African institutions can benefit from indigenous knowledge that will be relevant in transforming

I would like to thank all our guests who have come from various parts of the world. We hope that you will enjoy the hospitality of the Kenyan and East African people.

You are welcome again to attend the next ALBUMA Conference that will be held in August next year.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all those who have helped in various ways in order to realize this Conference. I would like to thank our sponsors such as the Kenya Power and Lighting Company, the British American

and the NIC Bank as well as the
University of Nairobi. Last but not least, I would like to
thank the Organizing Committee and the School of
Business Management Team and all the participants for
their contribution and which I am sure will make this
Conference a great success.

With these remarks, it is my pleasant duty and honour to
declare this Conference officially open.

PROF. ISAAC MBECHÉ
DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR
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