

SPEECH BY PROF. ISAAC MBECHÉ, DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR (STUDENT AFFAIRS), UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI, DURING THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE FOURTH AFRICAN BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT (AIBUMA) CONFERENCE AT THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS, LOWER KABETE CAMPUS

- *The Vice Chancellor – Prof. George A. Magoha*
- *The Deputy Vice Chancellor (A&F) – Prof. Peter M. Mbithi*
- *The Deputy Vice Chancellor (AA) – Prof. Mutoro*
- *The Deputy Vice Chancellor (RPE) – Prof. Lucy Irungu*
- *The Principal, CHSS – Prof. Enos Njeru*
- *Musyoka Muli – Managing Director, Longhorn Publishers Kenya*
- *Munir Mohammed – Managing Director, National Bank of Kenya*
- *Prof. Margaret Kobia – Chairperson, Public Service Commission*
- *Eng. Patrick Obath – Chairman, Kenya Private Sector Alliance*
- *Peter Kebati – C.E.O, Mumias Sugar*
- *Jeremy Awory – C.E.O Barclays Bank of Kenya*
- *Sicily Kariuki – MD Tea Board of Kenya*
- *Sam Shollei – C.E.O, Standard Group*
- *Hans Peit – Head of Practice-Mobile Broadband –Region Sub-Saharan Africa (RSSA), Ericsson*
- *Gor Semelang’o – Chairman, Youth Enterprise Development Fund*
- *Isaack Awuondo – Group C.E.O., Commercial Bank of Africa*
- *Kungu Gatabaki – Chairman, Capital Markets Authority*
- *Prof. Thomas Ross – University of British Columbia School of Business*
- *Xing Quan Zhang – Head, Centre for Cities, United Nations Human Settlements*
- *Distinguished speakers*
- *Distinguished Participants*
- *Members of the Academia, Staff and Students*

It gives me great pleasure to be called upon to make remarks during the opening of the Fourth African International Business and Management (AIBUMA)

Conference. The AIBUMA Conference seeks to build and enhance new partnership and research collaborations between business and management practitioners together with members of academia.

The Conference provides a forum for sharing of knowledge and experiences between the private and public sector organizations within the region and also from other parts of the world. The theme of this year's conference is **“Business and Management Outlook: Optimism or Pessimism?”**

As the AIBUMA Conference Patron, it is my hope that this forum will provide a platform for new collaborations between academic institutions, leaders in private and public sector. It is envisaged that such mutual interactions and the presentation of tested research ideas will be of great benefit to all parties in enabling achievement of the individual and institutional goals.

As outlined from the various papers to be presented during the next two days, the output of this Conference will emphasis on real world business and management applications that incorporates research ideas from multiple disciplines aimed at providing sustainable solutions for development.

This forum provides a suitable ground for interaction amongst all participants where discussions will be held towards facing the emerging globalization challenges and partnership at the individual level to enhance cohesion between individuals and institutions.

Am pleased to note that this year's Conference has attracted over fifteen (15) Chief Executive Officers from reputed organizations both locally and internationally. I urge participants at this Conference to seek partnership between the scholars and the business leaders, which I believe will lead to the strengthening of our business and management practices as a result of the blending of theory and industry experiences, this will make our organizations, institutions and also the individuals competitive in the global market.

Through this Conference, the business leaders will benefit from research undertaken across the globe that is relevant for transforming the organizations business management practices.

As we engage during the two day conference, let us be aware that globalization is now our common fate and we need to face the challenges affecting the business and management aspects, through forging a common and progressive framework that encourages exchange of knowledge and innovative leadership, this will help African countries achieve greater productivity and wealth creation.

I would like to thank all our guests from the various parts of the world who have committed their time and resources to attend this conference. We hope that you will enjoy the hospitality of the Kenyan and East African people. You are welcome again to attend the next AIBUMA Conference that will be held in July 2014.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all those who contributed towards the realization of this year's Conference. We are grateful to the Vice Chancellor,

University of Nairobi and the Principal, College of Humanities and Social Sciences for providing resources to host this Conference. I thank the AIBUMA Conference Organizing Committee and the School of Business Management Team and all the participants for their contribution in making this Conference a great success.

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