SPEECH BY PROF. ISAAC MBECHE, 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 Caroll 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
individually to enhance 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 marketplace.
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.

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DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR
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UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

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