

August 2016

Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta, The President of Kenya and commander-in chief of Kenya Defence Forces

The President of Kenya and commander-in chief of Kenya Defence Forces, Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta officially launched the 2nd Annual Nairobi Innovation Week on Wednesday, August 3, 2016 in Taifa Hall.

In His Keynote speech, the President announced the Government of Kenya has increased the capitation to the University of Nairobi by Kshs. 100 Million to support innovation efforts.

Hon. Kenyatta applauded the University of Nairobi for remaining on top in innovations and leading as an example. He said that other institutions of higher learning should be inspired by the Innovation Week and learn from the set example.

The President acknowledged the importance of innovations citing the fact that it is through innovation and creativity such as MPESA that Kenya has received two awards in Africa. Kenya continues leading in innovation in East Africa region. However, he said that Kenya needs more innovations from sectors like health, agriculture, security among others. He said that innovations address the needs of the people and make life better.

Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta said that there needs to be better links between academia, researchers, private sector and financial services sector. He said, "If we ever hope to get full value, there is still a lot of work that needs to be done to see people's lives improved or changed by innovations." He challenged the youth to be part of such festivals because the government would like to support the young skills and imaginations.

He also addressed the academia and said that there needs to be an improvement in teaching science based courses.