

UoN discusses transformative agenda with alumni and partners

The University of Nairobi (UoN) hosted a forum for alumni and partners to discuss the institution's transformative agenda.

Key areas on the University's transformative agenda include fundraising, resource mobilization and sustainability strategy, infrastructure development, setting up a graduate skills enhancement programme, improving student experience on campus, enhancing research and innovation, among others.

In his presentation, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi noted that the transformative agenda will uplift the University to a world class status with state-of-the-art facilities thereby attracting world class students and faculty. Prof. Mbithi said that by establishing the University of Nairobi Foundation and an endowment fund, UON will be able to expand its philanthropic support. In addition, the operationalization of the Advancement Office will enable the University raise fund for research and innovation, scholarships and development of infrastructure. To this end, Prof. Mbithi called on the alumni and partners to support the University in realizing various aspects of the transformative agenda.

Prof. Henry Mutoro, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs, said that the forum acts as an opportunity to get feedback from alumni and partners on how to improve the University to align with local, regional and global expectations.

Mr. Johnson Kinyua, the Director, University Advancement gave an overview of the Advancement Office, its roles and responsibilities. The Deputy Director, Mr. Brian Ouma spoke on university-industry collaborations touching on the scholarship and bursary fund, student's internship and mentorship programmes and the research and innovation fund.

Mr. Ibrahim Otieno, the Director, ICT Centre, highlighted the importance of using technology to improve organizations' visibility among other brands. Key on the agenda was to invite the alumni and partners to create website links.

Dr. Tonny Omwansa, the Chairman, Nairobi Innovation Week Committee and a lecturer at the School of Computing and Informatics, made a presentation on the Nairobi Innovation Week. According to Dr. Omwansa, the event will bring together policy makers, academia, entrepreneurs and private sector, innovators, students and investors. The upcoming event scheduled for August 5-7, 2015 aims at enhancing innovation in the country.

Ms. Jane Mogaka, ag. Executive Director, University of Nairobi Alumni Association, encouraged those present to register with the Association and support their alma mater.