

## **Minister Urges Students to Seek Self Employment**

Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Ministry of Devolution and Planning, Ms. Anne Waiguru has challenged university students to seek self-employment opportunities.

Addressing fourth year students mostly drawn from the Faculty of Arts, Ms. Waiguru highlighted the various opportunities the Government has availed to the Youth. The Cabinet Secretary said that through the Ministry of Devolution and Planning, the Government designed and initiated the Uwezo Fund, a flagship programme aimed at providing credit to micro and small enterprises owned by women, youth and persons with disability.

Ms. Waiguru challenged the youth to take advantage of the opportunities the Government has put in place to build youth enterprises. Key among them is the 30 percent public procurement preferential reservations for women, youth and persons with disability. The minister observed that the restructuring of the National Youth Service (NYS) has advanced the transformational agenda of youth in the context of national development. She also revealed that through NYS programmes, the Government is grooming youth to be patriotic and responsible Kenyans while at the same time fostering cohesion among them since they come from different backgrounds. On skills gaps among young people, Ms. Waiguru said that through the Kenya Youth Empowerment Programme which is in partnership with the World Bank and the private sector, over 13,000 youths have secured internships with various organizations.

Speaking on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Student Affairs, Prof. Isaac Mbeche, welcomed the Cabinet Secretary noting that indeed the lecture was timely as the University of Nairobi' management focuses its agenda on improving student experience while on campus and setting up a vibrant graduate skills enhancement programme. In matters entrepreneurship, Prof. Mbeche revealed that the University is seeking ways of engaging representatives of firms owned by youth, women and persons with disabilities. He noted that the University is keen on developing a working relationship with the firms while managing the affirmative action on 30 percent procurement awards to firms owned by youth, women and persons with disabilities.