

**PROF. NOAH O. MIDAMBA'S OPENING ADDRESS**

**AT**

**THE CENTRE OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND  
LEADERSHIP 1<sup>ST</sup> BUSINESS WEEK FORUM**

**HELD AT KCA UNIVERSITY, RUARAKA CAMPUS**

**ON 19TH MARCH, 2014**

Good morning everyone!

Our chief guest, students, ladies & gentlemen,

The business week concept is a brain child of Centre for entrepreneurship and Leadership a department within the University tasked with the responsibility of promoting entrepreneurship among students and faculty respectively in the University.

This forum gives us the opportunity to;

- Shows case the initiatives various partners are undertaking with the youths to initiate positive change in the society and tap vast potential existing among them;
- Give thematic expositions on how we can assist the youth to exploit opportunities around them;

- Help the youth to identify entrepreneurial ideas and business solutions, and help shape these ideas to be the next big business venture with sustainable competitive advantage.

Besides the three objectives mentioned, the business week forum provides students, graduates, alumni, partners and sponsors an opportunity to come together to exhibit their businesses, present ideas and progress reports, network with mentors and receive insights and encouragement from seasoned and successful entrepreneurs and people who work with entrepreneurs through this bi-annual forum dubbed 'business week'.

This is a very important initiative that the university is pioneering as it attempts to bring together its competence and experience in capacity building and incubation, while seeking partners who will work together with the university in mentoring and funding the business ideas from our students and the wider society at large.

The speakers and facilitators are drawn in the domains that represent the aspirations that the University believes will help nurture successful entrepreneurs. One of the chief guests, Mr. Ronald Osumba is a fine young man with great focus to good work ethic with a genuine commitment to the improvement of the youth in Kenya. He is visionary and a pragmatic leader who has once offered himself to be the deputy president of this great country.

Mr. Osumba at the age of 35 years represent the ambition and determination that the youth of this country needs to exhibit in all fronts of entrepreneurship as they attempt to take the reign of leadership from the independence generation of this country.

Mr Osumba has had an illustrious career spanning over 10 years in various organizations and currently works for Safaricom Ltd as the head of Government relations.



As a University, we believe that we can establish a stronger partnership in the areas of ICT and Business. Safaricom Ltd is one of the most innovative companies in the world. KCA University through some of our students have developed great innovations that would need such like partners. One of our students Peter Mackenzie was the first among Kenyan Universities to develop the e-voting system that has been used in our student's University elections.

Our second guest is my friend, Dr. Hasmukh Dawda, a Kenyan citizen born on May 1950 in Siaya. He lived his childhood in the rural area of Ndere centre, where he pursued his early primary education and later transformed into an entrepreneur.

Starting from street vending of household commodities in 1963 in Kisumu, he has established an empire of various industries and businesses which currently run under the umbrella name of Dawda Group of Companies which includes the House of Manji in which he is the Chairman.

Dr. Dawda's entrepreneurial journey mirrors a great deal of the journeys and struggles many of our youths go through especially in the rural Kenya. He has indeed proven that focus, determination, Integrity and Commitment to Excellence is indeed the hallmarks that our youth should strive for.

Together with other speakers and facilitators, our alumni Entrepreneurs and students, this forum provides an opportunity to share our experiences, fears and successes in a free learning environment.

To our sponsors and partners we appreciate your continued partnership and would wish to call upon the stakeholders in this forum to carry it forward and help transform it into a National forum where Academia, entrepreneurs, industrialists, Government, banks and financial institution would regularly meet to discourse and provide timely and innovative solution needed to transform this country.

Indeed with such Partners like Youth Fund, whose C.E.O is our current master's student, Safaricom Ltd, House of Manji, Dawda Group of companies, Business Networking International, Rafiki Deposit Taking Micro Finance, CIC insurance, ABCIC, Youth T.V, NETFUND, ENABLIS, Directorate of Youth Affairs and Nafisika, this strengthens our resolve and commitment to take our capacity building and incubation program to the next level.

During our last graduation ceremony we introduced one of our incubates Cyrus Mulinge who is now a millionaire. We want to commit through your support that in this coming graduation we shall be able to graduate at least 20 enterprises alongside our 2014 graduating class.

To our Alumni Incubatees such as Africa Centre for Computing (Cyrus Mulinge), Intellisoft Ltd (Louis Openda), Keepitkleen (Esther Ndegwa), Pitontop (Anthony Mbogo), and 360 virtual reality (Ernest Muturi), we are indeed grateful that you honoured to come and be with us and encourage your younger brothers and sisters. You are our number one partners.

Thank you and God bless you.