



Statement by
Prof. Mabel Imbuga, PhD, EBS
Vice Chancellor,
Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology
During
Launch
Safaricom Telecommunications Equipment
ACIAD
Thursday, August 15, 2013.

Dr. Ekuru Aukot, Council Chair, JKUAT;
Safaricom Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Bob Collymore;
Principal Secretary, Ministry of ICT;
Principal Secretary, Ministry of Education;
Directors from Safaricom;
Deputy Vice Chancellors JKUAT;
Other Senior Staff from both JKUAT and Safaricom Limited;
Ladies and Gentlemen;

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to today's ceremony to launch Safaricom Telecommunications Lab at JKUAT. From the onset, I wish to sincerely thank Mr. Bob Collymore, CEO-Safaricom Ltd and his entire team for the worthy gesture of donating the equipment that will aid teaching and research in mobile communication at the Department of Telecommunication and Information Engineering.

Today's ceremony is a culmination of a journey that JKUAT and Safaricom Ltd started walking together in 2008. Through a joint agreement that paved the way for our two organizations to collaborate in training and research in mobile technology, a lot has been achieved.

Central to these achievements was the review of our BSc. programme in Telecommunication and Information Engineering. During the said review, Safaricom Ltd, a leader in mobile telecommunications technology was instrumental in bringing on board new developments in telecommunications including mobile, fibre optics and satellite communication technologies. The review has been key in making the programme more competitive, now attracting students with the highest cut of points in the country's public universities.

Furthermore, Safaricom Ltd has been active in supporting and participating in our Annual Career fairs which are designed to sensitize students on various career and internship opportunities available at Safaricom and the entire telecommunications sector. Equally, our Annual Scientific Conference has benefitted from generous material support from Safaricom, while our *Tech Expo*, also an annual event aimed at inculcating a culture of innovations among the students, has been receiving invaluable support from Safaricom.

Mr. CEO, your company, has also been active in lending the much needed help in inspiring our students' creativity particularly in the development of their own mobile applications in addition to granting them industrial attachment opportunities. It is my belief that we shall continue to strengthen the partnership for the mutual benefit of the two institutions.

I am particularly keen to ensure that we step up staff exchange program as provided for in the MoU to allow our staff to get hands-on training which will lead to better service delivery. I am particularly gratified to note, Safaricom Ltd has already kindly accepted one of our staff members to be attached at the company.

In return, JKUAT has introduced a new scheme where highly experienced engineers working in the industry to teach at JKUAT as adjunct faculty. The idea is to ensure that JKUAT taps into the practical experience of these practicing engineers.

I further urge Safaricom to invest in the commercialization and marketing of applications, products and services that are jointly developed. This has the potential of answering to some of the flagship projects in Kenya's Vision 2030, where ICT is a major driver. We therefore appeal to Safaricom to partner with us in establishing a Telecommunications Academy at JKUAT to nurture excellence in students' creativity.

In conclusion, ladies and gentlemen, let me take this opportunity once again to thank our partner, Safaricom Ltd on this auspicious occasion of the launching of the telecommunications equipment.

I thank you most sincerely for listening to me.