



Kenyatta University

Transforming Higher Education...Enhancing Lives

Varsity Holds Media Launch on Graduate Employability in Sub-Saharan Africa

Nairobi 9th October 2014... Kenyatta University and the British Council in collaboration with the Institute of Education, University of London today hosted a Media Launch on a **Policy Brief on Graduate Employability in Sub-Saharan Africa**. The event is part of ongoing research in 'understanding graduate employability in Sub-Saharan Africa'. The Chief Guest was Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi. Besides the Chief Guest, other distinguished panellists included Prof. John Okumu, DVC (Academic) Kenyatta University, Dr. Jo Beall, Global Head of Education & Society, British Council, Prof. Daniel Sifuna, Advisor to Kenya's Lead Researcher & Professor at Kenyatta University, Prof. Ibrahim Oanda, Lead Researcher for Kenya & Professor at Kenyatta University and Mr. Tony Reilly OBE, Director, British Council Kenya who also served as the moderator.

Speaking during the Panel Discussion, the Cabinet Secretary lauded the initiative and outlined complementary efforts made by the government to improve tertiary education. From his remarks, he emphasized the need for increased emphasis on quality of learning imparted on university students and its potential to transform the society not only through employment but also job creation. He called on all stakeholders to continuously increase efforts towards bridging gaps between university curriculum and industry needs. Notable among these initiatives as observed by Prof. Kaimenyi was increased students' work placement to improve their experiences while nurturing their creative selves. "... as stakeholders in tertiary education, we need to strike a balance between nurturing creativity, innovation, skills development and industry needs..."

During the panel discussion, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Kenyatta University, Prof. John Okumu outlined Kenyatta University's initiatives aimed at addressing graduate employability. Notable among these include the Students Work Induction Programme, Students Training on Entrepreneurial Promotion (STEP), Chandaria Business Innovation and Incubation Centre among others.

From the panel discussions, participants called for concerted efforts towards regular curriculum reviews to meet not only industry trends but also prepare students to be job-creators. The preliminary findings of the ongoing study as presented by the lead researchers, Prof. Ibrahim Oanda and Prof. Daniel Sifuna, painted a worrying trend in levels of preparedness of graduates from Kenya and other Sub-Saharan Africa Countries in facing industry needs. From the panel and participants, it was observed that a need to intensify graduate research to solve employability challenges needs to be done so as to improve the nation's preparedness in tackling various sectoral development challenges. In lieu of this, a need for dedicated institutions to research was proposed to prepare learners to solve various research problems affecting development.

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About Kenyatta University

Kenyatta University is the one of the largest universities in Eastern Africa whose vision is to be a dynamic, an inclusive and a competitive centre for excellence in teaching learning and research and service to humanity.

Founded in 1965, K.U has taken significant steps towards becoming a world-class university over the years.

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