



On the morning of February 4, senior government officials and private industry stakeholders were meeting at the Nairobi Serena Hotel, deliberating on the just-formulated start-up Incubation Policy by the [University of Nairobi](#).

Professor [Peter Mbithi](#), the just-sworn-in UoN Vice-Chancellor, was among the speakers at the forum who urged on the need for a fruitful collaboration between academia, government and the private sector in order to ensure the achievement of economic development milestones set out in [Vision 2030](#).

Nevertheless, the Vice Chancellor insisted that universities still had a bigger role to play in national development. In effect, he announced, “For us to fulfill our national development agenda and commercialization of technological start-ups, we have developed this incubation policy.”

The policy, among other things, stipulates the creation of incubation centers along different disciplines, which will then be funded to grow into commercially viable ventures. The businesses will also be monitored to ensure they contribute to national development.

During the incubation period, start-ups will be given office space and broadband Internet. Intellectual property protection, business mentorship programs, networking avenues, auditing and legal services will also be provided to facilitate the activities of the young businesses.

Moderating the Incubation Policy forum was Prof. Timothy Waema from the UoN School of Computing and Informatics, who added that the business start-ups will be incubated for a maximum period of 2 years.

Meanwhile, the university Incubation Policy stakeholder forum involved officials from the Treasury, Ministry of Education Science and Technology, the Vision 2030 Secretariat, Ministry of Information, Communication and Technology, Konza City, among other partners from both the private and public sectors.