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KENYA NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC REVIVAL DAY OF AFRICA (SRDA) CELEBRATIONS, JUNE 28TH 2018, NAIROBI - KENYA

THEME: “The Kenyan Brain Drain and Brain Gain: Challenges and Opportunities for Sustainable Development

Sub-Theme 4: Policies and Strategies for Turning Brain Drain and Brain Gain into Opportunities for Transformation of Kenya's Economy into a Knowledge Economy

Topic: Streamlining the Higher Education Sector to Curb Brain Drain: Education, Training, and Capacity Building for Solutions to Local Problems

Abstract

The current Kenyan Higher Education system is producing graduates not capable of providing solutions to local problems, denying the private sector the opportunity to birth sustainable and profitable enterprises. Sustainable and profitable enterprises reward professional staff who are then able to develop successful careers at home rather than migrating to greener pastures abroad. This study posits that appropriate changes to Kenya's Higher Education policies focused on matching skills trainings with solutions to local problems will go a long way in birthing sustainable and profitable enterprises that will in turn reward the graduates with not only decent wages but also with favorable working conditions. This is important because studies have shown that among the major push factors in brain drain is low remuneration and poor working conditions.

The study prescribes a viable policy framework that, if adopted by the Kenya Higher Education system, will go a long way in curbing brain drain by matching skills training with solutions to local problems. The research methodology used is Case Studies. By looking at Higher Education policies of several other countries and making comparisons of their economic development effects with those of Kenya, the current study is able to prescribe a set of policies that this researcher contends will curb Kenya's brain drain by creating adequate opportunities here at home.