

**Message from Mr. Mwatata Mwangala, the Chief Executive Officer, during the launch of the Chandaria Business Incubation and Innovation Centre at Kenyatta University on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2011**

Besides advancing loans the Youth Enterprise Development Fund provides other business development services such as market linkages, entrepreneurship training and commercial infrastructure. The Fund also facilitates young people to obtain jobs abroad.

One of the biggest challenges facing young entrepreneurs today is the inaccessibility to decent trading space due to the costs associated with it. This explains why many budding entrepreneurs operate their businesses at home, which is away from the market, and why many beginners start in the streets, as hawkers. In fact hawking is a youth problem.

Under the commercial infrastructure mandate of the Fund we shall endeavor to provide decent trading space to young entrepreneurs especially the beginners. We look forward to providing physical space with the necessary business support services to budding entrepreneurs.

We are therefore proud to partner with Kenyatta University in launching an incubation centre that will support young Kenyans to develop their business ideas. After the incubation the Fund will provide financial support to the enterprises so that they can roll out their businesses on a commercial scale.

For a start the Fund will invest Kshs. 4.6 million in this venture.

We continue to appeal to other partners to come up with youth focused programmes in which we can partner.

Mwatata Juma Mwangala

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**