

## **COLLABORATION MEETING BETWEEN YEDF AND KeNIA**

**Nairobi 12 February 2024** - The Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF) and the Kenya National Innovation Agency (KeNIA) today convened a meeting to explore opportunities for collaboration in fostering youth entrepreneurship, innovation, and creating a more supportive ecosystem in Kenya. YEDF provides financial support and business development services to youth-owned enterprises, while KeNIA coordinates, promotes, and regulates the National Innovation System, working with partners to prioritize capacity development, innovation recognition, and publication.

Discussions during the meeting focused on shared objectives related to youth entrepreneurship and innovation, identifying areas for collaboration to maximize impact. Opportunities for joint funding schemes, training programs, mentorship initiatives, market linkages, policy advocacy, resource mobilization, showcasing youth innovations, and joint incubation and acceleration support services were identified as potential areas of collaboration.

Mr. Josiah Moriasi, CEO of YEDF, highlighted the directive by Youth Affairs, Creative Economy and Sports Cabinet Secretary Ababu Namwamba to enhance the collaboration between the two agencies with a view to amplifying their impact on the country's economic growth and development. Mr. Moriasi also mentioned YEDF's collaboration with universities to commercialize innovations, including partnerships with Kenyatta and Karatina universities.

Dr. Tony Omwansa, CEO of KeNIA, expressed KeNIA's commitment to supporting youth in creating scalable enterprises and commercializing the knowledge economy. He emphasized that collaboration between YEDF and KeNIA would help youths create value from ideas and innovations, and outlined plans to involve YEDF in the National Innovation Week, the CEIL program, and the Presidential Innovation Award.

To formalize the collaboration, the two CEOs appointed a team of five to develop a joint collaboration action plan.