

Commission for Africa report lays foundation for resurgence



Kibera in Kenya is one of Africa's largest slums. A product of rapid urbanisation and unprecedented population growth, Kibera is a shanty town where one million people struggle to survive in the shadow of AIDS, poor infrastructure and grinding poverty.

In the past few years Kibera residents have begun working with government and other agencies to improve their home and their lives. Basic infrastructure is being introduced. People are being given property rights and finance to help them invest in their own land and businesses.

The story of Africa is the story of Kibera in many ways, Sir Nicholas Stern told the School community last night. "Africa is shaping its own future," he said during this Distinguished Speaker address to students, staff and alumni. "Change is taking place."

Sir Nicholas Stern is Second Permanent Secretary to the Treasury, Director of Policy and Research for the Prime Minister's Commission for Africa and Head of the Government Economic Service.

The Commission for Africa Report was published in mid-March this year. The Report calls for a coherent package of measures for Africa, aimed at both developed nations and Africa, which need to be delivered together to bring sustainable change.

Alongside an increase in aid from developed nations and radical change in how that aid is delivered, the Report also advocates measures to curb corruption and promote good governance on the African continent, with decision-makers in Africa driving forward the programme of change.

As well as discussing the report's findings, Sir Nicholas emphasized the role of the private sector in growth and poverty reduction. The Commission will soon be launching a website businessactionforafrica.org – which will examine how the private sector can contribute to Africa's resurgence.

Please go to the [Commission for Africa website](http://www.commissionforafrica.org/) (<http://www.commissionforafrica.org/>) for further information.

May 2005