



**OPENING REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN,
INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS OF KENYA
FOR THE 4TH PUBLIC SECTOR ACCOUNTANTS CONFERENCE HELD ON
10TH TO 12TH OCTOBER, AT SAROVA WHITESANDS BEACH RESORT AND
SPA, MOMBASA**

Introduction

- ❖ Council members present
- ❖ ICPAK CEO
- ❖ Distinguished members of the Institute
- ❖ All participants
- ❖ Ladies and gentlemen

Introduction

May I take this earliest opportunity to accord you a warm welcome to Mombasa for the 4th Edition of the Public Sector Accountants Conference.

Over the last few months, so much has transpired: public sector reforms in the aimed at improving service delivery and accountability have received considerable focus, Global trends such as rising customer expectations, budgetary constraints, global competition for investment not to mention the fast-changing techno-sphere. These factors coupled with many others have transformed the environment in which the public sector operates. It is therefore imperative and timely that we gather once again as Public Sector Accountants to brainstorm on the new developments in our profession, take stock of the gains we have made so far and to strategize as we forge forward.

The public sector accountants are very important players in our economy: the realization of the big four namely, Food Security, Manufacturing Sector, Affordable Housing and Universal Healthcare. In this five-year development blueprint, it is expected that government agencies will play a critical and synergistic role in delivering on the President Uhuru Kenyatta's mandate and thereby secure his legacy.

Hitherto, fundamental to the demand for better public services are the heightened expectations of citizens on matters accountability. Professional Accountants have increasingly been on the spot as to their role in entrenching the culture of accountability in the public sector and have always emerged as purveyors of public interest playing key roles in both public finance management and governance.

Working in the public sector is not one of the easiest things that accountants do. It calls for individuals of a strong will and a high degree of integrity especially where large sums of money is involved. It attracts a lot of scrutiny and not only public attention but also accountability.

And while issues of mismanagement of public resources persist, we also need to look at the bigger picture. This could as well be emanating from both the systemic challenges like the integrated financial management system (IFMIS), as well as issues of executive and political interference in decision making. All these concerns may cloud the accountancy profession; however, I also believe they raise pertinent issues that we need to approach with much candor and a decision which the present situation impels.

The renewed and spirited fight against corruption in the country has had all the good intentions. However, in some instance, the accounting fraternity in the public sector felt unduly targeted. For instance, when the lifestyle audit of public officials was called, it only concentrated on those from the accounting profession. As a result, all our members heading accounting units were forced to step aside and undergo an unprecedented lifestyle audit. This selective condemnation of accountants is not good for profession which has served this country for many decades. Nevertheless, I would like to reiterate the support of the institute for the war against graft.

On other hand, we remain on steady move towards achieving our objectives as an institute despite the challenges. Recently, we successfully introduced some key amendments to the Accountants Act. The new changes herald a new beginning and we are confident that these changes will help the Institute to execute our mandate in an effective and efficient manner.

Indeed, this is a great leap towards achieving our vision of being 'A word class Professional Accountancy Institute'. The new law allows us to cast our nets far and wide and bring in more unregistered members, loop in accountants students or trainee accountants among other key attributes. This will undoubtedly help us to weed out quacks among other changes.

At the 4th Public Sector Accountants Conference, we have lined up a series of thematic areas ranging from:

- Government Budgeting Cycle
- Oversight: The overlapping Role of National Assembly, Senate and County Assemblies
- Pending/Open Matters in the Audit Reports for Public Sector Entities – Way Forward
- Lifestyle Audits: Does it Aid or Impede the Fight Against Graft
- Ethics and Integrity in Public Service
- Tailbacks and Progress in IPSAS Implementation in the Public Sector
- Auditing on behalf of the Auditor General
- Taxation and other Statutory Compliance for Public Sector
- Result Based Leadership

We are therefore looking forward to a very intensive and informative forum led by very notable and informed speakers. We know that the lessons and experiences we are going to experience here will go a long way empowering even more to continue executing our various mandates with excellence.

With those few remarks, let me take this opportunity to appreciate all our distinguished members for creating time out of your busy schedules to come and be part of this event. Your participation is very welcome, and your presence is highly appreciated.

Secondly, I wish to appreciate our speakers and facilitators for accepting our invitation to come and share with us your precious knowledge.

Finally, is to appreciate the Secretariat team led by the CEO, CPA Edwin Makori. Thank you for working around the clock to put every detail together for this excellent forum.

With those few remarks, I have honour and privilege to declare 4th Public Sector Conference officially open.

God bless you,

God Bless the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya.