

**Talking Points for H.E. High Commissioner during the official
opening of the 4th ICPAK South African chapter seminar held at
The Capital Empire,
Sandton Johannesburg
28th August 2019 – 11.00 am**

- ✓ The Chairman
- ✓ CEO – ICPAK
- ✓ Chapter Representatives
- ✓ Chapter Members
- ✓ Delegates from Kenya
- ✓ Ladies and gentlemen
- ✓ Good morning,

Good morning to you all,

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

As the High Commissioner of the Republic of Kenya to the Republic of South Africa and Countries of Accreditation, Eswatini and Lesotho, I take this opportunity to welcome you all to South Africa as you embark on your seminar whose theme is “Harnessing Sustainable Economic Growth and Human Development in Africa”.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

Kenya and South Africa have had bi-lateral relations over a long period which has provided opportunities not only for their own trade and development but also for collaboration in regional trade and Investment. Recently, Kenya and South Africa signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that provides a foundation for the introduction of the teaching of Kiswahili in the South African educational system. I believe this MoU will strengthen the cordial relations between Kenya and South Africa. The Kiswahili aspect will forge stronger links between the people of the two countries.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

Indeed, I am pleased to note that you are not only reaching out to like-minded individuals and professionals across the continent, but you have taken the vanguard role of articulating how you can contribute towards the achievement of the African Union Agenda 2063 whose aspiration is to achieve a prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development: the Africa that we want.

To this end, your theme is apt and relevant in light of the recent developments where a majority of African countries resolved to form the Africa Continent Free Trade Area (AFCTA). To date 54 out of 55 African Union members states have signed the agreement which came into force on 30th May 2019.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

The legal instruments, conferring the operational powers of the AFCTA, were signed on 7th July 2019 during the Extra – Ordinary Summit of the heads of State and Government of the African Union in Niamey, Niger. This will make the Republics of South Africa, Kenya and other African countries realize free trade. This will Harness Sustainable Economic Growth and Human Development in our continent.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

Together, we want to have a future that is celebrated. That is why we are greatly encouraged by initiatives like the ACFTA, which aims to achieve free movement of business persons and investments. To strengthen this, the Kenyan Cabinet Secretary Amb. Monica Juma recently held a bilateral meeting with Dr. Siyabonga Cwele, Minister of Home Affairs of the Republic of South Africa Pretoria. Discussions focused on modalities of progressing negotiations in the area of movement of persons, goods and services between Kenya and South Africa.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

As you may be aware, the Republics of Kenya and South Africa remain economic power houses in Eastern and Southern Africa regional bodies. It therefore behooves us to put into place policies and strategic instruments that will facilitate cross pollination of knowledge, technology, innovations and ideas that can benefit not only our individual mentioned countries but our two regional

economic blocks; the East African Community and the Southern Africa Development Community.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

Kenya High Commission in South Africa is pleased to be associated with the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya (ICPAK), which has become a trailblazer on many fronts. This is evident by the fact that the Institute has lived up to its vision, “A world class professional institute) as evident by a number of its initiatives. For example,

The ICPAK has been instrumental in nurturing other Institutes in Africa such as the Rwanda and Burundi Institutes of Accountants and has also been sharing its knowledge and experiences with other institutes in Africa. I am also aware of the fact that the Institute has established International Chapters in Australia, United Kingdom and South Africa to provide platforms for knowledge and ideas sharing.

I am pleased that the South African Chapter has managed to create a networking platform for CPAKs in South Africa, hosted annual seminars which enabled sharing of knowledge and ideas with delegates from Kenya and has provided a platform for connecting with SAICA.

I particularly commend ICPAK for entering into a Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) with SAICA in May 2017 which facilitates conversion of CPAs to Chartered Accountants in South Africa and vice versa. The MRA facilitates ease movement of accountants in the two countries.

I am also aware that the Institute has been able to sign MoUs with other sister institutions across the world. The most recent being the MoU with India. The MoU seeks to establish co-operation and collaboration in the areas of Knowledge Sharing through Joint Research, Quality Support, Capability and Capacity Building, Trainee Accountant Exchange Programmes and conducting Continuous Professional Development Courses, Knowledge Sharing Workshops and Conferences.

These MRAs and MoUs will facilitate increased trade of accountancy professional services and movement of accountants in across Africa and the globe. It is through such initiatives that Kenya accountants will increase their contribution in improving Sustainable Economic Growth and Human Development in Africa..

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

In reference to our future expectations, you should guard against resting on your laurels by challenging yourselves and coming up with tangible solutions to address challenges bedeviling our public sector in as far as professionalism and delivery of efficient public

services is concerned. As a country we have been accused of presiding over corrupt deals, perpetuating lethargy and other practices against the dictates of our 2010 inaugurated constitution and other institutional and legal instruments. The press and the Offices of the Auditor General and Public Prosecution in Kenya and South Africa are awash with depressing news most of which happen under watch of accountants. It is an open secret that for any financial misappropriation an accountant is always involved. It is therefore important that accountants working in the public sector should go beyond the call of duty and ensure that the public resources within their care are safeguarded. We must be bound by a duty of care knowing that we owe our allegiance to a common *mwana nchi* whose hope for a better and productive life is dictated by our professional conduct. I therefore challenge you to discuss during this seminar how the accountancy profession can increasingly contribute in addressing these challenges with overall aim of improving peoples lives.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

In conclusion, I would like to wish you a productive seminar and an enjoyable stay in Johannesburg. I challenge you to pick and take with you valuable lessons from this seminar and this City of Gold, and apply them with overall aim of achieving improved sustainable growth for the benefit of Africans.. There are many golden moments within this great nation as stupefied by the history not only of iconic figures like former President Nelson Mandela but the ability

of this great nation to bounce back from the effects and ravages of apartheid.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

With those few words, it is my honor and privilege to declare the 4th South African chapter seminar officially opened.