



**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**

**MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT, INFRASTRUCTURE,  
HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

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Remarks by  
**Arch. Aidah N. Munano, HSC,**  
Principal Secretary for Housing & Urban Development  
During the  
**Official Opening of the Annual Construction Research  
Conference and Exhibition (ACoRCE) 2016**  
on  
Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2016  
At 11.00 a.m.

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**At the Amphitheatre, KICC, Nairobi.**

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**Cabinet for Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure, Housing & Urban Development, Mr. James Macharia, EGH**

**The Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Construction Authority – Arch. Stephen Oundo, OGW;**

**Executive Director of NCA, Arch. Daniel Manduku;**

**Director of Big 5 Events**

**Managing Director, Kenya Bureau of Standards, Mr. Charles Ongwae;**

**Managing Director, Anti-counterfeit Agency, Dr. John Akoten;**

**Senior Government Officials present**

**Members of the Fourth Estate;**

**Distinguished delegates,**

**Conference sponsors,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Good Morning;**

It is a special honor **to be here today** and **greatly appreciate** the invitation to participate in this year's National Construction Week. I **take this opportunity to formally welcome you**, especially our international delegates **to this conference**. Kindly spare some time and ensure you experience this our great Nation even outside the conference activities.

As a State Department and by extension the Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure, Housing & Urban Development, we are **proud of NCA hosting this event. Last year, NCA hosted the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Construction Research Conference and Exhibition**. This year, the Authority enhanced the level of the

conference by combining the 2<sup>nd</sup> ACoRCE with international exhibitions in partnership with DMG as the Official Exhibition Partner. I **look forward to visiting these exhibitions after this session.**

I am informed that an **Artisan Sensitization** has been **undertaken in the last two days in four centers across the country** as part of this National Construction Week. That is absolutely commendable.

**Distinguished delegates,**

The theme for this event is indeed appropriate: "**nurturing the transformation of local construction industry on materials and technologies for global best practice**". This Forum could not come at a better time soon after the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development held in

**Quito**, Ecuador a week ago where **the New Urban Agenda** was **adopted**. The New Urban Agenda contributes towards creating sustainable urban areas by ensuring that **'no one is left behind'** in this important journey.

Additionally, the Sustainable Development Goal **(SDG) number 11** is geared towards **'making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.'**

At the Conference of Parties **(COP21)** popularly referred to as the **Paris Agreement** held last year, an overwhelming number of States (195 countries including Kenya) **unanimously acknowledged** that **the challenge of climate change is real** as it affects all sectors in the development processes. A **follow-**

**up Sustainable Innovation Forum** is scheduled take place later this month during the COP22 in Marrakech, Morocco.

To **achieve the New Urban Agenda** and realize the COP21 Paris Agreement, 2015, **we need forums like this** National Construction Week.

Research followed by innovation is what we need if we are to make the contribution of the construction industry towards the realization of the related international agendas. **The industry therefore needs to be innovative, resilient and inclusive.**

It is expected that the **research areas and results identified in this conference will guide the policy direction for the construction industry.** Additionally the

adoption of building technologies is also expected to inform the way forward in delivery of affordable housing, social housing, urbanization amongst other areas.

By applying these emerging materials and technologies, **this country** has the potential to be **a model construction business hub** and experience unprecedented growth for years to come.

We look forward to **seeing the results of this conference bring the construction industry in Kenya, the region and beyond to the next level.**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is now **my pleasure to invite the Principal Secretary for Housing and Urban Development who is representing the Cabinet Secretary for Transport,**

**Infrastructure, Housing and Urban Development, Mr. James Macharia, to address us.**

**Thank you.**