

Speech by the National Construction Authority Board Vice Chairperson, Prof. Godrick Bulitia Mathews, during the Opening Ceremony of the International Construction Research Conference and Exhibition (ICORCE 2018) on Wednesday, 7th November 2018 at KICC.

The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure, Housing, Urban Development and Public Works, **James Macharia, EGH**,
The Principal Secretary, State Department of Public Works, **Prof. Paul Maringa**.
The Solicitor General, **Mr. Kennedy Ogeto**,

The Vice Chairperson, Law Society of Kenya,

Ms. Harriette Chiggai,

The Board of Directors, National Construction Authority,

The Executive Director, National Construction Authority,

Eng. Maurice Akech,

Distinguished Guests, Speakers, Delegates, Members of
the Fourth Estate,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good Morning!

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all to the 2018 edition of the International Construction Research Conference and Exhibition (ICORCE 2018). As is the norm with every other edition of the Conference, there is always an overarching theme that is relevant to the ever dynamic terrain in the construction and infrastructure industry.

The 2018 Conference theme ‘Harnessing the Potential of the Legal and Institutional Framework for Inclusive and Sustainable Growth in the Construction Industry’ is no different.

Derived from the industry's National Construction Research Agenda (NaCRA), the theme seeks to identify existing deficits and proposed solutions on how these deficits can be remedied.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is important to note that a sufficient legal structure is an effective anchor for any institution which provides a basis from which its mandate can be efficiently executed. As the National Construction Authority, we are in the process of revising our Act in order to more effectively regulate the industry, specifically, when it comes to enforcement.

The dynamic nature of our industry means that we will continue to deal with emerging challenges. We must, therefore, prepare a solid legal framework in order to deal with these challenges. In that vein, the Authority was tasked with spearheading the main Construction Industry Policy; an overarching reference point that will inform, guide and serve as a blueprint for the achievement of the sector's objectives and realization of the President's Big Four Agenda and the Vision 2030.

The process has been a consultative effort with various industry stakeholders in order to offer comprehensive and exhaustive solutions to the industry's multi-faceted,

multi-dimensional problems.

The agenda for the Policy was set after the 2016 ICoRCE Conference and its formulation was instigated by the different challenges facing the industry such as construction works with compromised quality and safety, inadequate funding for expansion, lack of access to plant equipment and machinery, insufficient dissemination of skills to build capacity among the sectors players, procurement bottlenecks, fierce competition from international service providers and corruption among others.

The Policy aims at addressing thematic areas that will

include; business development, quality assurance, materials and technology, sustainability, capacity building, research, ethics and the legal framework. Ladies and gentlemen, the 2018 edition provides yet another platform to discuss the above and we look forward to solutions that will create an enabling construction environment, encourage public-private involvement in infrastructure development and provide clear guidelines towards rehabilitation of existing infrastructure. Further, it provides an avenue to streamline the regulatory and administrative regimes in order to minimize document processing time. Industry growth is a collaborative process, and we are

pleased to host the Solicitor General, Mr. Kennedy Ogeto, who will be speaking on nurturing fruitful synergies in enforcing construction laws in Kenya, as well as Hon. Peter Gumbo, who will elaborate on the role of Parliament in promoting development in the construction industry.

We are grateful to have all of you here with us. The aim of ICORCE is not only a meeting of minds but it is also a celebration of the commitment to advance not just the industry but our country's economy. Let us all put our efforts together to ensure that this vision is achieved.

With this few remarks, I look forward to a fruitful event ahead coupled with meaningful interactions and long lasting networks.
Thank you.

Prof. Godrick Bulitia Mathews
Vice Chairperson
National Construction Authority Board
Nairobi, Kenya
Wednesday, 7th November 2018