



NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION
AUTHORITY

ISO 9001:2015 Certified

Speech by:

The Principal Secretary, State Department of Public Works,

Maj. Gen (Rtd) Dr. Gordon Kihalangwa, CBS

during the

**DRAFT NATIONAL BUILDING REGULATIONS 2020 NAIROBI
REGIONAL STAKEHOLDERS WORKSHOP**

on

Tuesday, 2nd March

The Chairman, National Construction Authority,
Qs. David Gaitho

The Executive Director, National Construction Authority,
Eng. Maurice Akech

Distinguished Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Good Morning,

- The Draft National Building Regulations 2020 have come at a time when Kenya is committed to elevating her status as an African heavyweight in terms of excellence and standards in the built environment
- For decades, the industry has suffered from grave collapses, resulting in the loss of human life and numerous resources
- This Draft Building Code is trying to match the state of the industry as it is today: dynamic, booming, and developing at a fast rate

- The Draft Code is based on the Eurocode, developed as Europe's first set of unified Standards for the design of buildings and structures across the European continent
- The Structural Eurocodes can be used globally because they comprehensively cover all principal construction materials, are up to date and give flexibility, offering the possibility for each country to adapt to their specific conditions regarding climate, seismic risk, traditions and so on through nationally determined parameters
- This Draft Code tackles several areas that have been hitherto not prioritized, including:

- i. Safety and health, which remains a key priority for the government, not just for the environs but for the people inhabiting those environs. This Draft Code aims to bridge the gap between health and safety risks in construction;
- ii. Requirements for differently abled people in both urban and rural areas. This has been a long time coming, and the Draft Code will ensure construction spaces are safe and accessible for all
- iii. Sustainability and efficiency (Materials, Water and Energy efficiency). Kenya is following through on the pledge to enhance sustainability in construction design and practice, in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

- iv. Interagency cooperation. I want to assure all stakeholders that the National and County governments will collaborate in successfully implementing and enforcing this Draft Code. I recognize that there are overlapping areas, but these will be addressed in our Construction Industry Policy
- The National Construction Authority as the industry regulator has been tasked with very specific roles when it comes to the Draft Code, namely:
 - i. Overall coordination of the implementation of the Draft Code across the country

- ii. Issuance of guidelines on aspects that relate to construction safety, construction processes, building materials, equipment and mandatory inspection
 - iii. Carrying out mandatory inspections of all ongoing construction projects
 - iv. Quality assurance to ensure adherence to standards
 - v. Continuous monitoring to ensure the active participation of all stakeholders
- The passing of the Draft Code marks the beginning of a new, exciting and fulfilling chapter not just in the construction industry but for the entire nation as well.



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