

OPENING REMARKS BY ACPK NATIONAL CHAIRPERSON, MR. FRANCIS ODHIAMBO, AT THE 1ST NATIONAL ANNUAL COMPUTING PRACTITIONERS AND GOVERNANCE CONFERENCE HELD ON 30th NOVEMBER 2021 TO 2ND DECEMBER 2021 AT THE SAROVA WHITESANDS HOTEL, MOMBASA.

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THEME: DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION & INNOVATION MANAGEMENT IN 2022 AND BEYOND

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PS Jerome Ochieng, CBS, State Department of ICT & Innovation
IHRM National Chairman, Mr. Joseph Onyango, MBS;
CEO Nairobi Centre for International Arbitration, Mr. Lawrence Muiruri Ngugi
Sentinel Africa Managing Director, Mr. Musa Wesutsa
Cybersecurity Partner, Kaspersky Bethwel and Moses
Representative from Learnovate, Mr. Philip Ochieng
ACPK National Executives;
Council Members Present;
ACPK Regional Coordinators;
Distinguished Delegates Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good morning.

Welcome to the 1st National Annual ICT Practitioners and Governance Conference hosted by the ACPK. I am very pleased to be here today as this is my first opportunity to speak directly with members and indeed the first time for the ACPK to host a physical National Conference.

I want to say that we recognize the importance of meeting members' expectations and delivering long-term value that is fundamental for a professional association.

The membership to ACPK should be carried with pride and a sense of belonging given the purpose for which the ACPK is driven. Being a member of the ACPK is aimed at achieving three main strategic targets:

1. ACPK will spearhead capacity building for ICT professionals in the country and the region. We aim to partner with institutions providing professional courses in ICT specializations to reduce costs and increase access to the knowledge and skills.
2. ACPK will liaise and interlink with the Human Resource fraternity in private and public sectors to undertake the process of developing career progression frameworks for ICT professionals. This is aimed at standardizing the terms and conditions of service for ICT practitioners to create a conducive work environment where ICT skills are appreciated and competitively remunerated and compensated.
3. ACPK as an institution will form a pool of ICT practitioners of a variety of specializations in order to position us for recruiters in the private and public sectors; where ICT skills have grown to be increasingly in demand as the Country, the Region and indeed the Continent cruises towards the global digital era.

At this juncture I would like to introduce the ACPK Governance structures at national and regional level: National Council is made up of the Executives, Council members and the Regional Coordinators.

The Executive office

- National Chairperson – Mr. Francis O. Odhiambo
- National Secretary - Mr. Arnold Ndukuyu
- National Treasurer - Mr. Elvin Amugu
- 1st Vice Chairperson - Prof. Franklin Wabwoba
- 2nd Vice Chairperson - Ms. Anne Mwaniki
- Assistant Secretary - Mr. Linus Oteba

Council Members

1. Mr. Justus Ongera
2. Dr. Nicholas Kiget
3. Mrs. Caroline Mwangi
4. Mr. Benjamin Odiyo
5. Dr. Nicholas Kiget

Regional Coordinators

1. Coast RC ~ Mr. Mohamed Alugongo
2. Western RC ~ Mr. Samuel Wetungu
3. Eastern and N. Eastern RC ~ Mr. Maurice Murimi
4. Nyanza RC ~ Mr. Peter Ogada
5. Nairobi RC ~ Mrs. Nancy Makena
6. Rift valley RC ~ Mrs. Roseline Wangui
7. Central RC ~ Mr. James Kahara

This inaugural team has painstakingly and passionately spearheaded the conception, foundational establishment and to this day, the strategic alignment of the institution to Government stakeholders and leaders in the private sector; all aimed at positioning the ACPK to achieve its intended objectives.

As you know, the last 2 years included a very important milestone for ACPK: we were successfully registered as a Society, and ACPK registered over 800 new members who are drawn from ICT practitioners in the public and private sectors. We are proud of these strides, and we aim to reach over 10,000 more as the registration progresses in the coming months.

ACPK has established regional presence through the Regional Coordinators present in the 8 regions of the Country. These Coordinators serve a crucial role in ensuring the reach of the ACPK at the grassroots level, disseminating accurate information to our members in real time and supporting the Counties to have access to professional ICT services through our database of membership in those spaces.

ACPK designed and issued Certificates for members in order to create a sense of belonging for our members and established a database of all our active members in the sector. The ACPK has met all statutory requirements including having the financial accounts that will be subjected to audit processes in accordance to our Constitution. The Association has a fully-fledged interactive website and has an established social media presence for continued engagement with our members, the public and stakeholders. The Communications Department is also operational and reachable digitally and by phone. Finally, we have organized and actualized a National Conference held today at the Sarova whitesands in Mombasa.

The ACPK under my leadership has prioritized establishing measures to strengthen the National and Regional structures including the formation of a National Secretariat with offices and a team of staff whose role will be to serve the membership.

We have to place ACPK as the face of international industry players especially to keep up with ever changing technologies, to support the Government on its agenda on e-Government frameworks and through increased participation in state functions and industry planned forums.

The ACPK is primed to immediately support the formulation of policy frameworks that include the development of the impending ICT Bill. We are committed to engage fully on its finalization and operationalization so that the ICT practitioners in Kenya are recognized for the unique area of expertise we provide in the Country; in a manner that is enjoyed by fellow professionals e.g. Advocates and Human Resource practitioners among others under their acts.

Members, the ACPK is your institution and we will aim to continue building your capacity to deliver. We will build close collaboration with learning

institutions and put in place mechanisms to support sponsorship of needy and qualified students who are passionate about ICT and technology.

The time has come to be organized and to form a depository of professionals that cannot and should not be overlooked at a time when the country is at the cusp of a digital transformation frameworks.

Members, we have already begun these engagements, we have met with the Government leadership on matters ICT and the professional recognition; specifically, the Ministry of ICT and the Kenya National Qualifications Authority. Further, we have had fruitful discussions with industry players in the lead in matters digitization and IT solutions – Kaspersky Safaricom, Oracle, SAP, Microsoft and other partners who will be coming on board to work with ACPK.

As we progress, we shall reach out to our membership and more and more stakeholders to partner in the growth of this budding institution; that ironically houses the practitioners that are equipped to enable the transformation journey of virtually all the sectors of this country – as it has been said, *“everybody wants to go digital..”* who is going to make everyone digital, if not us?!

In conclusion ladies and gentlemen, I want to welcome you all to this conference. I want to express appreciation to each and every one of you for your commitment and presence here today. I want to take a moment to recognize the support of the entities that have supported the organization of this conference - Government institutions who have sponsored delegates, Private sector institutions, and this year’s conference sponsor Kaspersky.

Based on the planning that has taken place for this auspicious event, I am confident that the insights that will be shared by the various speakers before you for the next two days will be of great impact as you execute your mandate in your various capacities across all sectors of the economy.

Thank you very much for your Attention and may God bless you All.