



SPEECH BY H.E. HON DR. MUSALIA MUDAVADI, EGH., THE PRIME CABINET SECRETARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA, DURING OPENING OF THE INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED SECRETARIES (ICS) ANNUAL CONFERENCE; SAROVA WHITE SANDS HOTEL, MOMBASA, KENYA HELD ON 16TH AUGUST, 2023

FCS. Joshua Wambua, Chairman Institute of Certified Secretaries (ICS);

FCS. Jeremiah Karanja, CEO, Institute of Certified Secretaries (ICS);

**FCS. Simon M. Indimuli, CEO, State Corporations Advisory Committee
(SCAC);**

Council Members, Institute of Certified Secretaries;

Corporation Secretaries Present;

Representatives of Various Institutions;

Invited Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Members of the Institute of Certified Secretaries are professionals who play a critical role in shaping governance in our nation. You are duty bound and incorporated under an Act of Parliament, Cap 534 of the Laws of Kenya.

Such recognition comes with enormous responsibility; the core mandate being **to promote the practice of good governance in both the private and public sectors in Kenya.** This year, through collaboration between ICS, the State Corporations Advisory Committee (SCAC) and my Office, we have successfully inducted over 1,700 Board Members, with the most recent cohort inducted on 12th - 14th July 2023.

The Board Members were equipped with the knowledge, skills and tools to effectively carry out their roles and uphold good governance in this new dispensation.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the theme of this conference “***Environmental Social and Governance for a sustainable future: aligning people, profit, and Planet***”, resonates well with the global challenges that the world is currently confronted with in the search for a prosperous and harmonious future. Today, humanity is at a critical juncture at which the consequences of

our actions and decisions are felt now, but whose adverse intensity will manifest in future generations.

It is therefore our responsibility to ensure that profiteering today does not compromise the well-being of future generations. By aligning people, profit, and planet, we create a harmonious relationship between environmental stewardship with human prosperity by building resilient businesses and fostering social inclusivity. In the face of Climate Change threats, it is no longer an option for organizations not to balance their economic objectives with

environment and societal responsibility. Sustainable development is no longer a theory to be debated.

In a world that is increasingly aware of the environmental degradation resulting from human activities, Doubting Thomas's have no business anymore! There is enough experience to show that indiscriminate exploitation of natural resources, carbon emissions, and pollution have led to Climate Change, biodiversity loss and other ecological crises. It is, therefore, incumbent upon humanity to reverse these trends and pursue sustainable practices that assure preservation and restoration of our primal natural environment.

I am proud to have a President, H.E. President William Ruto, whose passion, dedication and determination in championing the preservation of planet earth resources and the mitigation of Climate Change has earned Kenya a prominent place on the global stage.

At home, it is becoming acceptable that economic growth and environmental conservation must go hand-in-hand. H.E. The President is a role model for those embracing sustainable practices. The Government's commitment to renewable energy sources, conservation initiatives, and the restoration of

degraded ecosystems is irreversible thereby earning the Country the honour to host the **Africa Climate Summit in September, 2023.**

Public and Private sectors must **firmly uphold the principles of ESG** and embed them in their practices. Environmental Responsibility, Climate Action, Biodiversity Conservation, Social Inclusivity, Human Rights Protection, Ethical Business Practices, Responsible Supply Chain, Stakeholder Engagement and Board Oversight should therefore guide organizations to thrive. By seamlessly practicing these nine ESG principles, we are creating long-term value for

stakeholders, mitigating environmental risks and enhancing business reputation as champions of a more sustainable and equitable future.

Meanwhile, as we align people, planet, and profit, it is imperative that we foster collaboration, innovation, and ethical governance. Governments, businesses, civil society organizations, and academia must work together to address the multifaceted challenges of sustainable development.

People, as the heart and soul of any organization, should be at the forefront of our endeavours. Investing in people means prioritizing their health, safety, and well-being, both within and beyond the workplace. By nurturing a culture

of diversity, inclusivity, and empowerment, we unlock the full potential of our workforce. This includes ensuring equal opportunities for all, regardless of gender, ethnicity, or social status.

Profit, the lifeblood of any business, should be pursued ethically and responsibly. It is not enough to focus solely on financial gains. We must always integrate the social and environmental implications of our economic activities. By fostering an inclusive and fair economy, where wealth is distributed equitably and resources are utilized sustainably, we ensure that economic growth benefits society as a whole.

The Planet, our home, must be protected and conserved for future generations. We must always carry the burden of knowing that our actions today will have a profound impact on the health and well-being of our environment. It is our duty to reduce emissions, preserve natural resources, and mitigate the effects of Climate Change. By investing in renewable energy, promoting sustainable agriculture, and creating resilient ecosystems, we ensure that our planet thrives for years to come.

Ladies and gentlemen;

Let us be resolute that it is within our power to shape a sustainable future for ourselves and the generations that will follow. I can assure you that the commitment of ICS to a sustainable future is coloured with great pride in the hearts of the people of Kenya. Your dedication to advancing ESG principles in your professional endeavours might not have immediate recognition by yourselves. Nonetheless, be convinced you have set in motion an evolution that will be unstoppable.

I, therefore, encourage all of you to make the most of this conference, as a platform for knowledge sharing and collaboration. Engage in fruitful

discussions, exchange ideas, and forge partnerships that will propel us toward a sustainable future. Together, we must build a world where people, profit, and the planet thrive in harmony.

Finally, ladies and gentlemen, it is now my pleasure to declare the 27th Annual Conference of the **Institute of Certified Secretaries (ICS) officially opened.**

Thank you, and I wish you all an Impactful Conference.

God Bless You, God Bless Kenya.

Asanteni Saana!

Notes