



29<sup>th</sup> May 2022

**ENGINEERING PARTNERSHIP CONVENTION -OPENNING SPEECH BY ENG.  
ERICK OHAGA, PRESIDENT OF THE INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS OF KENYA**

**DELIVERED ON 15TH JUNE 2022**

**AT 09.30HRS**

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**Chief Guest Principal Secretary, State Department of Infrastructure – Prof.  
Arch. Paul Maringa (PHD), CBS;**

**Chairman, Engineers Board of Kenya;**

**Members of the Board, Engineers Board of Kenya;**

**Registrar and CEO, Engineers Board of Kenya – Eng. Margaret Ogai;**

**Registrars of EAC**

**Special Dignitaries – specifically our collaborative stakeholders;**

**Invited Guests;**

**Ladies and Gentlemen;**

1. I Salute you all this beautiful day. Good morning.
2. **It gives** me great pleasure to participate in this event organized by the Government; through The Engineers Board of Kenya (EBK), who we also collaborate with on a day-to-day basis.
3. **Mr. PS**, it is through the Engineers Board of Kenya that a Professional practicing Engineer of any cadre first acquires their legal mandate to be qualified as such. The qualification process for such a person to be an engineer requires identity with the Institution of Engineers of Kenya,

4. **The** Institution of Engineers of Kenya (IEK) is the learned society of the engineering profession and co-operates with national and other international institutions in developing and applying engineering to the benefit of humanity. IEK has over 10,000 members drawn from engineers working in various government institutions (both national and county), consultancies, contractors, educators, designers, manufacturers, and other persons interested in engineering.
5. **The** Theme for this three-day convention, *“Building Back Better- Emerging Issues in engineering”*, has never been more relevant than it should be for today’s social-economic progress in Kenya and the world at large. It is coming at a time when concerted efforts are taking place to reposition the role of engineering to its rightful undisputed place; and that is; being the backbone towards the improvement of living and livelihoods in society.
6. **Engineers** and Engineering practice are depended on the full extent, on the harnessing of natural organic resources. From Civil engineering to Electrical Engineering, from Electrical Engineering to Agricultural Engineering and from Agricultural Engineering to Mechanical engineering together with all emerging engineering disciplines, all share on a common denominator factor and that is; the harnessing, processing and packaging of natural resources.
7. **The four objectives** of this convention namely; *“Championing the shift towards outcome base engineering education in Kenya”*; *“Harnessing opportunities for growth in the liberalization of professional*

*engineering services at the regional, continental and global levels”;*  
*“looking into Kenya’s commitment at COP26 and aligning the*  
*engineering practice to mitigating climate change”;* and  
*“safeguarding public safety and welfare in engineering services”* are well placed to addressing current happenings and development in the greater scale of reviewing how modern engineering practice has interfaced with the society that it interacts with.

8. **Outcome-based** engineering education (OBE) is a paradigm in which instructional and assessment/ evaluation are explicitly designed for ensuring the attainment and mastery of predefined engineering learning outcomes. OBE is now the underlying paradigm followed by global accreditation efforts such as the Washington Accord (ratified in 1989). The shift to OBE is so pronounced that some education experts identify the shift to outcome-based education and accreditation as one of the top 5 major changes of the last 100 years.
9. **One of the main justifications** for regulation in professional activities is the existence of asymmetric information between the professional and the client. According to this market failure argument, consumers are generally not in a position to assess the quality of the professional service they buy and, being in a position of relative weakness, need to be protected.
10. **Furthermore,** impediments to competition may in turn bear a cost in terms of reduced market performance. Limited competition could hamper an efficient allocation of resources across engineering firms, as inefficient firms may be able to survive when they are

sheltered from competition while efficient firms' growth performance may be hampered.

11. **On the 30<sup>th</sup> of October 2021** at Glasgow, Scotland, Kenya advocated for the full and timely implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement during that years United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26). We can all see the devastation of floods when it rains and drought when it doesn't rain. We are always in a state of emergency. Kenya is one of the most vulnerable countries and the least emitters of carbon. To all of us, it is about adaptation and ensuring our people, communities and economy have the necessary resilience to recover when this happens.
12. **As Engineers and Engineering** practice custodians, we are being cautioned that if COP26 fails to resolve the issue of reducing emissions and the implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement, then it will be devastating for humanity and the globe as it is estimated that atmospheric temperatures are likely to rise by 2.7 degrees Celsius by the end of this century.
13. **All of us have a responsibility** to contribute, and as engineers, we need to rise up and create awareness within our engineering community on the need to remain committed to The Paris Climate Agreement (also known as the Paris Accord)
14. **Engineering is an important and learned** profession. The members of the profession recognize that their work has a direct and vital impact on the quality of life for all people. Accordingly, the

services provided by engineers require honesty, impartiality, fairness and equity, and must be dedicated to the protection of the public health, safety and welfare. In the practice of their profession, engineers must perform under a standard of professional behavior which requires adherence to the highest principles of ethical conduct on behalf of the public, clients, employers and the profession.

**Ladies and gentlemen;**

15. **Engineering** continues to be the heart and soul of all organizations. These three days Engineering Partnerships Convention (EPC) provides us with an opportunity to retrospect, challenge, critique and ask ourselves if all is well within the environment and society for the effective delivery of wholistic, transformative and progressive engineering services that is responsive to both our planet and the consumers of our services.

**Finally, Bwana PS**

16. The Engineering Fraternity **REQUESTS** you to approve The Engineers Scale of Fees to give way for printing and implementation with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2022. (*Engineers waiting*)
17. **Additionally, Bwana PS**, allow me to commend the Engineers Board of Kenya led by our Eminent **Eng. Erastus Mwangera** for this game- changer in regulation and practice of engineering in Kenya.
18. **In Closing**, we expect that the key learnings and action items realized in this convention should be the baseline for actual implementations for us to move forward.

19. Thank you all and God bless you