TALKING POINTS FOR THE MANAGING DIRECTOR DURING THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE  $5^{\text{TH}}$  REGIONAL METROLOGY CONFERENCE (RMC) 2010 AT THE SEVERIN SEA LODGE, MOMBASA ON  $1^{\text{ST}}$  DECEMBER 2010.

Mr. Richard Sindiga, HSC, Director of Economic Affairs, Representing Permanent Secretary, Ministry of the East African Community, Eng. John Musonik, Industrialization Secretary, Representing Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Industrialization
Mr. Tobias Diergardt – In charge of PTB EAC SQMT Project
Distinguished Delegates and Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen:

- ➤ It is my great pleasure to welcome all of you to Kenya and to the 5<sup>th</sup> Regional Metrology Conference (RMC 2010). The theme "measurements for enhancement of Trade" is important to all of us gathered here, as we are the engine that provides the necessary mechanisms and safeguards to drive and facilitate a true African Integration through harmonized measurement systems.
- > We must therefore provide a conducive business environment through publicprivate sector partnership based on mutual trust, goodwill and the spirit of inclusiveness through dialogue to identify the needs of our clients.
- Our commitment to open engagement, dialogue and consultation during this conference will contribute to addressing metrology infrastructure inadequacies in our respective countries.

## Ladies and Gentlemen:

- ➤ KEBS will continue to participate in regional infrastructural projects under the EAC and the Tripartite (EAC-SADC-COMESA) arrangement that will contribute to intra-EAC and intra-African trade respectively.
- ➤ The upcoming EAC Metrology bill will create a framework for the establishment of internationally recognized measurement systems in the respective partner States. This means test and calibration certificates issued within the region will be accepted worldwide. Hence, providing boundless trade opportunities for the 126 million residents of the five partner states.

- ➤ A sound measurement system supports research and development of unique African products (goods and services) that are able to serve the local needs as well as compete internationally.
- ➤ We are equal to the best in the world in rolling out innovative products as witnessed in the mobile communication such as the world pioneer in mobile financial products (e.g. MPESA).
- ➤ The development of metrology in chemistry will enhance our economic development in areas such fisheries, food and agriculture besides supporting law enforcement agencies such as the traffic police use of alcohol blow gadget.

## Ladies and Gentlemen:

- Africa has a population of over one billion residents who would immensely benefit from a harmonized Pan African measurement system that will reduce technical barriers to trade and support sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures.
- > Such a system is being coordinated by the intra-Africa metrology system (AFRIMETS), the regional metrology organization that in turn supports the international measurement system under the framework of the Metre Convention.
- This Africa wide system will support the achievement of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals by eliminating poverty and improving the welfare of the citizenry.
- ➤ Kenya, since January 2010, is a member of the International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM) and now enjoys many of the privileges that come with this membership. One such privilege is the participation in the CIPM Mutual Recognition Agreement (BIPM MRA) that allows the international recognition of national measurement standards and the capabilities of National Metrology Institutes (NMI).
- In conclusion, we at KEBS are committed to making Kenya and by extension the African region a global leader in the provision of measurement solutions that will benefit the social and economic development of our populace.

Thank you.