

**REMARKS BY MR. EDDY NJOROGI ISO PRESIDENT-ELECT DURING THE
WORLD STANDARDS DAY CELEBRATIONS.**

14TH SEPTEMBER 2019

RADISSON BLU HOTEL, NAIROBI.

**Hon. Peter Munya, EBS, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Industry, Trade & Cooperatives,
Dr. Francis O. Owino, Principal Secretary, State Department of Industrialization,
Mr. Ken Wathome, Chairman, National Standards Council,
Dr. Hermogene Nsengimana, ARSO Secretary General,
Eng. Omneya Sabry, AFSEC Executive Secretary,
Lt. Col. (Rtd) Bernard N. Njiraini, Managing Director, KEBS,
Members of the National Standards Council,
Members of the various Technical Committees,
Invited Guests,**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning,

It gives me great pleasure to commemorate with you this year's World Standards Day which is being celebrated by various National Standards Bodies across the globe.

At the outset, I would like to thank the Managing Director of KEBS, Lieutenant Colonel Bernard N. Njiraini and The Chairman NSC, for their kind words, and their warm welcome this morning.

Secondly, I would like to acknowledge and thank the various Technical Committee members who are here today. I know that many of you have travelled far and wide to attend this meeting and to undertake the induction programme organized KEBS. I would like to thank you for your invaluable sacrifice. It is my belief that your strong participation in the TCs will build a strong Standardization system in this country.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today marks the World Standards Day worldwide. This day every year, three international organisations namely; ISO (The International Organization for Standardization), IEC (The International Electro-Technical Commission) and ITU (The International Telecommunication Union), **Under the banner of World Standards Cooperation**, commit to preserve common interests in strengthening and advancing the voluntary consensus-based International Standards system.

The World Standards Day is a global observance held annually on October 14. This day was formally **established in the year 1970 by Mr. Faruk Sünter**, from Turkey the then President of ISO, who saw it fit to mark this day with an aim of raising awareness about significance of international standards to the international community.

14th October was purposely selected to mark the date, in the year 1946, when official delegates from 25 countries first met in London and made a decision to form an international organization which is now ISO, that focuses on developing international standards.

By celebrating WSD, as we are now, we pay tribute to the joint efforts of the many

experts across the world, like you seated here, that voluntarily develop Standards.

And today ladies and gentlemen,

Marks the **golden jubilee in celebrating the WSD. This is happening at the backdrop of me taking over as the first President of ISO from Africa.**

As the President, I have a **four-point agenda** that I would like to see implemented in the course of my Presidency and beyond;

First,

- I would like to see countries like Kenya use international standards to tilt the balance of payments to their favour. To this end, I will lobby and champion the use of international standards whenever possible; as a basis for technical regulations, instruments to resolve trade disputes, I will also encourage the establishment of robust institutional arrangements for implementing and monitoring harmonized standards and policies.
- The second agenda will be support member's countries in using International standards as strategic part of the industrial growth. with the advent of the forth industrial revolution, technology is going to be one of key drivers of change, thereby playing a critical role in any country's development. I would like the TC members present here today to develop standards that take into consideration the latest technological advancement in order to accelerate this country into a tech hub.
- My third agenda is to see ISO standards everywhere. The use of ISO standards in all facets of life will contribute to the most effective use of standards as tools for the strategic development in this country. I would therefore encourage proactive use of ISO Standards in key development agendas like; Vision 2030 and the big four agenda.
- My last agenda is to see developing countries like Kenya contribute in a major way to the development, implementation, and application of international standards if they would like (as they should) have a fair and open world trade.

Their absence at the standards setting table makes it difficult for them to enjoy the full benefits of a globalized economy and the future growth in world trade.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The world is changing rapidly, and I would like to shortly highlight the three main drivers of this change;

the first one is;

The economic driver; which dictates how businesses, countries trade and relate to each other. This driver will continue being at the fore front of the current changes we are experiencing because the recent threats to multilateral trading systems have made trade even more unpredictable.

The second driver is on **society and environment**, where the needs and the expectations of customer are ever changing hence requires organizations to be more inclusive, open and transparent in their decision making process. while at the same time, urgency on environmental sustainability brought forth due to negative effects of climate change has brought sharp focus on how organizations carry out their functions and offer their products and services.

The last driver and perhaps more related to today's theme is the **impact of digital technology**. In this realm of change, digital technologies are of special interest, because they

continue to have a profound and rapid impact on markets and on the way economic activities take form.

This year's theme *“Video standards create a global stage”* wouldn't come at a better time when the world is experiencing these rapid changes.

The last century has seen truly amazing leaps and bounds in the field of video technology that saw the beginning of cinema, the rise of television as a commodity for mass consumption, subsequent smart screens coming to our homes and now video streaming.

These rapid and positive changes in the video technology has been made possible by creation of algorithms standardized in collaboration between IEC, ISO and ITU leading to improvements in the video quality and the ability to share stories on various subjects in vivid, moving pictures.

I therefore challenge the new TC members to dedicate substantial efforts in developing standards that not only take into consideration the afore mentioned drivers but also catapult this nation into an important global player.

Thank you and God bless you.