

**SPEECH BY MR. EDDY NJOROGI ISO PRESIDENT-ELECT DURING THE
WORLD METROLOGY DAY CELEBRATIONS ON 20TH MAY 2019 AT THE KEBS
HEADQUARTERS.**

**Mr. Ken Wathome, Chairman, National Standards Council
Mr. Bernard Nguyo, Ag, Managing Director, KEBS
Members of the National Standards Council
Management and Staff of Kenya Bureau of Standards
Invited Guests**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me pleasure to be here at Kenya Bureau of Standards headquarters to commemorate this year's World Metrology Day which is being celebrated across the globe.

I would like to thank Mr. Ken Wathome, Chairman, National Standards Council for his welcome and his kind introduction this morning, and to all of you for being here, I truly feel at home here in KEBS.

This occasion is significant to me in various ways. It is my first address to the KEBS staff as the ISO President-elect, as you may be aware it all started here! in 2016 KEBS nominated me as a potential candidate for the ISO presidency having met all the qualifications, and at that time as it is now I felt that I had all it takes to lead the global standards body because I felt that it was time, I lost by one vote in 2016! We never lost hope, in 2018 I took another stab at it and I was elected unopposed. I must say I had a team of dedicated KEBS staff comprising of; Charles Gachahi, Caroline Outa, Patricia Kimanthi, David Kirui, Zacchaeus Mwatha, Janet Kamau, Hellen Wahu, Victoria Mwangangi and William Amwayi based here at the headquarters who over saw my campaign and worked tirelessly through the entire campaign period. I must say thank you for your support.

Secondly, as ISO President-elect, I feel that it is my duty to meet with the national Standards bodies such as KEBS, that are ISO members to listen to you. To hear about your challenges, your aspirations and your expectations of what ISO should do for you and vice versa. This way, we will jointly develop a vision for ISO during my term that will be fully aligned with the needs of the members. This is your Presidency and I must take into account the wishes of ALL members.

Ladies and gentlemen

Today marks the World Metrology Day worldwide, a day that celebrates the signing of the metre convention in 1875. To date, this treaty provides the basis for a coherent measurement system worldwide. We are indeed honoured together with the rest of the world mark this day of uniformity of measurement. This provides an assurance that measurement taken in one part of the world is consistent with similar measurement done in any other part of the world.

I am aware that Kenya, is a full member of the International Bureau of Weight and Measures, BIPM, and therefore I congratulate you as you join the global fraternity in celebrating this auspicious occasion cognisant of the fact that accurate and traceable measurements touch every aspect of our lives from the basic/traditional engagements in trade, law enforcement to fairly sophisticated fields like aviation, medical and industrial research.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I applaud the government of Kenya, through the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) for having adopted four newly redefined fundamental units of measurement as elected on 16th November 2018,

during the 26th General Conference on Weights and Measures in Paris, France, where measurement scientists from more than 60 countries came together to vote on the redefinition of the International System of Units (SI), changing the world's definition of the kilogram – a unit of mass, the ampere - a unit of electric current, the kelvin – a unit of temperature and the mole - a unit for measuring the amount of substance.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I take note of the central role of measurements and its applications, also referred to as Metrology, in the national quality infrastructure and in the realization of Kenya's Vision 2030, that seeks to transform Kenya into a newly industrialized middle-income country that aims to provide a high quality of life to its entire citizenry. Furthermore, the Government's "*Big 4 Agenda*" comprising of Food Security and Nutrition, Manufacturing, Affordable Housing and Healthcare, unveiled by the President in 2017, is dependent on provision of high levels of accuracy and reliability of measurement in all areas of science, technology and human activities.

The health sector relies on measurements for accurate diagnostics, drug administration, and research in treatment solutions as well as development of preventive measures targeting highly infectious diseases. The adherence of accurate measurements leads to accuracy in all activities intended for health sector.

To ascertain a food secure country arising from agricultural activities, accurate measurements of quality farm inputs such as fertilizers, herbicides, seeds and feeds is necessary. The correct measurements determine accurate ingredients in the farm input and measurement of the quantity required in the farm while planting. This will result in farmers optimizing and maximising on their production to guarantee a food secure country.

The quality of building materials, reliability of measurement equipment used in the construction sector will go a long way in ensuring that the affordable housing plan is realised and the safety of built units assured.

In manufacturing, the industry relies on high precision traceable measurements to produce high quality goods, competitive products and to improve on production processes in order to gain a competitive edge. The micro, small and medium enterprises also need calibration and measurement to improve the quality of their products. Production of quality products will improve market access and promote cross-border trade. The tea, coffee, fish, horticulture and floriculture industries require measurements in order to meet the strict export requirements of their customers in Europe and other parts of the world

I laud the efforts by KEBS in providing a fully equipped national metrology institute in order to harness the opportunities and benefits of the science of measurement for promoting and sustaining economic development, as well as environmental and social wellbeing.

Ladies and gentlemen

Knowledge on measurements in any given country is well introduced to the wider public through inclusion in the education curriculum. I therefore challenge and encourage the Ministry of Education to include the four newly redefined fundamental units of measurement in the curriculum. These redefined fundamental units are also essential for the Ministry of Health, Transport, Infrastructure Housing, Urban Development and Public Works especially as we endeavour to achieve the big four agenda. Accurate measurements in all spheres of the economy are essential if Kenya is to become a middle-income country by 2030.

Lastly, as I end my address, I would wish to state that ISO will remain focused on producing globally relevant Standards that will be used everywhere in addressing most of the World's challenges today and I would therefore encourage KEBS to actively participate in Standards development at the international level, as it is said, whoever develops the Standards controls the market.

Once again thank you for the invitation and for listening to me and I wish you a happy world metrology day.

Thank you and God bless you.