

ADDRESS BY DEPUTY AUDITOR GENERAL HUMPHREY WANYAMA DURING THE LAUNCH OF ACCOUNTABILITY KENYA ON 27TH OF MARCH 2014 AT SAFARI PARK HOTEL, NAIROBI.

His Excellency the Deputy President, Hon. William Ruto, the Chairman Public Accounts Committee, who is also the Interim Chair of Accountability Kenya, Hon Ababu Namwamba, His Excellency the Ambassador of Slovakia, All Protocols observed, ladies and gentlemen.

It is with great pleasure that I stand here today to speak on behalf of the Auditor General, Mr Edward Ouko and witness the launch of Accountability Kenya. This launch is a culmination of the deliberations, proposals and resolutions made at various forums, but especially at the Public Accounts Committee National Conference on Accountability Networking held in Naivasha on the 15th and 16th November 2013.

This launch came out of the desire to promote “*best practice*” and where appropriate achieve harmonization and standardization in our oversight on management of public resources and to establish mechanisms for networking and free exchange of knowledge and perspectives. We are therefore delighted that this desire is taking shape as evidenced today at this launch of Accountability Kenya

As an institution mandated by the Constitution of Kenya to ensure effective and lawful use of public resources, the Office of the Auditor General, is particularly pleased to be part of this launch.

Accountability Kenya provides a forum for all of us in this country and beyond, who engage in the oversight role in management of public

resources to work in harmony, unity and ensure our efforts bear fruits in increasing transparency and integrity in the conduct of public affairs.

In the recent past the Office of the Auditor General has conducted major audits in line with the Office's mandate of assuring Kenyans that their resources are used effectively and lawfully.

To this end I am happy to report that we currently have no backlog of audit reports and have cleared all pending audits for all public institutions.

It is important to note that at the inception of the Office of the Auditor General under the Constitution promulgated in 2010, there was a backlog of some audit reports of up to three years, especially for Local Authorities, but we have worked round the clock to clear this.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Office of the Auditor general is now finalizing the audit reports of the national government for the 2012/2013 financial year.

We are also concurrently working on the special audit reports of the County governments, some of which have already been released to the public through the County Assemblies. The remaining reports are in the final stages of completion and will be released to the respective County Assemblies as soon as they are concluded.

Going forward our target is to leverage on ICT and conduct real time and smart audits to give more relevance to audit reports and trigger issues-based and useful public debate on usage of public resources. In this connection the Office of the Auditor-General is undertaking a drilldown exercise to trace public resources down to the grassroots at District/Constituency level. This is what we call tracing the shilling to the ground.

Ladies and gentlemen, this is an enormous responsibility for the Office of the Auditor General and we are currently investing in the necessary software tools to be more proactive and able to undertake preventive, deterrent and effective audits.

It is worth to note that this requires massive resources and the Office of the Auditor General may not fully realize this dream unless and until more funds are made available to enable us effectively discharge our expanded mandate as provided in the Constitution

The Office of the Auditor General therefore kindly requests Members of Parliament and all concerned present here, to take note of the funding challenge that we face and increase the budgetary allocation to the Office in the coming financial year.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Oversight Committees of Parliament, particularly the Public Accounts Committee, the Public Investments Committee and the Budget and Appropriations Committee for their unwavering support to this Office and I would urge them to continue offering the same support to ensure the Auditor-General is able to discharge his responsibility to Parliament.

Thank you, and God bless you all, God bless Kenya