

**Remarks by Mr. Chris Oanda, KISM Chairman during the
Supply chain management conference Kivi Milimani Hotel,
26th June 2009 8.30am – 4.30pm**

Invited guests ladies and gentlemen,

As I welcome you to this gathering of professionals, I wish to begin by acknowledging the presence of the Permanent Secretary of the Treasury who is ably represented here by the Director of Public Procurement Madame Celestine Otunga. I must also thank the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ), represented here by Mr. Mathias Muehle, for supporting this forum.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This is the first membership forum of this kind and your participation in this forum is indicative of your enthusiasm to support and to be a part of this budding profession.

We have fought a long and hard battle for recognition and I am pleased to observe that our efforts are bearing fruit. In the year 2007, we succeeded in coming up with a legislative framework to support development of this profession - “The Supplies Practitioners Management Act 2007.” This piece of legislation is equally important to both private and public sectors, and can be viewed as a climax of activities directed towards reforming procurement and supply chain practices in this country.

Statistics show that public and private finance losses are strongly correlated to procurement malpractices and inefficiencies. In the public sector, leakages occur as a result of inefficiencies and abuse of procurement systems. Losses to the private sector, though not documented, are undoubtedly substantial.

From this background, the public sector in Kenya has been a leading force in efforts to uplift the profession of Procurement and Supply Chain Management. To address this formidable challenge to progress, the Government implemented a number of reforms, such as: development of anti-corruption strategies; enactment of the Public Officer Ethics Act 2003; the Anti-Corruption and Economic Crimes Act 2003; the Financial Management Act 2004 and; the Public Procurement and Disposal Act 2005.

The climax that I alluded to earlier is the professionalization of procurement functions. Professionalization was identified as a key component of the reform process and, to this end; the Supplies Practitioners Management Act was passed into law.

This dispensation will significantly transform performance of procurement functions and supply chains as it puts emphasis on the individual practitioner's attributes, particularly, his or her knowledge, skills and integrity, as they are peculiar to the challenges facing procurement and supplies management professionals.

Professionalism is not merely an individual choice; it is conditioned by the environment. Professional attitude requires certain attributes namely, technical competence, psychological commitment to efficiency and hard

work, ethical standards, and regard for clients. The environment shapes how an individual develops these traits and in some instances may cause an individual to ignore them. It is therefore important that we strive to create an environment where individuals, who embrace professionalism, are supported, promoted, and given the means to influence others.

This new framework brings good news for corporate executives and the practitioners as it provides the instruments required to develop local capacity through relevant syllabi and professional examinations, and to set standards for the profession. The numerous internal codes of ethics developed by various organisations, will be reinforced by a national code of ethics for procurement professionals.

In the course of the day, you will listen to presentations on topical issues from various sectors, which I hope, will not only be informative, but will also add value to your work, career and professional development aspirations. Apart from our local experts, we have also invited a representative from the International Trade Center to talk to us about an international professional certification program in Supply Chain Management, which will be part of the programs offered through KISM.

I welcome you once again to this forum, and hope that you will have a productive day.

Thank you.