



REMARKS BY HON. PETER MUNYA, EGH, CABINET SECRETARY FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES, DURING THE PRESS BRIEFING ON STATUS OF TRANSITION FOR CERTIFICATIONS TO ISO 9001 AND 14001 CERTIFICATIONS WITH ONE MONTH TO THE DEADLINE, AT THE CS BOARDROOM 17TH FLOOR, NSSF BUILDING ON 16TH AUGUST 2018, 12PM

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- 1.** I thank you most sincerely for responding to our call to share with you the status update with **one month left to the 15 September deadline** for transition of **Certifications to ISO 9001 on Quality Management** and **ISO 14001 on Environmental management Standards**.
- 2.** First, I deeply appreciate the role KENAS and the Accredited Certification bodies have played to see a positive transition rate of **62% of organizations** Certified to the new editions of the ISO Standards in before the deadline.
- 3.** I note that the transition process begun in 2015 and I am pleased that more than half of the organizations acted quickly. As you know, Certification is not a simple process, it is a dedicated change management process.
- 4.** Secondly, before I address myself to the substance of today, I want to say that as the Ministry responsible, we are very keen to ensure that Kenya has a modern, coherent, cost-effective, fit-for-purpose, user-friendly and an internationally recognized systems for Accreditation, Measurement and Standardization.
- 5. Why?** Because an appropriate system for Accreditation, Measurement and Standardization is indispensable for any economy. They act as critical enablers and drivers to our national growth and development. In particular, without them we cannot realize our Big 4 Agenda of manufacturing, safe affordable healthcare services, safe food and safe housing, and Vision 2030.
- 6. Let me state that** the fundamental role of Accreditation, Measurement and Standardization at the domestic market is to ensure the efficient and effective functioning of systems for managing quality, health, safety and environmental protection as well as regulatory risks. And outwardly for market access by meeting requirement of purchasing countries.
- 7.** In this regard, I note with appreciation that KENAS which was established in 2009, is now effectively playing its oversight role with respect to Certification,

Laboratories and Inspections activities. I expect them to enhance their activities and to fully deliver on their mandate as the **"Checker of Checkers."**

- 8.** Thirdly, let me now come to the substance of today. As you may have seen in the printed Press, KENAS which exercises oversight of the accreditation activities put out information for the public, businesses, regulators and procuring entities (GoK) on the **valid and legitimate ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 certifications to date.** With the remaining days to the deadline, we expect more organizations to be Certified.

- 9.** Therefore, I announce that **from 15 September 2018** all Certifications to the superseded Standards, ISO 9001 (2008 edition) and ISO 14001 (2004 edition) expire indefinitely and stand withdrawn. This affects some 38% of certified organization in Kenya who will lose certifications if they have not already started the transition.

- 10.** I call upon all businesses, regulatory bodies and all procuring entities to **check the validity of certifications today.**

- 11.** I am also directing KENAS to **fully enforce** its accreditation arrangements with the **three Accredited Certification bodies** to ensure that all certified organizations who will lose their certification, return their certificates, and take the necessary measure to inform their clients and well as remove any claims of certification, such as use of marks or logos including in corporate stationery, marketing materials, websites, social media, and other brandings in building and vehicles.

- 12. Why is this important?** Today Certification to ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 is included as market requirements or demand for regulatory compliance framework. So, in practical terms, if Certification is included as part of contractual requirement, then the organization will be in breach; or if a regulator agency accepted the certification as part of its compliance framework or alternative measure, then it means the organization will not meet the regulations.

- 13.** Kenya wants to be a leader in using **International Standards and Accreditation systems** in line with the **WTO-TBT agreement.**

- 14.** I note that the only recognized Certifications bodies for management systems are, namely: SGS Kenya, Bureau Veritas Kenya and KEBS (all locally established); and British Standards Institution – BSI (which recognized by KENAS on acceptance of equivalence accreditation).

- 15.** If you have certification from any other body, **you wasted your money**, this is also important for procuring entities of Government. We do not want any **"Cowboy Consultants"** and **"briefcase Consultants"** claiming to offer certification to Government.
- 16.** I am asking KENAS to put up a publicly accessible directory or verification system for Accredited Certification to ensure the public is well informed.
- 17.** I also note that KENAS has been fully engaged at regional and International levels. As mentioned earlier we want to be in the lead, and succeed through Accreditation, Measurement and Standardization systems.
- 18.** As a ministry we are supporting a number of initiatives in this regard;
- 19.** First, we want strengthening the role of KENAS to have proper legal effect; this will be achieved through the passing of the current **Kenya Accreditation Bill, 2018** already in Parliament.
- 20.** Second, to ensure our voice at the highest level in Standardization, my Ministry and the Government has supported the candidature of **Mr Eddy Njoroge for the ISO Presidency 2019-2022**, we are hopeful of his appoint at the upcoming ISO General Assembly this September, in Geneva, Switzerland.
- 21.** Lastly, I note that KENAS and KEBS will jointly host the next annual meeting of the **ISO Policy Committee on Conformity Assessment (CASCO)** matter in April 2019. The ISO CASCO committee is responsible for developing standards for testing, inspection, verification, calibration and certification services globally. Again, this is another effort toward making taking advantage of Standards and Accreditation for our Country.

22. Thank you