

SPEECH BY EDDY NJOROGE, CHAIRMAN, NAIROBI STOCK EXCHANGE DURING THE FINANCIAL REPORTING (FIRE) AWARDS PRESENTATION CEREMONY ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2010 AT THE KENYATTA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE - TSAVO BALL ROOM

- The Deputy Prime Minister & Minister for Local Government, Hon. Musalia Mudavadi;
- The Chairman, Directors and Chief Executive Officer, Capital Markets Authority (CMA);
- The Chairman, Council and Chief Executive; Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya (ICPAK);
- The Directors and Chief Executive; Nairobi Stock Exchange (NSE);
- Chairmen, Chief Executives of Listed Companies and of all institutions participating in the 2010 FiRe Award;
- Distinguished Guests;
- Ladies and Gentlemen;
- All protocols observed;

I am honored to welcome you all to this 9th edition of the Excellence in Financial Reporting (FiRe) Award Gala Dinner, and on behalf of the promoters of the FiRe Award - the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya (ICPAK), the Nairobi Stock Exchange (NSE) and the Capital Markets Authority (CMA), express our appreciation that you could join us to celebrate the recognition of East African companies who have excelled in reporting of financials, corporate governance, and corporate social investment.

Hon. Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen;

The mission of the FiRe Awards is:

“To enhance accountability, transparency and integrity in compliance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and other disclosures on governance, social and environmental reporting by private, public and other entities domiciled in East Africa.”

As organizers of the awards, we hope that we have lived to this Mission.

Hon. Minister;

This year marks some important milestones in the history of the Award.

- Ninety (90) institutions submitted their annual reports for evaluation; the highest number of entries ever, and up 67% from the fifty four (54) entries in 2009.

In recognition of the fact that the EAC Common Market Protocol came into force on July 1st 2010, the FiRe Award invited and received:

- Four (4) entries from companies domiciled in Tanzania and

- Three (3) entries from companies domiciled in Uganda.

Besides best overall company, this year we have introduced a new category to honor the best Ugandan Company, and the best Tanzanian Company.

Hon. Minister;

For the first time as well, we have introduced the award category for best Small and Medium Enterprise (SMEs), Savings and Credit Cooperatives (SACCOs) and Local Authorities. For each of these categories, we received ten (10) each for SMEs and SACCOs, but none from Local Authorities. We hope that in the coming year, the Local Authorities will take advantage of the invitation, especially because they are all looking to enter into Private Public Partnerships (PPPs) and go to public markets to fund infrastructure projects.

Indeed one of the major benefits of participating in the FiRe Award, is that each institution that submits its financial accounts also receives from the FiRe Award Evaluators, an assessment of the highlights and shortcomings of their documentation. The feedback is confidential and provides the opportunity for the institution to improve on its reporting.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the support of our sponsors:

- The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA), Kenya Chapter
- The Kenya Accountants & Secretaries National Examinations Board (KASNEB)
- The Retirement Benefits Authority (RBA)
- The Insurance Regulatory Authority (IRA)
- IQ Plus, and
- Ufadhili Trust.

Their financial support and most importantly, their willingness to be associated with the FiRe Award, underscores the importance of financial reporting to the wider economy. I also wish to thank the FiRe Award Evaluators for sparing time to evaluate all ninety (90) entries. Impartial, thorough evaluations uphold the dignity of the Award.

Ladies & Gentlemen;

On behalf of the promoters of the FiRe Award, it is now my pleasure to invite Hon. Musalia Mudavadi to address us.

EDDY NJOROGE
CHAIRMAN
NAIROBI STOCK EXCHANGE