

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY



AFROPAC

**AFRICAN ORGANIZATION OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEES (AFROPAC)
2ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND GENERAL MEETING**

*Safari Park, Nairobi
29th August – 2nd September, 2016*

THEME: CURBING ILLICIT FINANCIAL FLOWS IN AFRICA

OPENING REMARKS AND SPEECH BY HON. (ENG) NICOLAS GUMBO, MP

His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta, President and Commander-in-Chief of the Defense Forces of Kenya,

Hon. (Dr.) Joyce Laboso, MP, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Kenya,

The Vice- Chairman AFROPAC,

Chairs of regional bodies present,

Cabinet Secretaries,

Members of Parliament,

Distinguished Guests,

Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure that I stand before you today to welcome all of you to this beautiful country of Kenya, and extend a very warm *Karibu*.

AFROPAC was officially unveiled on 2nd September, 2013 at the Arusha International Conference Centre (AICC) in Arusha, Tanzania in a ceremony attended by 400 delegates from across Africa. After months and years of planning, today we finally take the AFROPAC

plane off the runway and launch with it the African dream that AFROPAC was established to midwife. Democracy and the growth of public participation in Africa have seen the role of legislatures become more important than ever. Parliamentary oversight is the last line of defense for citizens who would otherwise resign to excesses of states. Public Accounts Committees and Supreme Audit Institutions have since developed a symbiotic relationship towards this end, precisely what our objectives capture by seeking to strengthen the independence and cooperation amongst us.

Ladies and gentlemen, what better theme is there to kick off this conversation of self emancipation of Africa than curbing illicit financial flows?

Picture this, HE Thabo Mbeki's report estimates that Africa has lost over \$1 Trillion in capital flight in the last 50 years, roughly the same amount that it has received in donor aid. We continue to hemorrhage \$50 Billion annually. This is more than twice Uganda's GDP, almost four times that of Namibia, more than ten times that of Sierra Leone!

The future of our continent is in our hands and we clearly do not need aid. We need to stop poaching and smuggling, transfer pricing and tax evasion, organized crime, trade imbalances and conflicts fanned by enemies of Africa's progress. How can our legislatures play their role of oversight effectively in a fast changing global and fluid environment?

State and non-state actors are instrumental in combating Illicit Financial Flows in Africa. Collaborative measures and protocols need to be developed to ensure proper and targeted efforts towards eradicating this vice. This synergy is what will concert our efforts and seal these loopholes.

Regional and international agencies have been vocal in designing and formulating specific measures to tackle IFFs without clear coordination by the originating and recipient countries. To reverse this trend, it is imperative to forge a positive engagement among these institutions and governments to amplify the fight against Illicit Financial Flows in Africa. Brothers and sisters let's speak with one voice, the voice that echoes Kwame Nkrumah, Nelson Mandela, Namdi Azikiwe, Kenneth Kaunda, Julius Nyerere, Leopold Senghor, Jomo Kenyatta and many other great African leaders dreams. Let us leave this conference with a decisive voice that says enough is enough, that says we can do it, a Nairobi declaration that will turn the 'dark continent' to the 'glowing continent', because we are the most rich continent. I wish everyone fruitful deliberations that will turn will into way and a warm stay in Nairobi.

Last but not least I express my sincere gratitude, as Chairman PAC Kenya, and on behalf of EAAPAC, to all delegates for coming from all corners of the continent to seek ways of emancipating Africa. I thank your Excellencies for gracing this occasion and demonstrating your commitment to leading from the front. I thank the National Assembly of Kenya for hosting this event, and our partners and sponsors, GIZ and Safaricom for coming to our aid technically and financially to make this happen.

Asanteni, thank you, Merci, shukraan.