

**TALKING NOTES BY PRINCIPAL SECRETARY,
STATE DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE,
MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT, INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSING,
URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS,
DURING THE COMMISSIONING OF ENGINEERS BOARD OF
KENYA EXAMINATION CENTER AT TRANSCOM HOUSE.**

Chairman Engineers Board Kenya,
President of Institution of Engineers of Kenya,
Board Members Engineers Board of Kenya,
Distinguished Guests,
All Protocols observed,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

1. Engineering & Construction Contribution to the GDP

Engineers are key contributors to the GDP of the Kenyan economy. Their services are consumed in critical sectors of the economy, in particular infrastructure, agriculture, manufacturing, information and communication, construction, health, hospitality and education.

In 2019 alone, the construction sector added a value of 541.8 billion Kenyan shillings (KSh) (roughly 5 billion U.S. dollars) to Kenya's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The amount increased in comparison to 2018, when the value added was measured at 485.6 billion KSh (around 4.5 billion U.S. dollars).

2. Framework to Ensure Local Engineers Get Opportunities

The Government recognizes the need to have local engineers involved in its many development projects at both the National and County levels. This has created opportunities for local engineers to provide professional engineering services in projects undertaken by the Government.

To minimize influx of foreign engineers, measures are in place to ensure that involvement of foreign professionals in local projects is minimized and in highly specialized projects, transfer of knowledge is prioritized. This key action has ensured that engineers are given opportunities to take charge of key projects.

3. Quality of Professional Engineering Services

The Board is mandated to register engineers and engineering consulting firms. In the interest of public health and safety, it is imperative that only those engineers who demonstrate professional competence are licensed to practice.

The examination center demonstrates the Board's commitment to ensuring that only quality professional engineering services are provided by those who have demonstrated competence and are properly licensed to practice.

4. Project Management Skills

Management of engineering activities in any project is a critical skill that every engineer should have.

It is a Continuing Professional Development requirement that engineers attend courses on Project Management which is offered at various levels.

This is a must have competence for any engineer who wants to practice engineering in Kenya.

5. SDOI Support to EBK.

The State Department of Infrastructure will continue supporting the Board and the Board's activities and programmes. The Ministry is working with various government agencies to ensure the Board attains its full staff establishment to enable effective delivery of its mandate.

The Ministry has also ensured that the Graduate internship programme continue through provision of financial resources. The project will further be strengthened in the next financial year.

Finally, I am glad to note that this Examination Center commissioned today was done through financing by the development aspect by the Ministry. The Board will further be facilitated in the establishment of the Kenya School of Engineering and the Kenya Academy of Engineering and Technology which are key institutions for establishment within the Engineers Act.

THANK YOU