



## THE INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS OF KENYA

# ICPAK PRESS STATEMENT ON THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

June 3rd, 2018

### Introduction

The Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya (ICPAK) commends H.E the President, Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta for his unwavering support against corruption menace. In his Madaraka Day address to the nation, the President announced plans to vet all procurement and accounting officers. His commitment should be supported by all patriots, stakeholders, professionals and users of public service. If this is done, the country will succeed in slaying the corruption dragon.

ICPAK, established by an Act of parliament has the mandate to register, develop and regulate the Accountancy profession in Kenya. An accountant is a person with expertise achieved through formal education and practical experience, and is a member of ICPAK in good standing. Our members are expected to comply with the profession's code of ethics; and are subject to enforcement of the rules and regulations of the profession as stipulated in the Accountants Act.

Anybody who is not our member as defined above is not an accountant by law. We encourage the public and private sectors to engage our members only for accountancy services.

### Corruption in Kenya

Corruption has become endemic in Kenya and threatens the very fabrics that hold our country together. This cancerous economic disease has affected investor confidence, service delivery, professionalism, tourism and security among others.

Corruption breeds inefficiency and waste and has aggravated the budget deficit problem leaving the country exposed to the increasing debt portfolio. It further drives away foreign investors and leads to economic contraction and collapse. Corruption and capital flight seriously stunt economic development.

### ICPAK Position on Vetting of Procurement and Accounting Officers

While we appreciate efforts to vet all procurement and accounting officers working in government, vetting only a section of these officials will not yield desired results. It must be appreciated that corruption is a chain linking individuals belonging to different professionals such as lawyers, accountants, auditors, procurement, engineers, architects, teachers, administrators, and law enforcement officers among others.

ICPAK therefore calls for implementation of the following measures:

1. That the proposed vetting should include all individuals involved in the corruption chain. The value chain in procurement involves all users and should therefore also target the non-procurement and non-accounting staff if meaningful change is to be achieved.
2. That the government involves professional bodies such as ICPAK, LSK, ICS, IEK, IQSK etc, in the development of criterion for vetting and to provide expertise during the vetting process.
3. That the government empowers professional bodies by introducing amendments to laws establishing such bodies. This will ensure that all those working in the public sector are members of professional bodies thereby ensuring that they work within the confines of a regulated environment.
4. That government must cut down waste and duplication of resources in ministries, departments and agencies as well as parastatals as contained in our budget as a measure of detecting corruption risks.
5. That IFMIS should be strengthened with the requisite controls and IPSAS accruals fully implemented. These will ensure that controls are inbuilt in the procurement and accounting system and thus help deter any financial malpractices.
6. That the government ensures effective prosecution of those implicated in corruption. The DPP and the Judiciary should ensure that cases of corruption are expeditiously dealt with to conclusion in accordance with the law to deter further perpetration of the vice. The President should take the bold route to sack officials in his government who are found culpable.
7. That all outstanding corruption reports, including the Auditor General Reports, The Controller of Budget Reports, and the Public Accounts Committee Reports are fully implemented and perpetrators effectively punished.
8. That the President to consider inclusion of representation from professional bodies with oversight mandates in the framework and institutions responsible for governance and fighting corruption. This will provide the link to enable the professionals provide the expertise in dealing with matters of governance and fighting corruption.

Finally, we wish to remind public office holders about their obligations to exhibit the highest standard of professionalism and integrity in the conduct of their duties. The Institute reiterates that it will take stern action against errant members found culpable in this process while ensuring that our members are not victimized for doing the right thing within the confines of the profession.