
Hon. Ministers,
Representatives of United Nations Agencies,
Distinguished Participants,
Distinguished Facilitators,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good Morning,

It is a great pleasure and honor for me to give my remarks on this auspicious occasion of opening of the Capacity Building Workshop on “Innovation and Performance Evaluation: The Role of Human Resource Managers” taking place here in Addis Ababa Ethiopia from 11-13th December 2013.

I am very thankful to the organizers of the workshop, and let me start by expressing my sincere appreciation to the United Nations Commission for Africa (UNECA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) ,United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs(UNDESA), The African Union, and the Federal Republic of Ethiopia for successfully organizing this workshop.
The Africa Public Sector Human Resource Managers Network is exceedingly thankful for your generosity and continued support. I have noted with appreciation and gratitude that our success in APS-HRMnet has thrived on the financial and technical support from some of you as well as from the Association of African Public Administration and Management (AAPAM). The network has also greatly benefited from leadership support we have being receiving from Honorable Ministers of Public Service in Africa. We are very pleased we have with us here today Minister of Public Service Federal Republic of Ethiopia, and Hon. Sezi Mbagna Prisca Minister of State, Public Service in Republic of Uganda. Hon. Celina Ompeshi Kombani, Minister of State Public Service Management United Republic of Tanzania was also to be with us here today but due to exigencies of duty she had to cancel her trip at the last minute.

I wish also to acknowledge and recognize the championing initiatives of my Deputy Odette Ramsingh and Vice Presidents of the various regions and the collective support from the entire APS HRMnet membership.

The APS HRMnet is by all accounts a young organization launched on 29th February 2009 with the objective of providing a platform for sharing of knowledge and insights amongst African Public Sector Human Resource Managers and professionals, to promote and strengthen excellence, integrity, and professional standards in the practice of human resource management in the public sector in Africa.

Our task to manage and nurture the network has become increasingly challenging in the face of ongoing global economic crisis that has reduced the ability of individuals and Governments to contribute and support the network and other similar voluntary
organizations and at the same time cope with increased demand for better services from the public.

Nevertheless, in less than five years the APS-HRMnet has registered significant progress including among others, registration of the Network, developing the Constitution and Rules of the network in both English and French, opening a Bank Account, registering over 250 members and recently we have started to register Government Ministries, Independent Departments, and Agencies which are joining the network as Corporate Members. We are also in the process of finalizing our first five year Strategic Plan 2014-2018. Some of you will have an opportunity to look at it at an opportune time.

Hon. Ministers, Representative of United Nations Agencies, and Distinguished Partners

Our meeting here in Addis Ababa for the next three days will allow us to take the advantage to strategize on future plans as well as future partnerships and cooperation. Most importantly, we will engage APS-HRMnet members present at this meeting to share their thoughts on how together we can realistically take the network forward in a sustainable manner. Let us start by improving the strategic plan before it is finally endorsed as our road map.

Whereas the network is satisfied with the accomplishments it has made so far, there remains a lot to be done and we can certainly do better. Pursuant to its objectives, the Network will continue to support the professionalization of the human resource management function in the Public sector through provision training and proving professional development opportunities in the form of conferences, seminars, workshops, online-courses, and exchange visits.
We are also currently strategizing on how to take on board one of the network's key objective of supporting the implementation of African Charter on Values and Principles of Public Service and Administration. This is a challenging and yet important task we want to address from now onwards in a progressive manner.

As you are aware the Charter seeks to promote the moral values inherent in the activities of Public Service Agents, with a view of ensuring transparent service delivery, quality and innovative service provision that meets the requirements of all, and encourage citizens and users of public services to actively and effectively participate in public administration processes. We believe there are many players in this and hence the need for increased partnership and support to achieve the goals.

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In concluding, I want to believe whole heartedly that all stakeholders are ready to support us when we are in need. In specific, we are asking for your support in the capacity building efforts of the network so the network will in the near future stand on its feet and contribute meaningfully to improving public service delivery and in that way make a contribution to a better Africa.

Let me end by once again thanking The government of Federal Republic of Ethiopia, AAPAM, our Development Partners and to commend all the network members for your continued and sustained support to the network. Together we will take our network to new heights

I thank you.