



SPEECH BY MR. JOSEPH IRUNGU, THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, READ BY MS WINNIE GUCHU, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF WATER & SANITATION DURING THE OFFICIAL CLOSING OF THE 1ST KENYA NATIONAL DAM CONFERENCE HELD AT FLAMINGO BEACH RESORT AND SPA, MOMBASA ON 9TH MARCH, 201

Cabinet Secretaries present today,

Chief Administrative Secretaries,

Ministry of Water and Sanitation,

The Principal Secretaries

Hon Dr. Julius Kones,

Chairman,

National Water Conservation & Pipeline Corporation

Other board Chairpersons and Board of Directors

Dr. Eng. Ali Hassan,

Ag, Managing Director,

National Water Conservation & Pipeline Corporation

Other Chief Executive Officers

Members of the Press,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure and honor to make these closing remarks on the occasion of the official closing of the 1st Kenya National Dam Conference 2018. We have appreciated the engagement and candor that you all have contributed to this important conference. This forum has been proactive in coming up with ideas and proposed solutions and guidelines that will be very crucial in shaping how we implement the Water Act 2016.

Distinguished Participants,

We have gained a better understanding about various issues on dam construction and water resource management ranging from dam environmental and social impact, hydropower generation and hydrology, dam contribution to climate change and many more.

The main objective of the conference was to “consolidate gains and experiences of all stakeholders in fast tracking the realization of adequate water provision and enhancing water security in Kenya.” I believe we achieved this and much more.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Most importantly, several insights and action items (conference specific objectives) were accomplished through this conference. These are:

- Address dam social and environmental management processes and their effectiveness.
- Attain holistic approach and involvement of a stakeholders in understanding and mitigating against water insecurity in Kenya.
- Address the challenges and seek out solutions to water insecurity in Kenya

- Optimization of dam planning and design towards hydraulic and structural integrity
- Highlight challenges encountered in planning and design of dam structures.
- Understand the need of surveillance & institutional mechanism for dam monitoring.
- Emerging issues of dam instrumentation and monitoring.
- Studies of extreme distress conditions and approaches for mitigation.
- Sharing knowledge, experiences and recent technologies in dam planning and implementation.
- How to enhance water harvesting and storage in our country.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very grateful for the interest you expressed on the discussions of this exciting theme; **“Synergy in Water Resources Infrastructure for Water Security.”** Let this conference be the beginning. We all need to continue working together until we achieve our common goal of access to clean water by all.

We should continue the dialogue among us so that we can learn from each other and support one another in this noble course. We have formed relationships and networks among ourselves since we experience common challenges which hopefully can be utilized for further collaboration and mutual learning.

Distinguished Delegates,

Above all, I would like to thank all of you for making this conference a success through your valuable contributions and active participation throughout the

conference and especially during the discussion panels. I also thank the sponsors and the organizing committee who worked tirelessly to ensure this conference is a success.

I sincerely thank all of you for making time to participate in this conference. Your contributions will be taken seriously and implemented where possible. I urge you to use the concepts that you learnt at this conference to make our vision of “ensuring water resources availability and accessibility by all” a reality.

Thank you very much, and God bless you.