



THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
NATIONAL AUDIT OFFICE



ISO 9001:2015 Certified

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PRESS RELEASE:

THE CONTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL (CAG), MR. CHARLES E. KICHERE BIDS FAREWELL TO AU BOARD OF EXTERNAL AUDITORS, HIGHLIGHTS ACHIEVEMENTS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS.

Addis Ababa, May 24, 2024 - Mr. Charles E. Kichere, esteemed member of the African Union (AU) Board of External Auditors, bid farewell to his colleagues on the Board as he concluded his tenure. His departure marks the end of a significant chapter in the Board's history, characterized by exceptional leadership, collaboration, and dedication to enhancing transparency and accountability within the African Union (AU).

The Controller and Auditor General, Mr. Kichere was attending a meeting of the African Union Board of External Auditors held in Addis Ababa Ethiopia where he served on the Board for four years that comprised two terms. The meeting was attended by 11 Heads of Supreme Audit Institutions (SAI) from Egypt, Tanzania, South Africa, Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria, Angola, Morocco, Eswatini, Algeria, Libya, Equatorial Guinea that constituted the African Union Board of External Auditors.

The Board approved the reports on the audits of financial statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2023 for the African Union Commission, its Organs and institutions with the Lead Auditors indicated in the bracket: African Union Commission (AUC), including, the Regional / Liaison Offices (SAI - Egypt, Tanzania, Nigeria, South Africa, Morocco, Algeria, Equatorial Guinea, and Libya), African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) (SAI Tanzania), Pan African University (PAU) (SAI Tanzania), African Court for Human and Peoples' Rights (AfCHPR) (SAI South Africa), African Commission for Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) (SAI Côte d'Ivoire), African Union Advisory Board on Corruption (AU ABC), (SAI Nigeria), Pan-African Parliament (SAI Angola), African Union Development Agency (AUDA NEPAD), African Continental Free Trade Area (AFCFTA (SAI Egypt), African Union Economic Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) (SAI Morocco), African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) (SAI Eswatini), and Africa Centres for Diseases Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), (SAI Algeria).

The meeting also acknowledged audits of five African Union specialised or regional offices audited by the Board in 2023 financial year that include Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resource (IBAR), Nairobi, Kenya; the African Center for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT), Algeria, the African Energy Commission (AFREC), Algeria; and the African capacity building foundation (ACBF).

Gratitude for Leadership and Collaboration

CAG, Mr. Kichere expressed his profound gratitude to the Board's leadership, specifically acknowledging the guidance of the current Chairman (SAI Egypt) and his predecessor, the Auditor General of SAI Nigeria. "The Chair strong leadership provided us with the necessary guidance to conduct our audit work within the agreed timelines, despite challenges such as the Covid-19 pandemic," he stated.

He also extended sincere appreciation to his colleagues, Heads of SAI, and their teams for their cooperation and constructive contributions. "The cooperation and constructive contributions from all Members of the Board in improving each other's work are important lessons that we take home with us," he remarked.

Acknowledgment of the Audit Operations Committee

Mr. Kichere praised the Audit Operations Committee for their professionalism and commitment, which were critical in ensuring the Board produced credible reports in accordance with the International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAIs). He also recognized the support from the Executive Secretary office.

In Memoriam

In a poignant moment, Mr. Kichere honoured the memory of Mr. Geoffrey Lawrance Makonyu, who passed away in Yaoundé, Cameroon, during the audit of the Pan African University. "We cherish his sacrifice in contributing to the work of the SAI Tanzania team and the Board. May his soul continue to rest in peace," he said.

Achievements and Contributions of SAI Tanzania

Under Mr. Kichere's tenure, the National Audit Office of Tanzania joined the Board of External Auditors in 2020 and participated in various significant audits, including the African Union Commission (AUC), the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM), the Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) in Zambia, African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) in South Africa, Pan African Parliament (PAP) in South Africa, and the Pan African University (PAU) in five Countries. SAI Tanzania also contributed to developing audit templates and guidelines in collaboration with SAI South Africa.

Vision for Future Collaboration

Mr. Kichere emphasized the importance of continued collaboration among SAIs at bilateral, regional, and continental levels. He highlighted potential areas for future cooperation, including experience sharing in auditing international organizations, IPSAS Accrual-Based financial statements, performance audits, and information systems audits.

Recommendations for the Board's Future

Looking ahead, CAG suggested several areas for improvement:

- **Digital Transformation:** Leveraging technology to enhance efficiency, accuracy, and transparency in auditing processes.
- **Continuous Learning:** Implementing programs for incoming members and regular training sessions to build audit team capacity.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Enhancing engagement with key stakeholders to better understand their concerns and expectations.
- **Effectiveness Evaluation:** Developing performance metrics to evaluate the effectiveness of audits.

Conclusion

As he concluded his tenure, Mr. Kichere expressed confidence in the Board's continued role in improving accountability and financial management within the AU. "I trust that the Board will continue to uphold professionalism and best practices in its work to claim its position as the best representative of the SAIs within the Continent. I wish the Board success in its future audits of the Union and look forward to future cooperation with all members," he concluded.

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