

**SPEECH BY HON. SIMON K. CHELUGUI, EGH, CABINET SECRETARY,
MINISTRY OF CO-OPERATIVES AND MSMES DURING THE KENYA
NATIONAL POLICE DT SACCO TOP SAVERS CONFERENCE HELD FROM 9TH
TO 12TH MAY, 2023 AT THE DIAMONDS LEISURE BEACH HOTEL, DIANI**

David S. Mategwa, OGW, DSA, ICUDE – The National Chairman;

Mr. Japhet Koome, EBS, HSC, ndc ‘K’ - Inspector General of National Police Service;

Mr. Douglas Kirocho Kanja - Deputy Inspector General, Kenya Police Service;

Mr. Edward Mbugua, CBS, MBS, OGW, NDC (K) - Former Deputy Inspector General, Kenya Police Service;

Mr. David Obonyo - Commissioner for Co-operative Development;

**Ms. Dolphine Aremo – County Director of Co-operatives, Nairobi County;
Board of Directors, Management and Staff;**

Distinguished Best Savers;

Invited Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

GOOD MORNING

It gives me great pleasure to join you at this Kenya National Police DT SACCO Top Savers' Conference. I wish to commend the Society's leadership for the noble initiative of the Best Savers Conference that brings together the *National Best Savers* of the Society.

Let me take this earliest opportunity to thank the National Chairman together with his Board and the Management for extending this invitation to me. I really don't take this gesture for granted.

As you are aware, it has been my nature to get information firsthand about the Movement from my interaction with you out here. I must admit the journey

has been a long learning process. I have gained in-depth understanding of the sector and confident together we shall make the Co-operatives better.

I BELIEVE, WE CAN!

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have been informed that this forum will be discussing important economic matters of your Society. It provides a platform for the participants to share experiences and exchange ideas with the objective of enhancing their financial management skills.

Use it to also explore areas of building and entrenching on your successes; enhancing the culture of saving; and exploring emerging opportunities. The

aim should be strategizing and moving towards a predictable growth sustainably not only for the Society but also at our individual level.

As top savers, you contributed towards the stellar performance of your SACCO last year recording **total assets of 48.9 Billion shillings** compared to **44 Billion shillings** in **2021**. The deposits rose to **25.9 Billion shillings** compared to **23.5 Billion shillings**. The loans and advances were **40.8 Billion shillings** growing from **37.3 Billion shillings** from the previous year. The revenues stood at **7.9 Billion shillings** up from **7 Billion shillings**.

I hope the TOP SAVERS form a sizeable number from the membership of **71,000**.

It goes without saying that you got a sizeable amount of **dividends** paid out at a rate of **17%**, amounting to **552 million shillings** and interests on deposits at a rate of **11%** amounting to **2.7 billion shillings** (gross total of **3.2 billion shillings**, an increase of **10.3 %**).

Distinguished Best Savers,

First and foremost is to recognize your presence and commend all of you for finding time to attend this important event. Sparing time to be here is an indication of the commitment and loyalty you have to your Society. I extend my gratitude to you all.

PONGEZI!

You are the ones who form the pillars for your SACCO. You discovered the benefits of savings much earlier and understood the Co-operative business model quite well. The SACCO has used your resources to grow while you have benefitted in the process. Such a win-win situation is rare in most businesses.

We should uphold the principles and values of Co-operatives. This being your conference, allow me to recap on these principles which define the Co-operatives the world over. The 7 cooperative principles are:

- 1. VOLUNTARY & OPEN MEMBERSHIP** - Anyone can join a co-operative without discrimination based on gender, social, racial, political or religious factors.
- 2. DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL** - Members control their business by deciding how it's run and who leads it.

3. **MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION** - All co-operative members invest in their cooperative. This means people, not shareholders, benefit from their profits.
4. **AUTONOMY & INDEPENDENCE** - When making business deals or raising money, co-operatives never compromise their autonomy or democratic member control.
5. **EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INFORMATION** - Co-operatives provide education, training and information so their members can contribute effectively to the success of their co-operative.
6. **COOPERATION AMONG CO-OPERATIVES** - Co-operatives believe working together is the best strategy to empower their members and build a stronger co-operative economy.
7. **CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY** - Co-operatives are community-minded. They contribute to the sustainable development of their communities by sourcing and investing locally.

I know as TOP Savers, you have religiously followed principles 3 and 4 but I leave it to you to reflect on these principles during this conference. Audit yourselves on your level of adherence.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me use this opportunity at your event to send a general message out there on saving. But before then, let me make reference to the 80-20 rule usually referred to as 'Pareto Principle' commonly in the big business establishments or the corporate world. It is a familiar saying that asserts that **80% of outcomes (or outputs) result from 20% of all causes (or inputs)** for any given event.

Under this 80-20 rule, you aim at identifying the inputs that are potentially the most productive. Those are the ones you make as priority. You consider the identified factors as being critical to your success and thus give them the most focus. Although the 80-20 rule is frequently used in business and economics, the concept can be applied to any field (READ SACCOs). Wealth distribution, personal finance, spending habits, and even infidelity in personal relationships can all be the subject of the 80-20 rule.

The **TOP SAVERS** may be contributing 80% of the business, although constitute 20% of the membership. In other words, the business is dependent on the 20% to thrive. Recall, the Business /Premium class or Executive Wings in banking halls. You are given preferential treatment because of your

importance. There is no queuing as you sit on a sofa seat, served with a variety of drinks and a newspaper to read. You are only ushered in to the teller at the time of service. Now that is you, the **TOP SAVER**. 🤝🤝🤝 You derive pleasure from the services offered; self-satisfaction as your money works for you; and preferential treatment for that position you hold. Let me encourage the other members to strive to become *top-savers* as well. Sadly, the saving culture is so poor in Kenya.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

You will appreciate that financial management goes beyond savings alone to how you can leverage on the savings to create wealth that will work for you.

This shall require nurturing and developing a super savings culture as envisioned in this programme.

In this gathering too, the Society will take you through an in-depth overview of progress and performance besides delving into product and services knowledge. I therefore encourage you to collaborate with the Society in furthering your wealth creation as a way of planning and securing your future through sustained product patronage. I also applaud the Society for mainstreaming education and training, the Co-operative Principle no.5 I mentioned earlier on. It is a strategic direction that will empower members for quality life.

I am sure that the great strides the Society continues to take would not have been possible without a robust corporate strategy. I have been made aware that the society strategy gravitates around three key pillars, namely: -

- i. Corporate Governance,
- ii. Membership and Service Excellence, and
- iii. Institutional Capacity Development.

These key pillars are in no doubt strong thematic areas that will drive the SACCO forward and empower members for quality life. I urge the Board and

Management to affirm their commitment to full implementation of your Strategic Plan to create value to our members and other stakeholders.

Any review MUST reflect the wishes and aspirations of the members and be attuned to the constantly changing business environment.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me digress a bit and delve in other areas the Society has excellent in.

This touches on your robust corporate social investments programs for the wider society with a view of striving to meet the needs of our various stakeholders. During your **50th** year anniversary graced by His Excellency the President in February this year, a sports stadium you built was handed over to the Police Service. It will also be available for use by the Community. Other CSR initiatives you have undertaken include sponsorship of bright and needy

children of deceased former members of the SACCO; and construction of 9 classrooms for Utumishi Girls School among others.

I commend the Board and management on these achievements and hope for even greater initiatives. They will be possible on the backdrop of sustained success.

Conclusion,

I am confident that arising from this conference, the Society will be able to mobilize significant savings that will be prudently invested in order to maximize value for members in particular and the society in general.

It is my prayer that as best savers, most of you represented here at this conference, were able to plough back your benefits to further enhance your savings in the society. Alternatively, you invested in some other viable ventures.

I encourage members in general to always strive in enhancing their savings ability and thus secure their future financially.

LONG LIVE - The Kenya National Police DT SACCO Society Limited!

It is now my pleasure to declare the conference open and wish you fruitful deliberations.

GOD BLESS YOU!