

INVITED GUESTS, MEMBERS OF THE PRESS LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE IN JOINING YOU TODAY FOR THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE SAFARICOM SEVENS 2011.

THIS EVENT HAS GROWN IN STATURE OVER THE LAST YEARS AND HAS BECOME ONE OF THE LEADING SPORTS EVENTS IN THE COUNTRY. I AM ALSO HAPPY TO NOTE THAT IT IS INCREASINGLY BECOMING A GREAT TOURIST ATTRACTION.

WE ARE GRATIFIED TO NOTE THAT THIS EVENT IS ONE AMONG VERY FEW IN KENYA WHICH DRAWS IN A LOT OF CORPORATE SUPPORT. WITH THE CONTINUED SPONSORSHIP OF SOME OF THE LEADING NAMES IN THE CORPORATE WORLD SUCH AS THE TITLE SPONSORS SAFARICOM.

SUBSTANTIAL FUNDS ARE REQUIRED TO RUN SUCH EVENTS AND AS YOU KNOW, THE GOVERNMENT HAS IN THE PAST CALLED UPON PRIVATE ENTERPRISES TO COME TO THE SUPPORT OF SPORTS IN THE COUNTRY.

SAFARICOM HAS CONTINUED TO LEAD IN THE SPONSORING NOT ONLY SPORTS EVENTS BUT ALSO MUSICAL ACTIVITIES SUCH AS THE ONGOING "KENYA LIVE" IN WHICH THEY EXPOSE LOCAL MUSIC TALENTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

THANK YOU TO THE EXECUTIVES OF SAFARICOM PRESENT HERE AND IT IS OUR HOPE THAT MORE PRIVATE COMPANIES WILL TAKE THE CUE AND SUPPORT SPORTS IN A VERY BIG WAY.

TO THE KENYA RUGBY UNION, OUR COMPLIMENTS FOR THE PROFESSIONAL AND MATURE WAY IN WHICH THEY CONTINUE TO RUN THEIR AFFAIRS. JUST LAST WEEK I AM INFORMED THEY RECEIVED SPONSORSHIP WORTH 45 MILLION FOR THEIR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME. TODAY THEY RECEIVE FURTHER SUPPORT TO HOST AN INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT.

THIS DOES IN MANY WAYS CONFIRM MY OFTEN STATED STAND THAT FEDERATIONS HAVE TO BE ACCOUNTABLE TO THE PUBLIC AND RUN THEIR AFFAIRS IN A TRANSPARENT MANNER. CLEARLY, THE KENYA RUGBY UNION IS REAPING FRUITS OF THIS CALL.

BEYOND THE COMMERCIAL END OF THE KENYA RUGBY UNION AFFAIRS TODAY MARKS ONE OF THE BOLDEST MOVES YET IN BRINGING THE BIGGEST RUGBY EVENT TO NYAYO NATIONAL STADIUM.

KENYA RUGBY HAS CLEARLY MADE THEIR POINT – THAT RUGBY IN KENYA HAS GROWN OF AGE.

SAFARICOM SEVENS AT NYAYO WILL ENABLE A VERY WIDE CROSS SECTION OF KENYANS TO HAVE EASY, SECURE AND COMFORTABLE EXPERIENCE OF THE EVENT.

THIS WILL ENABLE THE GAME BE OPENED UP TO THE MANY KENYANS WHO DID NOT UNDERSTAND RUGBY AND FOLLOW IT.

BY MOVING FROM THE TRADITIONAL HOME OF RUGBY, KENYA RUGBY HAS EMBRACED THE MOST AFFIRMATIVE ACTION ANY SPORTING BODY CAN EVER UNDERTAKE IN PROMOTING THE GAME.

WE SHALL CONTINUE SUPPORTING KENYA RUGBY UNION IN ITS ENDEAVOURS. AS YOU MAY RECALL WHEN I OFFICIATED IN THEIR LAUNCH OF THE MASTER PLAN, I COMMITTED SUBSTANTIAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT IN RESPONSE TO A WELL THOUGHT OUT PLAN OF DEVELOPING THE GAME.

CLEARLY TODAY VINDICATES ANY PESSIMIST WHO MAY HAVE WONDERED WHETHER THE SUPPORT WAS CALLED FOR. THE UNION HAS MOVED FROM JUST MEER WORDS TO EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION AND I AM HAPPY TO COMMIT OUR CONTINUED PARTNERSHIP AND SUPPORT TO KENYA RUGBY.

WE SHALL PROVIDE ALL THE LOGISTICAL SUPPORT NECESSARY AND THROUGH THE STADIA MANAGEMENT BOARD ENSURE THAT THIS YEARS SFARICOM SEVENS AT NYAYO NATIONAL STADIUM IS TRULY A SUCCESS.

OUR CHALLENGE TO THE UNION AND BY EXTENSION TO THE KENYAN RUGBY PLAYERS – WE NEED TO SEE VERY POSITIVE RESULTS IN THESE INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

2016 OLYMPICS WILL HAVE RUGBY AS ONE OF THE DISCIPLINES TO BE COMPETED IN AND THE WAY TO BRING GOLD MEDALS TO KENYA IS THROUGH CONTINUOUS AND SUCCESSFUL PREPARATIONS SUCH AS THESE EVENTS.

I ONCE AGAIN THANK SAFARICOM FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND ALL THE ASSOCIATE SPONSORS OF THIS EVENT AND CALL UPON THE KENYA RUGBY UNION TO ENSURE THAT THEY DELIVER A WORLD CLASS TOURNAMENT.

WE SHALL PROVIDE YOU SUPPORT AND WE SHALL BE THERE TO ENSURE A TRULY MEMORABLE OCCASION FOR ALL KENYANS.

I WISH TO OFFICIALLY LAUNCH THE SAFARICOM SEVENS 2011

THANK YOU!

