

A CASE FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT AND CONSTRUCTION PROJECT MANAGEMENT IN KENYA

Good afternoon fellow members!

Welcome to the eleventh annual general meeting. The founders of this great institution were drawn from other disciplines within the built environment namely architecture, engineering and quantity surveying. This was mainly because there was no local training for construction management and construction project management. There is a case for construction management and construction project management because it has become of age.

In response to the demands of the construction industry, our institutions of higher learning introduced various programmes that assisted in anchoring the construction management and construction project management. Bachelor of construction management (BCM) commenced at Jomo Kenya ta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) in 2001, University of Nairobi (UoN) in 2007 and Technical University of Kenya (TUK) in 2009. Masters in Construction Management commenced in UoN in 2004 while JKUAT has Master of Science in Construction Engineering & Management. The out put from these institutions indicate that there is the necessary critical mass of trained personnel in construction industry. It is estimated that there are in excess of eight hundred graduates and postgraduates in construction management and construction project management.

The main objective of ICPMK is to promote the general advancement of the practice construction management and construction project management and its application in Kenya and East Africa. Indeed ICPMK is the “Premier Professional Association” for Construction Managers (CM) and Construction Project Managers (CPM) with a current membership of ninety five. The question that begs is what is happening to the odd seven hundred potential members out there. Let’s be in the recruitment mode so that all the “sheep are in one pen.”

The discussion and debate on construction management and construction project management has remained in the domain of the converted who are themselves complacent with the “status quo.” In the current heightened political atmosphere, I dare state that the nation is experiencing a generational change as they say “wapende wasipende.” All other sectors of the economy have embraced new ways of conducting business. The construction industry cannot continue in its old ways. Tokenism in construction management and construction project management by mere acknowledgement is not sustainable.

This is our challenge as we seem to contribute the lethargic manner the uptake of construction management and construction project management in the construction industry. We are the ones who understand construction management and construction project management and our visibility should be out there. We have always had a case for construction management and construction project management and this is the time, “kama sio sasa ni sasa hivi”.

I recall, in the 1980s, the then Ministry of Works (MoW) recognized and appreciated construction project management and went on appointing “Project Team Leaders” albeit predominantly architects. Our challenge has been the establishment of a legal framework for the profession and practice of construction management and construction project management. Our efforts through the Board of Registration of Architects and Quantity Surveyors (BORAQS) culminated with the “draft Bill 2012” by the then Ministry of Public Works. The process has since been seized by the government through the coordination of BORAQS under a review of CAP 525. Certain changes do not come easily nor are they found on a silver platter. There is always sacrifice that may require getting out of our comfort zones. The review of CAP 525 is long overdue and we are significant stakeholders. In this regard ICPMK is the pacesetter, and you fellow members are the vital agents that will bring this change. In this period of electioneering, I dare urge you to support the “Party” whose manifesto will take care of our interests.

We recognise the government as a major employer in the construction industry and ICPMK has had consultative discussions with Ministry of Transport Infrastructure Housing and Urban Development (MoTIHUD) with regards to establishing a scheme of service for CM & CPM. Unemployment of highly trained personnel is a serious threat to the nation and waste to public funds. The establishment of the scheme of service in government would ensure appropriate hiring of personnel and encourage career development for our youngsters.

The National Construction Authority (NCA) plays a major role in the regulatory capacity through registration on contractors. Some of these contractors are our potential members or will inevitably engage CM & CPM in their technical teams. ICPMK has already partnered with NCA in other areas and would be pursuing a more sustainable regulatory framework to be incorporated in the registration of contractors.

ICPMK has continued to work closely with other professional associations in the built environment such as the Architectural Association of Kenya (AAK), Institute of Quantity Surveyors of Kenya (IQSK) and the Institute of Engineers

of Kenya. We recognise that AAK has its own chapter for CPM and that there could be others advocating similar sentiments for construction management and construction project management. All the professional associations are in one accord that a legal regulatory framework for the profession and practise of construction management and construction project management is overdue. “Ni sasa kama sio sasa ni sasa hivi” na hii nihaki yetu. Alas you are the agents of change!

TOM O. OKETCH

CHAIRMAN

**INSTITUTION OF CONSTRUCTION PROJECT MANAGERS OF
KENYA (ICPMK)**

17th May, 2017