



MEFMI

Macroeconomic and Financial Management
Institute of Eastern and Southern Africa

2015 MEFMI COMBINED FORUM

WELCOME REMARKS

**BY DR. CALEB M. FUNDANGA
MEFMI EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**6TH OCTOBER 2015
SHERATON LIMA HOTEL AND CONVENTION
CENTRE, LIMA, PERU**

- **Honourable Ministers;**
- **Central Bank Governors;**
- **Permanent Secretaries;**
- **The Sector Leader for Government & Infrastructure of EY in Africa, Mr. Joe Cosma;**
- **The Director of the Investec Investment Institute, Mr. Malan Rietveld;**
- **Senior Officials of EY and Investec Institute;**
- **The Vice President and Treasurer of the World Bank, Ms. Arunma Oteh;**
- **The Executive Secretary of the African Capacity Building Foundation, Prof. Emmanuel Nnadozie;**
- **The President of Afrexim Bank, Mr. Benedict Oramah;**
- **Representatives of the donor community;**
- **Distinguished Speakers;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen.**

It gives me great pleasure and honour to welcome you all to the 2015 MEFMI Combined Forum. I believe that most of you have grown to look forward to this event with great

anticipation. The Forum provides a platform for you to share experiences and receive views from distinguished experts and colleagues from other regions on critical issues of relevance to our region.

On behalf of the MEFMI Secretariat, I would like to thank all the Honourable Ministers, Permanent Secretaries, Governors and other distinguished guests present here today, for accepting our invitation to participate in this year's Combined Forum.

I also wish to recognise the presence and special role that our private sector partners, EY and Investec Asset Management continue to play in this and other MEFMI capacity building activities. In deed the relationship that has developed between MEFMI and our private sector partners, particularly for this event has enriched the deliberations without financially burdening the Institute and I would like to express MEFMI's great appreciation for the continued support.

Similarly, I would like to thank the Reserves Advisory Management Programme (RAMP) of the World Bank Treasury for its continued support towards MEFMI's programmes and participation in this Forum.

Allow me ladies and gentlemen to extend a warm welcome to the speakers for this event:

- **Mrs Linah K. Mohohlo** who is the Governor of the Bank of Botswana and the chairperson of the MEFMI Executive Committee;
- **Ms Arunma Oteh** who is the new Treasurer and Vice President of the World Bank;
- **Dr. Sehlielo Mpofo** who is MEFMI Director, Macroeconomic Management Programme;
- **Dr. Ekaterina Gratcheva** and **Mr. Bernard Murira** of the Reserves Advisory and Management Program (RAMP) at the World Bank Treasury;

- **Mr. Malan Rietveld** from the Investment Institute of Investec Asset Management;
- **Mr. Charles S. Makola** who is Partner - International Tax & Tax Policy, Africa at EY; and
- **Mr. Benedict Oramah** who is the new President of Afrexim Bank;

Allow me to also welcome our panelists:

- **Prof. Emmanuel Nnadozie**, from the African Capacity Building Foundation and
- **Mr. Kristian Flyvholm**, from the International Forum of Sovereign Wealth Funds.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, the theme of this year's Combined Forum is ***“Leveraging Natural Resources for Economic Transformation”***.

The main discussion topics under this theme as outlined in your programme of events are:

- *Transforming Depleting Natural Resources into Income for Growth;*
- *Taxation of Natural Resources: Principles and Policy Issues;*
- *Sovereign Wealth Fund Management: The Case of Botswana; and*
- *Managing Africa's Revenues: In search of Stability and Diversification.*

These topics are an extension of the in-depth deliberations which were organised by MEFMI during the 2015 MEFMI Region Central Banks Governors' Forum held in Basel, Switzerland in June this year. Without pre-empting my presentation, allow me distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen to inform you that deliberations during the Governors' Forum confirmed that Africa, and in deed the MEFMI region is richly endowed with natural resources.

But, even abundant natural resources can get depleted and therefore it is incumbent upon the region to contribute towards the prudent management of revenue from natural resources, and fully exploit their potential to contribute to economic transformation of our region.

Ladies and Gentlemen, many MEFMI countries including Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia and Zambia generate substantial export revenue from natural resources extraction while others like Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda will soon become exporters of gas and oil.

It is therefore important that we increasingly build capacity and share knowledge in this area. I am cognisant of the fact that countries in the region have competing priorities and are faced with the dilemma of where, when and how much to invest using the available resources. With huge infrastructure gaps and investment needs, countries are hard pressed to apply resources to achieve this development agenda and achieve industrialization

while also saving for future generations and stabilizing current budgets.

In this regard, the Secretariat and I look forward to very fruitful deliberations. It is my strong belief that as policy makers gathered here today, you can influence positive change for the benefit of our region.

Ladies and Gentlemen, allow me at this juncture to call upon Honourable Patrick Chinamasa, Minister of Finance and Economic Development from the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe, to give his opening remarks and to officially open the Forum.

I THANK YOU.