



**Hon Minister of the Department of Trade and Industry, Mr Rob Davies;**

**Your Excellency Ambassador Albert M Muchanga, African Union  
Commissioner for Trade and Industry**

**Your worship the Mayor of Tshwane;**

**Mr Mukhufhi, CEO of the National Metrology Institute of South Africa –  
NMISA;**

**Dr. Joachim Ullrich, President of the Physikalisch Technische  
Bundesanstalt (PTB);**

**Chairpersons, President and Representatives of PAQI Structures including  
AFRAC, AFRIMETS, AFSEC and ARSO;**

**Government officials here present;**

**Distinguished guests;**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

I would like to thank you for inviting PAQI and take this opportunity join the previous speakers by congratulating South Africa on celebrating 70 years of the existence of Metrology and also the National Metrology Institute of South Africa, NMISA, for its 10 year milestone in metrology.

Today world, with surprising economical decision from powerful trade blocs or economic power, might fool us and make us think that the time of integration is gone, time of free trade zone and time of free movement of goods and service is gone and outdated. But I believe that Africa still need to say and reaffirm that “Let make Africa strong”. I am sure that you noticed

omission of again, I did not say “let make Africa strong again” as many of us seating here today have never experienced a strong Africa, perhaps it is good to be specific and say a strong economic Africa.

I have no doubt that I don't need to explain why quality infrastructure is a pillar to Africa's sustainable and economic development and none of the quality infrastructure component can stand alone, we need standards that give us technical specifications, metrology with the common say 'If You Can't Measure It, You Can't Manage and If You Can't Measure It, You Can't Improve, accreditation that gives us assurance about competence of those involved in conformity assessment, testing and certifying; this has been the reason of coming together and form the Pan African quality infrastructure in 2013 as mentioned by HE Commissioner of Trade and Industry, Ambassador Muchanga.

I take this opportunity to challenge ourselves, PAQI family, particularly challenge AFRIMETS, NMISA and South Africa as economic power of the continent to look into the role we should be playing in order to realize African Agenda 2063-**the Africa we want**. As technology, globalization and climate change will continue to shape our daily life and guide the outcome of tomorrow, Africa should position itself and be the one telling the world – **Thank you for being Late –together we have done it as the book of Thomas Friedman, the Optimist's Guide to Thriving in the Age of Acceleration.**

I will just mention few call of action of the agenda 2063 from AU head of states - reminding ourselves that standardization as a whole with all Quality Infrastructure component has a role to play as stated in PAQI-AUC strategic plan.

A call of action from our head of state:

1. Eradicate poverty in a generation by 2025
2. **Catalyse an Education and Skills revolution and actively promote science, technology, research and innovation, to build knowledge,**

human resources, capabilities and skills for the African century – **introduction of QI curriculum, technology transfer by standards versus patent**

3. Transform, grow and industrialise our economies through beneficiation and value addition of natural resources –**Role of QI in mineral resources and energy mainly rural connectivity in Africa**
4. Consolidate the modernisation of African agriculture and agribusinesses – **Improving Agri machinery and noting the cassava value chain project as pilot study to be undertaken by PAQI**
5. Address Climate change and Preserve the Environment – **sustainability standards and ECOMARK Africa as recommended by the African Ministers for Environment as a branding tool of African products and service**
6. Connect Africa through world-class Infrastructure –**just to mention to project of high speed train connecting African cities from Cape to Cairo and the role Metrology should play and QI component**
7. Fast-track the establishment of a Continental Free Trade Area by 2017 –**as mentioned by HE commissioner Trade and Industry, continuous support in producing technical documents and training negotiating experts**
8. Support Young people as drivers of Africa's renaissance,
9. Silence the guns by 2020,
10. Achieve Gender Parity by 2020 in public and private institutions
11. **Introduce an African Passport – QI assure public and immigration authority on authenticity,**
12. Consolidate a democratic and people-centered Africa
13. Enhance Africa's united voice in global negotiations
14. Strengthen domestic resource mobilisation

As seating here today, looking back 70 years, I am expecting to get an answer when this event will be closing, if this is the South Africa you wanted 70 years ago in metrology. Those who will be there 46 years to come,

should reply to the same question **if QI would have played its role in realizing the agenda 2063.**

When I am preparing for a trip to South Africa, I am equally challenged and proud, thinking of which adapter shall I carry for my laptop, I am challenged because I only use that adaptor here in South Africa but I am also proud because I know the knowledge of South African researchers that went into that development, and I ask myself that if may be, the South Africa industry had been aggressive enough, globalized, integrated, and if CFTA was there, that 55 African countries would be using those switch and today industry, hotels, schools should not be struggling by phasing it out. We need South African's National Metrology Institute, Bureau of standards and National Accreditation System that support and drive more the QI in Africa.

In 2014 PAQI (AFRAC, AFRIMETS, AFSEC and ARSO) conducted a stocktaking exercise to establish a baseline of the status and gaps in accreditation, metrology and measurements and standardisation in Africa. Although, the results of this year (2017) review show a positive trend in 32 African countries with 16 countries' QI system relatively stable without significant changes, there is a long way to go as countries with well-developed QI can still be counted on finger tips.

It is time that QI institutions in South Africa invest more financially and technologically in other African QI and I assure you it is a win win benefit, if it wasn't we should not be seeing the current foreign investment in QI.

I take this opportunity to thank you once more for inviting me in this noble event and sincerely thank all our development partners, especially PTB for the continuous support to QI in Africa, being financially or technically. I wish you many more successful years to come.

Thanks

**Dr Hermogene Nsengimana, PAQI Chairperson.**