

## Press Release

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### ICPSK, CMA and IFC Partner to Enhance Governance Audits

**Nairobi Kenya, August 4, 2017** .....The Institute of Certified Public Secretaries of Kenya (ICPSK), Capital Markets Authority (CMA) and International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group, carried out sensitization forums for ICPSK accredited governance auditors to facilitate the implementation of the Code of Corporate Governance Practices for Issuers of Securities to the Public, 2015 (Corporate Governance Code).

Over 150 governance auditors were trained by CMA and IFC with a focus on governance audits, templates to be used by governance auditors, corporate governance assessment frameworks globally and the roles of different implementing entities.

The forum was held after a review by a joint taskforce (CMA and ICPSK) of the ICPSK governance guidelines, standards and manual. The review identified areas for refinement and alignment to enhance implementation of the Corporate Governance Code.

The CMA Corporate Governance Code, Mwongozo Code, and the ICPSK Code of Corporate Governance for Private Organizations in Kenya respectively require issuers of securities to the public, state owned enterprises and private organizations in Kenya to carry out annual governance audits in conjunction with competent, recognized and accredited governance auditors who are members of ICPSK. This audit is to assess the level of compliance with sound corporate governance practices.

"Governance Audits are becoming critical in providing assurance to stakeholders that the organization has embraced and implemented good governance practices in order to achieve its strategic objectives." stated CS. Obare Nyaega, Chief Executive Officer ICPSK. CS. Obare further noted that all forms of organizations, whether private, public, SACCOs, Not-for-Profit, among others should subject themselves to a Governance Audit so as to improve their corporate governance standards.

The CMA Chief Executive, Mr. Paul Muthaura, noted "that by promoting sound corporate governance practices, Kenya's capital market has the opportunity to accelerate its development and attract increased domestic and foreign investors as Kenya positions itself as a gateway for regional and international capital flows." Mr Muthaura added, "Implementing the Corporate Governance Code ensures issuers' long-term business success, stability and sustainability".



The Institute of  
Certified Public Secretaries  
of Kenya

This event is part of a one-year program between CMA and IFC aimed at establishing effective collaboration strategies for implementing the Corporate Governance Code. The successful implementation of this program enhances the Authority's effort to position Kenya's capital market as a center of excellence and the heart of capital markets investment in Africa.

The Authority appreciates the contribution of ICPSK, IFC and other partners and looks forward to greater transparency, effectiveness and robustness in the Kenyan Capital Markets.

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### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE CAPITAL MARKETS AUTHORITY**

The Capital Markets Authority (CMA) was set up in 1989 as a statutory agency under the Capital Markets Act Cap 485A. It is charged with the prime responsibility of both regulating and developing an orderly, fair and efficient capital markets in Kenya with the view to promoting market integrity and investor confidence.

The regulatory functions of the Authority as provided by the Act and the regulations include; Licensing and supervising all the capital market intermediaries; Ensuring compliance with the legal and regulatory framework by all market participants; Regulating public offers of securities, such as equities and bonds & the issuance of other capital market products such as collective investment schemes; Promoting market development through research on new products and services; Reviewing the legal framework to respond to market dynamics; Promoting investor education and public awareness; and Protecting investors' interest. For more information, please contact: Antony Mwangi, Head of Corporate Communications on [amwangi@cma.or.ke](mailto:amwangi@cma.or.ke)

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC SECRETARIES OF KENYA**

The Institute of Certified Public Secretaries of Kenya (ICPSK) is a membership organization for certified secretaries established under the Certified Public Secretaries of Kenya Act, Cap. 534 of the Laws of Kenya. The core mandate of the Institute is to promote the practice of good governance in all sectors. Members of the Institute, who are currently more than three thousand, are competent in matters of governance, corporate secretarial practice, compliance, management and administration. Visit ICPSK's website [www.icpsk.com](http://www.icpsk.com) or contact the Institute Secretariat on [info@icpsk.com](mailto:info@icpsk.com) for the contacts of Members trained and Accredited as Governance Auditors. For more information about the Institute, please contact Felistas Musyoka, Marketing and Communications Manager on [felistas@icpsk.com](mailto:felistas@icpsk.com)