REMARKS BY CPA DAVID TIMOTHY EDIOMU, PRESIDENT OF THE INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS OF UGANDA, AT THE 4TH C-SUITE FORUM, ON 13 MAY 2026, AT SHERATON KAMPALA HOTEL, 8.00 A.M.

SALUTATIONS

Our Guest Speakers, Mr Charles Mudiwa, Managing Director at DFCU Bank and Mr Ernst Ssekisonge, Managing Director at Sub-Sahara Africa, Kasi Insights, and our moderator, CPA James Okello Onyoin, Partner at HLB Jim Roberts,

Members of the ICPAU Council,

Members of Committees of Council,

Leaders from Various Public Sector Entities,

Board Executives,

Distinguished CEOs and Heads of organisations present,

Chief Financial Officers,

The Media Teams,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning.

WELCOME REMARKS

On behalf of the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Uganda, it gives me immense pleasure to welcome you all to the 4th C-Suite Forum. For the CPAs who were present, Welcome back from the PFM Conference which we concluded on 8th May.

I also take this opportunity to welcome each one of us, back from the presidential swearing-in ceremony, which took place yesterday. As ICPAU, we congratulate His Excellency, the President of Uganda, Yoweri Museveni upon his election victory and official assumption of duty as the president of Uganda for 2026/2031.

As the swearing-in events continue with Members of Parliament, between today and Friday, I congratulate our very own CPAs who will serve in the 12th Parliament. CPAs, here, I encourage you to support our colleagues who made it to the 12th Parliament as much as you can, and reach out to them with congratulatory messages. I know that some of you are close friends with them. Please let them know that they have our full support on this journey. We congratulate the Members of Parliament, and we wish them God's wisdom and guidance as they serve the nation.

C-SUITE FORUM

Ladies and gentlemen, the C-Suite Forum is a powerful assembly of leadership which marks a significant milestone in our ongoing efforts to foster dialogue, share insights, and drive excellence within the leadership circles of our organisations.

The C-Suite Forum was envisioned as a platform where senior executives from various sectors can converge to discuss topical issues, exchange innovative ideas, and explore strategies that enhance organisational cohesion, performance and governance from the Accountancy professionals with the captains of industries. It is an opportunity to engage with thought leaders, industry experts, and peers who share a commitment to advancing the standards of leadership and management in our different institutions.

I therefore take this opportunity to sincerely thank all of you for honouring our invitation. Your presence reflects a shared commitment to shaping the future of our organisations and our country.

HARNESSING AI FOR STRATEGIC DECISION MAKING TO SPUR GROWTH AND COMPETITIVENESS

The discussions today will be driven by the theme "***Harnessing Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Strategic Decision-Making to Spur Growth and Competitiveness".*** You will all agree with me that the future of strategic leadership is increasingly being shaped by AI. We are therefore confident that by the time we leave this room today, we will be wiser about how to leverage

AI and make smarter decisions for sustainable growth and business competitiveness, as the thought leaders we are.

On our part, the Institute commits to supporting CPAs on their AI literacy journeys through a robust CPD programme incorporating AI webinars and workshops from time to time. We have our next AI seminar in June this year, focusing on big data and how insights can be drawn to guide effective decision-making. Needless to say, it will be a continuation of today's conversation. You are all welcome to attend.

To further encourage AI integration and having launched the IFRS sustainability disclosure standards, this year, through the Financial Reporting Awards, we are rewarding the organisations that are harnessing AI to drive sustainability. The theme for this year's Financial Reporting Awards is *Driving Transparent Sustainability Reporting through Technology and Innovation*. I encourage you to submit your entry into this year's Financial Reporting Awards — we would like to recognise and reward your agility in applying technology.

Through the Institute's research work, we are building a data hub for AI and other fields. We have an annual research conference through which researchers can disseminate their findings. We have also created an e-research hub in which researchers can publish their work. One of the studies whose findings were disseminated at the previous research conference is titled, *Readiness for Embracing Artificial Intelligence: Transforming the Accountancy Profession for a*

Sustainable Future. The findings of this study can be accessed on the Institute's website.

PRELIMINARIES

1. Gratitude to CEOs for supporting Professional Accountancy

Many of you, CEOs and business leaders present here, have continually supported the accountancy profession in various ways and I take this opportunity to extend our sincere appreciation to you. You have been committed to ensuring that your CPAs pay membership dues and are supported to observe Continuing Professional Development requirements. Your commitment upholds both accountancy professionalism and an ethical, future-focused financial leadership. Your support sustains the integrity and growth of the accountancy profession in our country, and for that, we thank you.

2. Advocacy

As we look ahead, I call upon all leaders here to continue partnering with us on key professional platforms of the Institute, such as the Economic Forum, the Annual Seminar, and the FiRe Awards. These are not mere events but platforms that offer immense value to your organisations, through the profession, by promoting thought leadership, visibility, growing the profession and networking with the best in the industry.

The Institute takes this opportunity to reaffirm the enduring value of CPAs. They are trained, regulated, and held to the highest standards of ethics and competence. I urge you to protect their professional space by ensuring that all accounting roles within your institutions are occupied by CPAs. Also ensure that those who do not match up to the professionalism expected are sent to our Disciplinary Committee for handling. This is how we build strong institutions and a resilient economy. Our panellist Mr Charles Mudiwa can attest to this. DFCU bank has registered impressive financial performance, especially over the past three years, with a consistent growth in the net profit figures. And the CFOs of dfcu bank who have driven this growth have all been CPAs, from CPA Kate Kiiza who has since risen to the position of Executive Director and now Rebecca Birungi who is also a CPA. Well done Charles and the team at dfcu Bank, and thank you for recognising the value of professionalism.

ICPAU AS A PARTNER TO THE C-SUITE

On our part, as the National Professional Accountancy Organisation, we remain steadfast in our commitment to offer quality professional accountancy education both at initial professional development stage and at continuing professional development (post qualification). We also continue to enforce the fundamental principles of the Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants to ensure that our members uphold the public interest and provide value to organisations.

CLOSING REMARKS

As I wrap up, I wish to express my appreciation to our panelists for accepting to share valuable insights and perspectives on the future of our organisations, and to each one of you for taking the time off your busy schedules to be here today. I am certain that we shall explore innovative ideas and strategies that will drive our respective organisations forward and that we shall carry the momentum from today's discussions into our future endeavours for the success of our organisations.

I conclude by wishing you all an impactful 4th C-Suite Forum.

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