

Opening Remarks by Mahad Ahmed, Managing Director, AMETRADE at 7th Pension funds & Alternative Investment conference 28TH-29TH FEB 2024.

Mary Kamari, Group Executive Corporate Affairs & Investor Relations, TDB (Trade Development Bank)

Fola Fagbule, Deputy Director & Head, Financial Advisory, AFC (Africa Finance Corporation)

Ken Poonoosamy, Chief Executive Officer, Economic Development Board, Mauritius

Hon. Nicholas Sherry, Chair, Independent Director, TWUSUPER Australia

H.E. Dr. Sidi Ould TAH, President, Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) represented by Moncef Klouche, *Advisor to the President*.

Diplomatic Corps and Heads of various delegations from Angola, Cameroun, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Malawi, Eswatini, Namibia, Nigeria, Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa,

Distinguished Sponsors, Ladies and Gentlemen, All attendees,

All existing protocols duly observed,
A very good morning to you all.

1. On behalf of AMETRADE team, it is a great privilege and pleasure for me to welcome you all to the 7th edition of the Africa Pension funds & Alternative investment conference taking place once again at this beautiful country and venue.

2. It's a delight and breath of fresh air to be back in Mauritius and be able to meet once again, against the current macro economic backdrop, the ongoing geopolitical storms in Europe and the middle east, the Africa's slow emergence from the impact of covid 19 pandemic, persistent inflation across the region, exchange rate pressures as well as high risk of debt distress or default in a number of countries. Despite these challenges Africa Economy is predicted to grow at 4% this year,

over the next two days we will have the opportunity to have some insights into the policy priorities and response thus far.

Am glad to report to date we've over 190 delegates from 25 countries, over 50 speakers, I can see quite number of familiar faces and indeed I look forward making new friends, the objectives of the conference are to provide

A) platform for education and knowledge exchange B) Advocate for, and promote the role of pensions funds in advancing the economic development of the continent while showcasing credible alternative investments with proven sustainable returns. C) To provide platform for networking and business development

3. The theme of this year's edition "*Reshaping African Markets: Deciphering the investment Conundrum for growth*" has been carefully chosen to reflect the current developments in the pension funds and alternative investments industry, in particular the implications for African pensions funds considering the global macro-economic outlook, in a period of rising interest rates, supply chain pressures that' are still persistent from the pandemic, and the global geo political situations so there is quite a lot to unpack and over the next two days with the help of seasoned industry experts that includes over 54 speakers we hope to dive into the details, including anticipated pension funds reforms in some countries, solutions for bridging the gap and accelerating institutional investment in infrastructure , the challenges of just energy transition, the outlook for the Alternatives in 2024, and investing for sustainable impact, as well the emerging trends in fixed income amongst other sub themes.

4. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge & express our profound appreciation to the government of Mauritius represented by the newly appointed honourable minister for financial services & good governance, **The Honourable Sunil Bholah** and other stakeholders such as The economic Development Board, Mauritius Finance, FSC and our awesome local team.

5. Our utmost gratitude also goes to the sponsors of this year's edition:

Platinum Sponsor: Africa Finance Corporation, Silver Sponsors Blackrock and EFront, Tdb Group, Bronze Sponsors DBSA, STEWARDS INVESTMENT CAPITAL and

Associate Sponsors EVERESTWEALTH ; CENTELON, INTERNATIONAL ASSURANCE LIMITED and
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With your moral, technical and financial support we would not be able to deliver this event, please join me in giving them a big round of applause. We are also grateful to the various industry associations and media partners at this conference. Many thanks indeed.

6. As is the custom we have quite number of social functions happening through out the two days, including invitation only business breakfast, coffee breaks, lunches, cocktail this evening, so we encourage you to actively participate and network with your peers, up to date info including, agenda, attendees' profile is also available on the event digital APP so please download this if you haven't already.

7. Pensions are already powerful investment forces in Africa and have started a period of fast growth in South, East and West Africa with some key markets growing at up to 20% a year. we hope this event will in some way continue to provide useful insights and help facilitate meaningful connections to various pensions funds across the continent.

8. In closing before inviting our keynote speakers to make their opening remarks, I would like to welcome you all to PIA 2024 and wish you fruitful deliberations.

9. Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen I thank you for your attention.