

## **BRIEF OPENING REMARKS- CPA, CHARLES MATIVO- Ag. MANAGING DIRECTOR, KENYA INDUSTRIAL ESTATES**

**The CSs**

- **Ministry of Agriculture Livestock Development, Republic of Kenya;**
- **Ministry of Investments, Trade & Industry, Republic of Kenya**

**The Chairman- AADFI;**

**The Secretary General – AADFI;**

**Distinguished Guests;**

**Esteemed Colleagues;**

**Ladies and Gentlemen;**

**Good Afternoon**

On behalf of the co-hosting DFIs in Kenya, It is with great pleasure and honor that I welcome you all to this special Luncheon and Awards Ceremony at the AADFI 50<sup>th</sup> Annual General Conference. Today here in Serena, Nairobi, we gather not only to share a meal but also to celebrate the outstanding achievements and contributions of our members to the field of development finance across the African Continent.

Firstly, I would like to express my gratitude to everyone for your participation and engagement throughout this conference. Your presence and active involvement have made this event a resounding success, and it is exciting to see such a vibrant community of professionals dedicated to advancing our continent's development.

This coming together for a luncheon provides us with a unique opportunity to relax and reflect on the fruitful discussions and knowledge shared over the past few days of the Conference. It is also a moment to acknowledge and honor those who have demonstrated exceptional commitment and innovation in our industry.

As we enjoy this meal together as a family of DFIs and partners, let us take a moment to appreciate the collective efforts that have brought us here. The spirit of collaboration

and partnership that defines AADFI is what makes us strong and capable of driving significant progress in development finance.

Today, we will be presenting awards in recognition of individuals and institutions that have exemplified excellence in various areas, including innovative financing, sustainable development, and capacity building. These awards are not just a recognition of past achievements but also an inspiration for all of us to strive for greater impact and excellence in our work.

Allow me to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all the award nominees and recipients. Your dedication, hard work, and innovative spirit are truly commendable and set a benchmark for all of us. You are the pioneers and trailblazers leading the way for a brighter and more prosperous Africa.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our sponsors and partners especially AfDB whose generous support has made this event possible. Your contributions are invaluable, and we deeply appreciate your commitment to our shared goals.

Lastly, I want to express my sincere gratitude to the AADFI secretariat team, our sister institutions, our local organizing committee and all the volunteers who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the smooth running of this conference and this beautiful luncheon. Your dedication and hard work are the backbone of this event's success.

As we proceed with the luncheon and the awards ceremony, I encourage everyone to take this time to network, share experiences, and build new connections and keep the spirit of the theme burning wherever we will be. Let us celebrate our achievements, but also renew our commitment to the continuous journey towards sustainable development, and financial inclusion especially on green financing across Africa.

Thank you all for being here, and I wish you a delightful luncheon, an inspiring awards ceremony and continued stay in Kenya

**Thank you**