



REMARKS BY CABINET SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF INVESTMENTS, TRADE AND INDUSTRY REBECCA MIANO, EGH DURING THE 2ND CANADA–AFRICA BUSINESS FORUM HELD ON THE 19TH FEBRUARY 2024 AT SERENA HOTEL, NAIROBI FROM 9.00 AM

**Excellency, President of Kenya, Hon. Dr. William Ruto, CGH,
Mr. Garreth Bloor, President of Canada Chamber of Business,
Ms. Carolyne Kariuki, CEO, Kenya Private Sector Alliance,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies, and Gentlemen,**

Good Morning!

I am indeed pleased to join the Private Sector in this 2nd Canada–Africa Business Forum. It is particularly gratifying to witness steady progress in efforts geared towards expanding investment and commercial opportunities between Canada and Kenya.

Kenya is the gateway to Africa and therefore your choice of Nairobi as the venue for this 2nd Canada–Africa Business Forum is no doubt strategic. Besides the strategic geographical location, the ever growing and modern infrastructure, the young, skilled and hardworking human resource and the beautiful tourist, social and cultural diversity, Kenya is indeed the place to invest. Besides, we are ready and open for business.

As a Ministry, we continue to work on improving the business environment in close collaboration with the Private Sector. Similarly, we continue to negotiate for the expansion of market access through various bilateral, regional, continental and multilateral agreements. Not too long ago, we signed the Kenya-UK Economic Partnership Agreement. A little earlier, we had inked and signed the Kenya–US Economic Partnership Agreement. Over and above, we

are frontrunners in the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) and are active players in the East Africa Community (EAC) that recently admitted a new partner State - the Republic of Somalia. Currently, we are in negotiations to put in place the Kenya–US Strategic Trade and Investment Partnership Agreement (STIP), the only such agreement in Africa.

With regards to Industry and in line with our Government's Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda, we continue to put in place policies that promote manufacturing including the recently concluded automotive industry development policy. This policy will not only increase the volume of local manufacture of automobile-related products, but it will also drive the E-Mobility agenda for Kenya. We are also focused on promoting green manufacturing through dedicated green energy powered Special Economic Zones in Naivasha using geothermal energy as well as at Dongo Kundu in the coast using the proposed hydrogen generated energy.

As the Ministry in charge of private sector development, I assure you of the Ministry's support in facilitating and supporting the establishment of your investments. Kenya has a diversified economy that provides investment opportunities in multiple sectors. I am therefore particularly excited that this conference will focus on, among other sectors, the areas of medical care, infrastructure, energy, financing for Canada-Africa projects and FinTech development.

It is now my pleasure, privilege and duty to welcome His Excellency the President, Dr. William Ruto, to make his remarks.

Thank you.