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Indonesia set to assist Kenya attain self sufficiency in palm oil and sunflower oil production.

The World's largest producer of palm oil, Indonesia, will assist Kenya to attain self sufficiency in edible Oils through large scale farming of palm oil, sunflower oil and Soya Beans.

A delegation of leading Indonesian government and private companies is expected in Nairobi next week to discuss with H.E President William Ruto and Cabinet Secretaries Hon. Moses Kuria (Investments, Trade and Industry) and Hon. Mithika Linturi (Agriculture) an agreement for end to end development of the edible Oil industry.

The talks will be centred around supporting farmers in selected counties of Lamu, Kwale, Tana River, Taita Taveta, Homa Bay, Migori, Kisumu and Busia through an outgrowth scheme as well large scale plantation farming.

Kenya currently imports crude palm oil worth US \$ 1 Billion annually through 5 companies of Bidco, Kapa Oil, Pwani Oil, Menengai and Golden Africa. Last December, there was an outcry from consumers when the prices of edible Oil skyrocketed to Ksh 480 per litre forcing the government to import edible Oil through the Kenya National Trading Corporation thus reducing the retail price by more than a half to Ksh 220 per litre currently.

The Indonesian delegation will be led by Coordinating Minister for Maritime and Investment Affairs Mr Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan who coordinates 7 Ministries in President Jokowi's government. This is the second time in 6 months that Minister Luhut is visiting Kenya after his talks with President Ruto in January. President Ruto despatched Cabinet Secretary Moses Kuria who led a reciprocal senior government delegation to Jakarta in May. Minister Luhut's visit is expected to prepare ground for a State Visit by President Jokowi in August.

The delegation will also include government and private companies keen to invest in other sectors including Blue Economy, Mining, Meat & Livestock, Apparels & Textiles, Geothermal Energy, Petroleum Refinery and Exploration, Sugar farming as well as Pharmaceutical Manufacturing. During CS Kuria May visit, Indonesia offered to import 700,000 cows from Kenya.

Indonesia is the world's 15th largest economy with a population of 300 Million people and a GDP 18 Times the size of Kenya. A Member of G20, Indonesia is the world's largest producer of Nickel and has been spearheading a South to South collaboration to stop export of unprocessed raw materials and getting a fair price for Carbon Credits for the Global South.

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