



SPEECH BY, HON. REBECCA MIANO, MBS, CABINET SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF INVESTMENTS, TRADE AND INDUSTRY DURING THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE KENYA INDUSTRIALISATION CONFERENCE ON MONDAY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI ON MONDAY THE 20TH OF NOVEMBER 2023.

**Chief Guest, Prime Cabinet Secretary, Hon Musalia Mudavadi,
Chairperson, Council of Governors, Excellency Anne Waiguru,
Fellow Cabinet Secretaries Present,
Principal Secretary, State Department of Industrialisation, Dr Juma Mukhwana and other Principal Secretaries Present,
VC, University of Nairobi and Event Host, Prof. Stephen Kiama,
UNIDO Representative for Kenya, Ms Kawira Bucyana,
Chief Executive Officer, Kenya Association of Manufacturers, Anthony Mwangi and Captains of Industry Present,
Chief Executives from various State Corporations,
Esteemed Delegates, Panelists, Exhibitors,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Good Morning.

It is gratifying to witness Kenya's first ever Industrialisation Conference whose occurrence coincides with Africa Industrialisation Day commemorated every 20th of November.

The theme of this year's Africa Industrialisation Day is *"Industrializing Africa: Renewed Commitment towards Inclusive and Sustainable Industrialisation and Economic Diversification"*. This theme is timely coming at a point when Africa is gearing up for enhanced industrialisation in an atmosphere that is committed to incorporate inclusivity and sustainability as core values.

Meanwhile, the theme for this three-day Industrialisation Conference is *“Accelerating African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Implementation through Value Chain Integration for Shared Prosperity”*. As the Africa free trade agenda continues to take shape, Kenya has a chance to offer her favourable credentials as Africa’s manufacturing hub of choice.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The time for Kenya, as well as the rest of Africa to create a strong manufacturing culture replete with well thought out support systems and mechanisms has come. Once a strong national manufacturing culture and foundation are in place, Kenya will maximize her industrial output in multiple facets of production and value-addition of locally manufactured goods. Focus on strategic value chains will, in turn, lead to improved economic outcomes, an eventuality most welcome throughout the continent not just in Kenya.

Concerning the future of industrialisation in Africa in general and Kenya in particular. I am encouraged by the resolve made by the AU Conference of Ministers on their 1st extra ordinary session held in September 2007 in South Africa. The Action Plan for the Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa agreed upon during that meeting was recently adopted by the East African Community and incorporated in the draft EAC Industrialisation Policy and Strategy whose adoption by the EAC Summit is expected soon.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the fourth Medium Term Plan, it is anticipated that manufacturing will gain further impetus from opportunities provided by the AU Agenda 2063, Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), Kenya Vision 2030, EAC Industrialisation Policy and Strategy and UN Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development Goals and equitable economic development in the spirit of “leaving no one behind.” The inclusivity intimated here blends perfectly with Kenya Kwanza

administration's commitment to deliver on the ideals of the Bottom-Up Transformation Agenda.

During the period, the manufacturing sector aims at increasing the contribution of Kenya's GDP from 7.2 percent to a minimum of 15 percent. It also targets increasing the competitiveness of goods manufactured in the country, the level of Domestic and Foreign Investments and the volume of products of goods manufactured in Kenya for export over and above creating over one million additional jobs annually. That may sound ambitious but I am persuaded that if we all put our minds to it, the plan will see the light of day sooner than later.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we inch closer to our industrialisation dream, both national and county governments ought to push towards an integrated and sustainable industrial development pathway targeting adoption of cleaner production technologies and resource efficiency. Besides, every effort ought to be made to embrace best global manufacturing practices and waste disposal.

As Kenya strives to implement the ideals of Vision 2030 anchored on industrialising as the key to a 'middle-income' economy with a high quality of life for all its citizens by the year 2030, the following four imperatives are critical:

1. Availability of quality, reliable and affordable energy,
2. Availability of appropriate technologies for industrialisation;
3. Availability of skilled workforce, and,
4. Availability of finance for industrial development.

To put the four in place, concerted efforts by multiple stakeholders represented in this event today is important. Only then will it be possible to unlock the immense potential of Kenya's manufacturing sector for the good of all.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

My Ministry will make every effort to improve the operating environment for manufacturing to thrive in Kenya. The government will collaborate with the private sector and development partners to deliver on this promise.

Deliberate strategies will be implemented towards attracting more domestic and high impact foreign direct investments to inject capital, expertise and technological advancement that will ultimately culminate in a growth trajectory for our economy. While at it, the Government will do ensure that policy, legal, institutional and regulatory frameworks are more responsive to the needs of unfolding circumstances germane to Kenya's desired industrial transformation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In conclusion I call upon our local manufacturers to embrace globally acclaimed sustainable industrial practices starting with renewable energy. May this conference mark the point of departure that will in turn kick-start a fresh industrial journey for Kenya. And may the outlook thereafter become the centre-pole of Kenya's sustained economic prosperity into the foreseeable future. I wish the participants a fulfilling experience during the three days the conference will last.

Thank you all.