



TALKING NOTES BY THE CHAIRPERSON, COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS H.E. ANNE WAIGURU, EGH. DURING THE OPENING CEREMONY FOR THE KENYA INDUSTRIALIZATION CONFERENCE 2023 HELD ON 20TH NOVEMBER 2023 AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI, NAIROBI COUNTY.

H.E. Hon. Musalia Mudavadi, Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs.

Hon. Rebecca Miano, MBS, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry

Dr. Juma Mukhwana, PHD, HSC, Principal Secretary, State Department of Industry

Chief Executive Officers present;

Development partners;

Private Sector Representatives;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Morning!

1. It is a pleasure to join you today at the Kenya Industrialization Conference 2023, where we converge our collective aspirations of **Accelerating African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Implementation through Value Chain Integration for Shared Prosperity**. This strongly resonates with our national Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda of impactful economic turnaround for all.

2. As we embark on this transformative journey, I am reminded of the timeless words of Peter Drucker, "The best way to predict the future is to create it."
3. Today, these words take on a profound significance as they invite us not only to envision the future of African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) implementation but to actively craft it through value chain integration.
4. Our mission here therefore, is not only to anticipate the future of industrialization but to be architects of an inclusive and sustainable industrial development for all.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

5. As we delve into discussions, collaborations, and exhibitions over the next few days, let us collectively create a future where value chains are seamlessly intertwined, where economic prosperity is shared by nations, counties, and where the industrial landscape of Kenya becomes a testament to the transformative power of collaboration.
6. In County governments, we are leveraging on distributed economies, an alternative structure for society with small-scale businesses in a local economy context, that will lead to a more sustainable integration.
7. With 47 distributed economies, we have the unique opportunity to tap into diverse local endowments that will be organized in the form of flexible units that are synergistically connected with each other to achieve scale and mutually beneficial relationships.

Distinguished Participants,

8. Capitalizing on these distributed economies will not only allow us to integrate backwards our value chains towards **AfCFTA** implementation but will also transform our Counties by creating employment, expanding income potentials, and eliminating poverty.
9. To be more specific, Agribusiness presents one such opportunity across counties in Kenya. Article 3 (3) of this agreement seeks to promote

industrial development through diversification and regional value chain development, agricultural development, and food security. This presents an opportunity of transforming Kenya's agriculture into high value-added industries in Counties.

10. Further, the agreement encourages agro-industrial parks in regions targeting both the integration and upgrading of activities that includes production, upstream and downstream transformation, processing, logistics and marketing.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

11. To capitalize on this agreement, the two levels of Government have entered into partnership to establish the County Aggregation and Industrial Parks (CAIPs) whose goal is to grow manufacturing and investments through agro-Industries and enhance productivity of the various value chains.
12. These parks will boost overall national agro-processing, increase farmer Income, create jobs, reduce post-harvest loss, consolidate Kenya produce for intercounty trade and export market.
13. The County Governments cannot accomplish these goals in isolation. I invite you to join us in creating thriving industrial parks that will drive economic growth, generate substantial returns, and make a lasting impact on our economies. We can rekindle the spark in our cotton fields, breathe new life into our leather and apparel factories, and unlock the untapped potential of our pyrethrum, coffee, banana, avocado and tea farms.

Distinguished Participants,

14. The County governments will continue to play an important role in facilitating the success of the CAIPs.
 - a. Besides the allocation of land for construction of the shades and financing the constructions, the County Governments will **support access to finance by the farmers and MSMEs**, and provision of

necessary infrastructure including roads, electricity, water & sewerage.

- b. In addition, the County Governments in collaboration with the National Government will continue to **provide regulatory support**, including developing guidelines and legislations to facilitate inter and intra-county trade and regional trade.
- c. County Government will also **incentivize investments** in the counties and streamline the approval process for investors and industry players.
- d. The County Governments will play a role in **facilitating market linkages** by connecting the park's businesses with suppliers, customers, and other stakeholders in the region.
- e. Further, County Governments will **facilitate the development of supply chains, offering training and capacity-building programs** to local businesses, and assisting with market research to identify growth opportunities.
- f. County governments will **support the expansion of these aggregation centers**.

Distinguished Participants,

- 15. As a Council, we note and appreciate the role of the private sector and partners in transforming the counties' development and growth through investments. Your contribution is immense and is evident across counties.
- 16. Let me congratulate the event organizers for spearheading this conference which is truly timely in advancing inclusive growth across the Counties, while leveraging on the investment opportunities in our counties.
- 17. May this conference be a crucible of ideas, a forge for innovative solutions, and a catalyst for the acceleration of AfCFTA implementation heralding a future characterized by shared prosperity, economic resilience, and the realization of the AfCFTA's full potential.

18. Thank you, and let us embark on this journey of creation and transformation.

Asanteni sana!