



MINISTRY OF INVESTMENTS, TRADE, AND INDUSTRY

SPEECH BY HON. REBECCA MIANO, EGH, CABINET SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF INVESTMENTS, TRADE AND INDUSTRY DURING THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF KARIBU BUSINESS SUPPORT CENTRES (KBSC) ON MONDAY, 15TH APRIL, 2024

Principal Secretaries

Chairpersons of the Senate and National Assembly's
Departmental Committees on Trade

Chair - CoG

Heads of State Corporations

CEO -CoG

CEO -KAM

CEO-KEPSA

Other CEOs Present

Development partners

Ministry Staff

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen;

- 1) I am pleased to welcome you today as we launch one of the support initiatives geared towards achieving our main objectives of promoting and facilitating domestic and foreign investments.

- 2) My Ministry's mandate is executed in three broad objectives:
- a) To promote and facilitate investments i.e., Domestic Direct Investments (DDIs) & Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs).
 - b) To increase the contribution of Domestic and Export Trade to the GDP; and,
 - c) To increase the contribution of Manufacturing to the GDP.
- 3) Kenya's aspiration of attaining the status of a Newly Industrialised Country by the year 2030 is premised on the creation of cumulative and sustainable trade, investments and industrial activities. This in turn calls for concerted efforts to create a conducive environment for business and investment opportunities to be conceived, grown and expanded as viable and sustainable entities.
- 4) The Government of Kenya recognises the pivotal role that businesses play in driving economic growth and prosperity of the nation and like many other countries, the Government of Kenya recognises the need for an efficient and streamlined service provision that facilitates business establishment and growth.
- 5) We are also acutely aware of the myriad challenges that you the entrepreneurs, investors, MSIs and traders face in navigating the complex web of business regulations and procedures that are required to set shop in Kenya.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- 6) It is in this context that today we launch a one-stop shop for all your business needs, **The Karibu Business Support Centres; an initiative** born from our commitment to fostering a vibrant and dynamic industrial and investment landscape.
- 7) These Centres are not just mere brick-and-mortar establishments; they are symbols of our commitment to facilitating the **ease of doing business** in Kenya.
- 8) Whether you are a budding entrepreneur with a revolutionary idea, or an established industrialist looking to expand your operations or set up shop in Kenya, **The Karibu Business Support Centres** are here to streamline, simplify, and expedite your business journey in every step of the way.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- 9) One of the key features of these Karibu Business Support Centres is their accessibility.
- 10) We understand that not everyone has the means or resources to travel long distances to Nairobi for assistance. Therefore, today we launch:
 - a. A physical walk-in **Karibu Business Support Centre** at the Ministry Headquarters. The services can also be accessed at four other Centres in

- Kisumu, at KIRDI western office,
 - Eldoret, at KEBS North Rift Office,
 - Mombasa, at KEBS Plaza, and
 - Kariobangi South, Nairobi at MSEA Centre of Excellence in collaboration with the Ministry of Co-operatives and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Development.
- b. We are in the process of establishing a Centre in Nyeri County, at the KEBS offices, Outspan Plaza, which will be operational in the coming weeks.
- c. The remaining seven physical walk-in Centres will be rolled out in a phased manner across the nation. For this, we call upon the development partners to collaborate with us in the rollout of these remaining centres.
- 11) The Centres will be staffed with personalised Government technical experts who will be ready to answer your questions and address your business concerns.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- 12) Additionally, today we also launch the **Karibu Business Support Online portal** that will enable you to access comprehensive business information. This platform will also offer seamless interaction with government agencies on matters of investments, industry and trade, ensuring timely resolution of your queries and concerns.

- 13) Whether you prefer face-to-face interaction or the convenience of the Karibu Business Support Centre digital platform, our doors will always be open to serve you.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- 14) This initiative will provide you with the following services:
 - a) Advisory services on investments, manufacturing and trade.
 - b) Collection and dissemination of business information.
 - c) Liaison services to expedite the administrative procedures that you require to operate.
 - d) Facilitation of business linkages between the Government, private sector and Business to Business(B2B).
 - e) Facilitation of your business enterprises' access to the regional and global markets.
 - f) Offer you trade facilitation services in a one-stop-shop arrangement and after-care services.
 - g) Repository for data collection that informs government policy decisions.
- 15) The launch of these Centres marks a new era of collaboration, transparency, and efficiency. We are committed to fostering an environment where entrepreneurs and investors can operate with confidence, innovate with freedom, and contribute to our nation's progress.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- 16) I urge you to embrace this initiative. Visit our Centres, explore the online portal, and experience the difference.
- 17) I thank our partners; GIZ, Centum, KAM, KEPSA and Stanbic Foundation, for walking with us to make this initiative a reality.
- 18) I also appreciate the project team at my Ministry for their commitment to making this initiative a reality, and as we work towards rolling out the Karibu Business Support centres to other parts of the Country.
- 19) Let us chart a course of shared success, building a vibrant industrial landscape that fuels our nation's economic engine.
- 20) Together, let us turn **'ease of doing businesses'** into a reality, transform challenges into opportunities, and propel our businesses to greater heights of success.
- 21) To that end, it is my pleasure to officially launch the Karibu Business Support Centre Initiative.

THANK YOU.

