



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

MINISTRY OF INVESTMENTS, TRADE AND INDUSTRY

**SPEECH BY HON. SALIM MVURYA, EGH - CABINET
SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF INVESTMENTS, TRADE AND
INDUSTRY**

**DURING THE FOUNDATION LAYING CEREMONY AT KABATI
EPZ PARK IN MURANGA COUNTY**

1. ON TUESDAY, 27 AUGUST 2024.

- The Governor of Murang'a County, **Dr. Irungu Kang'ata**
- The Principal Secretary, State Department for Investment Promotion, **Mr. Abubakar Hassan Abubakar**
- The Speaker of Murang'a County Assembly, **Hon. Johnson Mukuha**
- Distinguished Honorable Members of the Murang'a County Assembly present
- Murang'a County Commissioner, **Mr. Joshua Nkatha.**
- EPZA Board Chairman, **Mr. Richard Cheruiyot**
- EPZA Chief Executive Officer, **Mr. Richard Omelu**
- Captains of industries and Investors present,
- Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning,

1. It is a great honor to be here today as we gather for this momentous occasion.
2. This occasion is a key milestone of our Government's continued efforts of making Kenya the next great and preferred investment destination for export-oriented investments, globally.
3. Indeed, it is a significant step forward in our shared mission to enhance Kenya's economic growth, create jobs, and improve the living standards of our people.
4. **Ladies and Gentlemen**, the Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda 2022 – 2027 has set its priorities through my Ministry developed to:
 - Raise the Manufacturing contribution to GDP to 15% in 2027 and to 20% in 2030 from 7%
 - Grow the export contribution to the GDP to 30% by 2025 from 10% and,
 - Raise the Foreign Direct Investment to USD 10 billion from USD 500 million.
5. These projections are in line with the aim of these flagship manufacturing hubs towards:
 - Expanding the manufacturing sector to the counties to grow Kenya's export production through manufacturing;
 - Providing each county an opportunity to attract and locate investments that will tap their niche markets and products;
 - Creating and increase the number of direct jobs under the EPZ Program to reduce rural – urban migration;

- Growing local entrepreneurship in manufacturing and services in order to improve the export business by small scale indigenous enterprises and;
- Enhancing the access to raw materials due to locating in the source areas.

6. It is envisaged that by establishing these EPZ Manufacturing hubs across the country, our country shall increase the manufacturing sector growth, expand our export basket and enable creation of more direct job opportunities.

7. **Ladies and Gentlemen**, in the year 2023, Kenya exported goods worth **Kshs. 105 billion** under the EPZ program with the total value of the domestic sales amounting to **Kshs. 1.8 billion**. The total sales made in the year 2023 amounted to **Kshs. 106.8 billion**. This shows the vibrancy of the EPZ Program and the high demand of Kenyan products in the local, regional and international markets.

8. Additionally, I am glad to note that in the same year, the cumulative capital investment was valued at **Kshs. 146.4 billion** compared to **Kshs. 135 billion** that was recorded in the year 2022. Currently, the cumulative investment under the EPZ Program stands at **Ksh. 150.7 billion**, signifying an increased investor entry since January this year.

9. I am also glad to report that the EPZ Program currently employs **over 74, 900 employees**, with many indirect jobs created as a result of backward linkages. I am very hopeful that we are on

the right track to creating additional job opportunities for the Kenyan people.

10. **Ladies and Gentlemen,** the Government of Kenya is fully committed to creating a business environment that is conducive to investment, innovation, and sustainable growth. Over the past few years, we have implemented a series of reforms aimed at improving the ease of doing business in our country. We continue to forge ahead to become a preferred destination for both local and international investors.
11. The establishment of this public zone has not only created the current employment that can be witnessed but is also expected to create hundreds of jobs directly and indirectly, particularly among the youth who are at the heart of our economic agenda. This aligns perfectly with our goal of uplifting a key aspect of the economic pyramid and driving inclusive growth.
12. Today's ceremony marks the start of progress in our efforts to open up the EPZ program further by establishing additional public zones while replicating what we already have at EPZ Athi River. This is expected to provide our export-oriented investments with a wide range of investment destinations.
13. Further, it will not only expand market reach but also contribute significantly to Kenya's export earnings and strengthen our position in the global market as well as foreign direct investments.

14. **Ladies and Gentlemen,** infrastructure remains a key enabler for investments. To this end, we have enhanced the Private-Public Partnership Framework to bring more investors on board hence the need to invite them to invest in these flagship EPZs.
15. My Ministry is also championing for local enhanced farming towards improved supply of raw material to agro-processing firms under the EPZ program including macadamia, avocado, cashew nuts, coconuts and other horticultural products; many of which are and can be sourced from Muranga County.
16. This will enhance the backward linkages and create a source of livelihood to majority of Kenyan farmers. It will also lead to reduced imports of raw materials thus improving our trade deficit gap.
17. As a country, we have also been championing green investments, climate mitigation initiatives and growth of the carbon credits regime to supplement the green and renewable energy production and consumption that currently stands at above 90 per cent. This new EPZ Park presents opportunities for such investments. I therefore invite prospective and interested parties to work with us so as to spur investment and trade.
18. As I conclude, **ladies and gentlemen,** I want to re-affirm our government's commitment in continuing to pursue a positive reform agenda and implementation of far-reaching

structural reforms and sound economic management policies, as we strive towards the realization of the Government's Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda, in the manufacturing sector.

19. As we lay the foundation stone, let me sincerely thank the efforts by Muranga County Government under the leadership of Dr. Irungu Kang'ata for the efforts, commitment and collaboration that have been put in place to ensure that this EPZ Park is indeed established.

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