



## PRESS RELEASE

*(For Immediate Release)*

### **DESPATCH FROM CABINET**

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**CABINET CONVENED** this morning for its fourth session. The meeting chaired by the **Head of State and Government** was held at State House Nairobi. In the day's session, Cabinet considered various policy proposals that seek to anchor the **implementation of the Administration's transformative plan for the nation.**

**THE MEETING ASSESSED** the drought situation in the country, its impacts, and the ongoing interventions to mitigate the growing effects of the drought. The meeting noted that about **4.35 million persons are still in need of humanitarian assistance.**

**IN LIGHT OF** the persisting drought situation, **Cabinet approved the scale-up of drought responses** aimed at alleviating the suffering of all households affected. The interventions will continue targeting vulnerable individuals and households, with the primary objective of saving lives and preserving livelihoods.

**IN SHARING** the responsibility of mitigating the effects of the drought, Cabinet acknowledged the support extended by our development partners led by the United Nations, and by international and local NGOs. The meeting also noted with appreciation **the high sense of civic duty demonstrated by private entities, public entities, and individuals** in supporting the families affected by the ongoing drought. The support has been received both in cash and in kind under the auspices of the **National Drought Mitigation Appeal Fund** that is spearheaded by the National Steering Committee on Drought Response.



**AS PART OF THE** long-term measures to address the devastating effects of **climate change and desertification**, Cabinet approved the National Tree Growing Restoration Campaign. The tree growing campaign targets to mobilize the **nation in planting fifteen billion trees by the year 2030, translating to 30% national tree cover.**

**IN DISCHARGE OF** the inter-generational duty to protect the environment and our heritage and splendour for the enduring benefit of the present and future generations; **Cabinet resolved that all public engagements presided by the President, the Deputy President, Cabinet Secretaries, Principal Secretaries,** and all other cadres of State or Public Officers will be marked by planting of a designated **minimum number of trees under various categories of between 200 to 500 seedlings.**

**ON THE STATE OF THE ECONOMY**, the day's agenda focused on "*Export Led Growth*". In that regard, Cabinet was apprised on the progress made in negotiation of various trade pacts that seek to secure access of Kenyan produce to markets abroad.

**AS KENYA WORKS** to strengthen the existing partnerships under the **EAC, COMESA, AFCFTA, and the UK**; the meeting noted that there are ongoing trade negotiations that are seeking to enhance duty free and quota free access of Kenya products under Free Trade Area Agreements with the **USA, UAE, South Korea, and the EU.**

**IN AN EFFORT TO MANAGE** the risk of dumping of cheap subsidized imports as part of the application of Anti-Dumping and Countervailing measures, Cabinet directed the Ministry of Investments, Trade, and Industry; jointly with other key stakeholders, to operationalize the **Trade Remedies Agency** and the **Trade Negotiations Council.**

**TO SHOWCASE THE** boundless investment opportunities available in Kenya, Cabinet approved the hosting of the Kenya International Investment Conference in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of the 2022/2023 financial year; with a view to



profiling investment opportunities in Special Economic Zones, Public Private Partnerships, and Foreign Direct Investments in energy, affordable housing, agriculture, health, water, roads, transport including the Lappet corridor, financial services including the Nairobi International Financial Center, and ICT related investments including the Konza City.

**FOR THE NATION TO AMPLIFY** the country's thought leadership on emerging issues of international consequence, **Cabinet approved the bid to host and participate in the following conventions** and conferences:

- I.** Kenya's bid to host the **2023 Africa Youth Connect Conference**, which is expected to attract over 10,000 youth from across the length and breadth of Africa;
- II.** Hosting of the **Africa Private Sector Alliance Conference** in March 2023, bringing together the top 100 companies in Africa in support of the accelerated implementation of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area; and
- III.** Hosting of the **Tripartite Free Trade Area Business Council Conference** in February 2023.

**TO STEER THE COUNTRY** into the league of nations who have realized inclusive socio-economic development, Cabinet considered the progress the nation is making towards gender equality. Cabinet noted that whereas we have made tremendous progress towards achieving gender equality and women empowerment, the country is yet to achieve gender parity. As such, the meeting reiterated that **the gender equality plan remain immensely important and deeply tied to Kenya's socio-economic development.**

**IN THAT REGARD**, the nation's apex policy organ adopted a policy that seeks to foster the contribution of all Kenyans to national development by integrating Gender Equality as a key ethos of the Public Service. Consequently, going forward **all recruitments and promotions within all the ranks of the public service shall uphold the Gender Rule.** To institutionalize this policy position, Cabinet also directed all Ministries, State



Departments, and State Agencies to ensure that **all ministerial budgets are gender responsive.**

**AS PART OF** the Administration's plan to steer the Kenya towards **Universal Health Coverage** so as to eliminate all preventable diseases in our midst, Cabinet approved Kenya's accession to membership of the International Vaccines institute.

**OUR NATION'S ACCESSION** to the International Vaccines Institute is part of the State interventions to address the '*vaccine apartheid*' witnessed during the most severe periods of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Kenya's membership of the International Vaccines Institute will allow our nation to commence **local production of vaccines, cushion the country from potential escalating costs of immunization**, boost our ongoing drive towards vaccine self-reliance, and strengthen our nation's epidemic preparedness.

**IN A BID TO REVIVE** the prospects of Kenyan football, Cabinet sanctioned the revitalization of football as a key cog of our nation's social fabric. **This national effort will encompass the rebuilding of the national men's team, the Harambee Stars, and the rebuilding of the women's national team, the Harambee Starlets.**

**AS A STEPPING STONE** towards the target of Harambee Stars qualifying for the FIFA World Cup in the year 2030, **Cabinet approved the proposal to host the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) in 2027**, alongside EAC partner states. Cabinet noted that the joint bid would deploy the power of sports in furthering regional integration.

**CABINET WELCOMED** the decision of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) affirming Kenya's long held position on conservation by **upholding the embargo in international trade on elephant ivory and rhino horns.**

**THE NATION'S APEX** Policy Organ also noted that the dawn heralded by the new Administration presented a unique opportunity to strengthen **Kenya's social fabric and national identity.** Consequently, and in an effort to compliment the rotation of the host county for national days, all



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national celebrations will exhibit a sectorial theme. The State Ceremonies will highlight the strides made in achieving our national aspirations; particularly the State Ceremonies that **mark the solemn and sacred national days of Madaraka Day, Mashujaa Day, and Jamhuri Day.**

**IN THAT REGARD,** and in recognition of the **pioneering innovations by our youth** that continue to elevate our place of pride within the community of nations, **this year's Jamhuri Day will be marked through ICT-themed national celebrations.** As such, the celebrations will be preceded by an 'innovation week' that will be formally inaugurated by His Excellency the President today. The celebrations will also feature participation by continental and global technology giants and thought leaders.

**CABINET OFFICE**  
**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

**Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2022**