



PRESS RELEASE
(For Immediate Release)

DESPATCH FROM CABINET

HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT has today chaired a meeting of Cabinet at **State Lodge, Kisumu**. Today's Cabinet meeting was the Administration's first to be held within the Nyanza Region and the third to be held outside our nation's capital.

THE HOLDING of Cabinet meetings as part of the Presidential Working Tours across the country is a historic first that accords the nation's apex policy-making organ the opportunity to assess firsthand the impact of the implementation of the Administration's Plan for the nation - the **Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA)**.

ENTHUSED BY the vastness of **Africa's largest lake and the promise it holds for our nation, the East Africa Region**, and the continent, Cabinet assessed the progress being made in implementation of various State Projects and Programmes within the Nyanza Region and the country at large.

TO ADDRESS the challenges that have bedeviled sugarcane farmers for decades, Cabinet welcomed the resolution of the National Assembly approving the writing-off of loans owed/Tax Arrears by public sugar mills amounting to **Ksh. 117 Billion**. To reinvigorate public sugar mills, the backbone of the Nyanza/Western economy, Cabinet also approved a framework to support the public millers to pay farmer arrears and salary arrears through a 90-days payment plan.

AS ANOTHER boost to the Nyanza economy, Cabinet approved the implementation of the **Gogo Hydropower Redevelopment Project** along **River Kuja in Migori County**. The Project by KenGen seeks to increase the dam's power generation capacity from **2 MW to 8.6 MW**.



THE EXISTING plant, commissioned in 1958, has surpassed its economic life, experiencing frequent breakdowns and sourcing challenges for spare parts due to aging infrastructure. The Project is therefore expected to **enhance the reliability of power supply and boost socio-economic activities within the Nyanza and Western Kenya Regions**. This intervention is expected to attract investments in the industrial and aggregation parks coming-up across Nyanza and the entire Western Kenya Region.

IN FURTHERANCE of our nation's growing credentials as a leader in green energy, Cabinet considered and approved **the Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) Growth Policy**. The Policy seeks to steer our nation along an irreversible path towards securing the dignity of all households through the use of safe and affordable LPG. The Policy provides a pathway for progressively weaning-off the 70% of Kenyan households currently using biomass, Kerosene and other dirty fuels as their primary cooking fuel.

AS PART of the **LPG Growth Policy's** proposed regulations, a framework requiring all housing developments to have provisions for liquefied petroleum gas reticulation infrastructure shall be implemented. This provision will be embedded as a prerequisite for approval of any housing development projects, including those under the **Administration's flagship programme on Affordable Housing**.

THE PROPOSED interventions will further encompass establishing common-user LPG import terminals, distributing subsidized LPG cylinders to low-income households, promoting LPG use in institutions, facilitated by partnerships with finance institutions, LPG players, and the Ministries of Education and Health. These measures aim to **reduce consumer prices, improve public safety and contribute to both public health and environmental sustainability**.

TO STRENGTHEN local health systems as part of the national endeavour to realize **Universal Health Coverage (UHC)**, Cabinet considered and approved the implementation of the **Kenya Health Emergency Preparedness, Response and Resilience Project**. The Project will be implemented with the **support of the World Bank**, and will comprise of the following components:



- I. Establishing capacity for the '*fill-and-finish*' production of human vaccines at the **Kenya BioVax Institute**;
- II. Strengthening the regulatory capacity of the **Pharmacy and Poisons Board**;
- III. Strengthening the Quality Control and Assurance capacity of the **National Quality Control Laboratory**;
- IV. Strengthening the capacity of the **National Public Health Institute**; and
- V. Human resources capacity, learning, development, and technology transfer in bio-manufacturing.

THIS SEMINAL programme is projected to contribute towards supporting the '*one health*' approach based on local production, research, and innovation; which is **integral to improving the social determinants of health in Kenya**.

TO BREATHE life to the 'one health' approach, Cabinet directed that the **Kenya Medical Supplies Authority (KEMSA)** shall ensure that procurement of **locally manufactured pharmaceutical products receive preference** over imports, in keeping with the Administration's plan to bolster local manufacturing – **Buy Kenya Build Kenya**- as part of the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda(BETA).

TO ENHANCE our national preparedness for future pandemics, Cabinet considered and approved the establishment of an inter-ministerial committee to negotiate the **Pandemic Treaty with World Health Organization (WHO)**. This State intervention seeks to address the **challenges of vaccine apartheid and hoarding** witnessed by Kenya and other developing nations at the height of the COVID-19 Pandemic. The inter-ministerial committee will advocate for equity in developing the Pandemic Treaty; in addition to calling for strengthening both the WHO and the International Health Regulations that were last reviewed in the year 2005. **In doing so**, Kenya will also make the case for a global health supplies architecture for **pandemic preparedness based on equitable principles**.



CABINET ALSO considered and approved the establishment of the **Kenya Transport Accident Investigation Bureau (KTAIB)**. The proposed intervention is part of the institutional and legal reforms proposed in relation to transport accident investigations. Once established, the Bureau will utilize international best practices and will pursue **safety interventions in Road, Rail, Pipeline, and Marine Transport**. The Bureau will be an independent agency tasked with comprehensive transport-related accident investigations and the making of safety recommendations.

TO GIVE greater impetus to a worthy and long-overdue proposal, Cabinet directed the Ministry of Transport to lead in the preparation of the legal framework to actualize the policy intervention. In that regard, the Ministry is expected to lead all industry stakeholders in preparation of the **Kenya Transport Accident Investigation Bureau Bill, 2023**.

IT IS noteworthy that the mandate of the Bureau would exclude aircraft-related accidents, as those are best investigated under the **Civil Aviation Act, 2013**, in compliance with international best practice and our international obligations.

THE NATION'S top policy organ welcomed Kenya being awarded co-hosting rights for the continent's top sporting event, the **African Cup of Nations (AFCON)**. The hosting of the 2027 edition of Africa's premier football competition will be undertaken by Kenya, jointly with Uganda and Tanzania under the **East Africa Pamoja banner**.

IN ADDITION to AFCON 2027, Kenya has also been selected to host the African Nations Championship (CHAN) in September, 2024; the CECAFA Under-18 Championship in November, 2023; and the AFCON Under -15 (Pan-African Schools Football) CECAFA Region Championship in December, 2023.

IN A bid to elevate Kenya's standing as a sporting powerhouse, Cabinet approved various construction and renovation projects of facilities for hosting the **Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) 2027**. The ambitious plan includes building the **Talanta Sports Complex (Jamhuri, Nairobi)** and extensive renovations of Nyayo National Stadium, Moi International Sports Centre - Kasarani, and Kipchoge Keino Stadium.



THE ADMINISTRATION'S signature project under this initiative will be the Talanta Sports Complex; a 60,000-seater football stadium featuring ample parking, world-class training pitches, a commercial hub named the '*Hustler Bazaar*', an arena, and a dedicated public transport terminus. The Renovation efforts for Moi International Sports Centre - Kasarani, Nyayo National Stadium, and Kipchoge Keino Stadium will include pitch rehabilitation, enhanced facilities, ICT infrastructure, canopy installation, and *Hustler Bazaars*.

THESE UPGRADES are designed to meet the high standards set by the **Confederation of African Football (CAF)** for this prestigious continental event. Beyond AFCON 2027, these initiatives will position Kenya as a competitive sporting destination and **unlock economic opportunities while fostering sports development.**

TURNING TO education, Cabinet was apprised on the progress being made in the implementation of the recommendations outlined in the Report of the **Presidential Working Party on Education Reforms**. The education reforms mark a seminal step towards addressing the challenges experienced across all educational levels in Kenya, while also improving the quality and accessibility of education in the country.

TO CEMENT the place of Kenya as a global technological hub, Cabinet considered and approved the **Technopolis Bill, 2023**. The Bill upgrades the legal framework governing Konza Technopolis and the Konza Technopolis Development Authority to an Act of Parliament. The legal framework **provides for a more predictable framework for the advancement of science, technology, and innovation through technological hubs.**

IN RECOGNITION of the need to better promote the rehabilitation of offenders in a manner that doesn't imperil public safety or negate the concerns of victims, **Cabinet considered and approved the Policy on the Power of Mercy**. The policy guidelines provide for the criteria for the exercise of the presidential prerogative of mercy as set out under **Article 133 of the Constitution**. The prerogative is a special authority conferred upon the Head of State and Government that empowers the President to



grant pardons or commutations of sentences to rehabilitated and deserving offenders.

AS OUR nation's diaspora population grows, and in an effort to ensure that any convicted offenders abroad are able to serve their sentences at home where they are closer to the support of their families, **Cabinet considered and approved the signing of the Extradition Agreement** between the Government of the Republic of Kenya and the **Government of the United Arab Emirates** and the Extradition Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kenya and the **Government of the Republic of Mozambique**.

BY DINT of the Agreements, any persons who breach the criminal law in the other country **shall be able to be extradited from the partner nation** to that other jurisdiction to face criminal proceedings or to serve their final custodial sentences.

CABINET concluded the day's session by urging all Kenyan **households to grow trees within their homesteads and their communities**, an initiative that is part of the Administration's campaign to steer the **nation towards planting 15 billion trees** within the next decade.

CABINET OFFICE
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Monday, 9th October, 2023