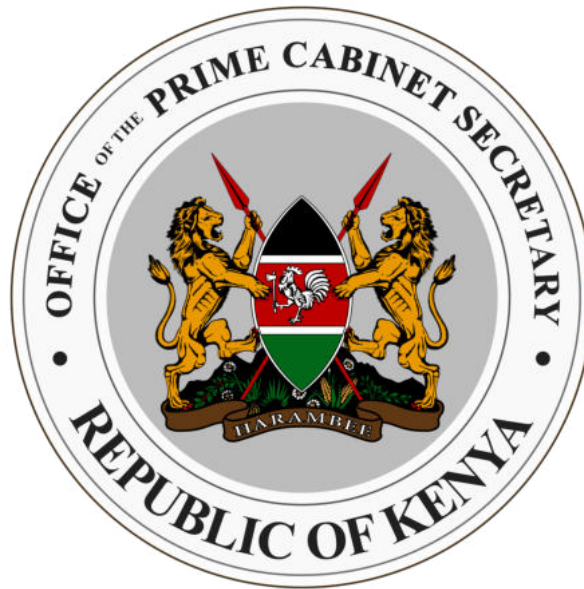




**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF
THE PRESIDENT**

OFFICE OF THE PRIME CABINET SECRETARY

KEY NOTE ADDRESS BY H.E. HON DR. MUSALIA MUDAVADI, EGH, PRIME CABINET SECRETARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA, ON THE OCCASION OF THE GRADUATION OF THE INAUGURAL COHORT AND COMMISSIONING OF THE SECOND COHORT OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE EMERGING LEADERS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME ON FRIDAY JUNE 9, 2023 AT SAFARI PARK HOTEL, NAIROBI, KENYA.



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PUBLIC SERVICE EMERGING LEADERS FELLOWSHIP
PROGRAMME**

FRIDAY JUNE 9, 2023

SAFARI PARK HOTEL, NAIROBI, KENYA.





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Hon Aisha Jumwa, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Public Service, Gender and Affirmative Action;

H.E. Anne Waiguru, BOARD Chair of EPL and Kirinyaga County Governor;

Chief of Staff and Head of Public Service, Mr Felix Koskei;

Chairperson, Commissioners and the Secretary of the Public Service Commission;

The graduating class of pioneer fellows and the incoming cohort two fellows;

Emerging Public Leaders – USA;

Emerging Leaders Foundation – Africa;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen!

1. I am pleased to join you this morning to preside over this twin event of the graduation of the pioneer class of the Public Service Emerging Leaders Fellowship Programme, and the commissioning of the Second Cohort into the programme.

2. The importance of this programme to the government and the public service, in particular, cannot be gainsaid. I





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am delighted indeed to be among such a distinguished group of young leaders who hold the promise of our future. It reminds me of my early years as a 28-year-old eager MP and later a Cabinet Minister, exactly 34 years ago.

3. On March 31, 2023; H.E. the President presided over the inauguration of the 5th Cohort of the Public Service Internship Programme. And today is yet another milestone in the future of the Public Service.

Without reservation, the Government appreciates the Commission for conceptualizing and implementing this important programme for public service development.

4. I also express Government gratitude to the Emerging Public Leaders-USA and Emerging Leaders Foundation–Africa for the financial support to the programme and sharing experiences of similar programmes in other parts of the world. This support is a demonstration of the OPEN-GOVERNMENT collaborative approach the Government is PROMOTING. I, therefore, encourage THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND NGOs to come on board and partner with the government to scale up such programmes and other policy-related initiatives.





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Ladies and Gentlemen,

5. The Public Service Internship Programme and the Public Service Emerging Leaders Fellowship Programme are two intertwined initiatives targeting the youth and their role in Public Service Management. They are a clear indication that the Commission has the pulse on emerging trends in public service and the importance of youth. From your eager faces, I am seeing a bright public service of tomorrow. It is my wish that not far into the distant future, you will be gracing this podium and be in many critical positions in the service of our country, Kenya.

6. I associate closely with the two initiatives because I am a firm believer in professional public service. I believe that through nurture and hard work, public servants like you should be able to rise to the highest ranks. Promotion in public service should, therefore, be based on MEASURED DELIVERABLE PERFORMANCE, which is the product of hard work.

7. As you are aware, the objective of the Emerging Leaders Fellowship Programme is to build the next generation of public-sector leaders capable of providing transformative solutions to pressing policy issues. By targeting entry-level





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staff, the government is keen to ensure that at a very nascent stage in your career development journey, you benefit from critical knowledge of values and principles of public service; public service systems and methods; and public service leadership skills.

8. In addition, I am also aware that the programme instils a co-creative mindset approach and practice in policy implementation and citizen-centric service delivery. These are critical attributes currently scarce in the public service but are highly desirable going into the future.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

9. The focus on Citizen-Centricity in service delivery aligns with the Government's bottom-up approach. We are aware to the fact that successful governments must put the ordinary citizen at the centre of its service delivery agenda. As public servants, the challenges affecting the citizens are our responsibility. Citizen problems are what you are expected to embody and find solutions to, as you grow in public service leadership ranks.

10. This programme is central to our objectives as a Government. We believe that developing young leaders is important for our success. It is deliberate to prepare you and place you on a conscious journey that entails a mind shift; learning capability; honesty to self; interactivity;





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understanding of the conceptual relation between cause and effect; and the skills to conceive emerging problems from a 'birds-eye-view' perspective.

11. Whereas you are seated here today as a group, I allow me to speak to you individually. The power of the individual can make a difference and force change. Mohamed Bouazizi, a 27-year-old Tunisian, who was just a street vendor, set himself on fire in protest against personal frustration by the system. Nobody expected that his death, one single death, one lonely young man's suicide would ignite the Arab Spring.

12. Mohamed made a difference in death. You – each and every one of you sitting here – can make the difference Kenyans want. You don't have to set yourselves ablaze like Mohamed, but you can be the power of change that revolutionizes the public service.

13. We see your compatriots, young as you are, do great things again and again in many fields, in so many ways – Sports, Art, Music. We see them create waves through exceptional technological innovations, through inspiring social mobilization. You have been chosen for public service – do your duty to your country.

Ladies and Gentlemen;





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14 Allow me to delve a little deeper into the subject of citizen-centricity and good governance. These two virtues are the ingredients of good public leadership. Good governance aims at providing an environment in which all citizens irrespective of class or gender or creed develop to their full potential. Good governance in public service is the ability and commitment to provide public services effectively, efficiently and equitably to the citizens.

15. The four pillars on which the edifice of good governance rests, in essence, are:

§ Ethos (of service to the citizen);

§ Ethics (honesty, integrity and transparency);

§ Equity (treating all citizens alike with empathy for the weaker sections); and

§ Efficiency (speedy and effective delivery of service without harassment and increasing use of ICT).

16. Citizens are therefore at the core of good governance. Remember that good governance and citizen-centric public service will inseparably be linked throughout your training period and working years' time.





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17. As I conclude, I congratulate both the graduating class and the incoming fellows for your achievement. You were enlisted through a competitive process that attracted thousands of your peers. Consider yourselves the lucky few who made it to the finishing tape. That alone should humble you into committing to work for the people of Kenya.

18. You may be just 51 graduating today, and 65 joining the programme. But the influence you are expected to exercise as change agents should be monumental if you live by what has been and will be inculcated in you. I therefore urge you to seize the moment and the opportunity you have been given, to make your contribution to our collective efforts to transform this country. It is an opportunity many would have wished to have, but could not.

19. Don't let us down. Let not this investment go to waste. I look forward to knowing you are part of something BIG for the public service and the country. I cannot wait to see what it will be. But you are the leaders, you are the owners of your own vision and power.





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20. Kindly answer this question: Can I count on your leadership and strong commitment to work in the public service and make this country a better place for all?

**Thank you for that Affirmation and May God Guide
You All.**

**H.E. HON DR. MUSALIA MUDAVADI, EGH,
PRIME CABINET SECRETARY**

