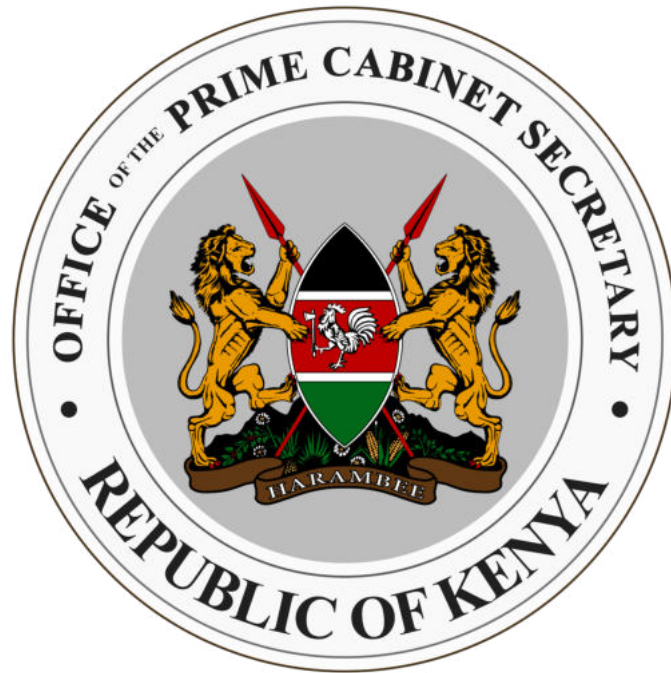




EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF
THE PRESIDENT

OFFICE OF THE PRIME CABINET SECRETARY

SPEECH BY H.E HON. DR MUSALIA MUDAVADI, EGH, THE PRIME CABINET SECRETARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA DURING THE LAUNCH OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND FORESTRY STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-2027;



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FORESTRY STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-2027**

ARBORETUM GARDENS, NAIROBI, KENYA.

THURSDAY JULY 27, 2023





Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, Hon. Soipan Tuya CBS;

Chair, National Assembly Departmental Committee on Environment, Forestry and Mining, Hon. Gikaria David, MP;

Chair, Senate Standing Committee on Land, Environment and Natural Resources, Hon. John Muhia Methu, Sen.;

Principal Secretaries;

Ambassadors present;

Ministry Officials;

Distinguished guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

1. I am pleased to preside over this ceremony at which the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry is among the very few government entities that have launched strategic plans aligned to the Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BeTA). Your plan adds onto the good things that the Ministry has produced in the short span the Kenya Kwanza Administration has been in office. I am reminded of your leadership in the 15-Billion National Tree





Growing Campaign; and the recently Cabinet-approved Climate Change Amendment legislation that aims to regulate the Carbon Markets in support of our Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). In a few weeks' time, you will also be hosting the Africa Climate Summit on behalf of the Kenyan Government. I am also aware of the crucial policy and legal proposals intended for the ongoing Government Legislative Agenda Roundtables by my Office.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

2. I am not about to stop insisting that strategic planning as a Results-Based Management Tool, is the instrument with which the public service will use to account for its existence. It means gone are the days when our only delivery accounting tool was to report to work and leave at your own pleasure. Today, as long as you remain in the public service, make strategic plans, service delivery standards, citizen service delivery charters, annual work plans, performance contracts, and staff performance appraisals, part of your second nature. There are no shortcuts to efficient and effective public service delivery that the Government is committed to.





3. This leads me to Performance Management, which falls under my Office. May I be understood clearly on this matter; I do not intend to take prisoners on this one. The plans you develop such as the strategic plans are not just ornamental documents. When we come calling about efficiency and accountability in service delivery, we will judge your suitability to remain relevant by cascading the Strategic Plan to your signed performance Contract, and annual work plans and to whether or not you attained the individual targets you set for yourselves.

4. At Least I am misunderstood, such an exercise will carry no favor, ill-will, or vendetta. We will use your own commitments to judge your relevance because the Government has made promises to Kenyans under the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BeTA), that must be fulfilled. If you are not ready to better the lives of fellow Kenyans, we will not retain you against your will.

Madam CS;





5. I cannot help noticing that you have already started ticking off the evaluation template. Under the Kenya Kwanza Plan, your Ministry handles the issues of Agroforestry and Sustainable Waste Management. I note that these two issues are aptly captured under various Key Result Areas of the Strategic Plan, which means you are in tandem to help the Presidency deliver on promises made to the Kenyan people.

6. On job creation, your ministry has recruited the first 2,700 Forest Rangers and is about to recruit a Green Army of 4000. Under your stewardship, the 15-billion National Tree Cover Campaign will also directly contribute to job creation when youth and women groups grow and sell seedlings for the greening campaign; and in the long term, provide nutrition and timber products. I also look forward to your unpacking the Circular Economy under the strategic plan. I trust that it will help us create jobs during the reduction, reuse, and recycling of waste, apart from providing a clean and healthy environment as anticipated by the Constitution.

7. Ladies and Gentlemen;





8. Kenya is a country buffeted by Climate Change. We have just been through the worst drought in 40 years. As a nation highly dependent on agriculture and tourism, Climate Change is a priority we cannot turn our back on. Adaptation and mitigation measures required, including early warning mechanisms, are not cheap. But that does not mean we fold our hands and hope for the best. We must soil our hands today, to prevent catastrophes tomorrow. This is why I am impressed by the details on intervention measures in your strategic plan, under the topic of Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Key Result Area.

9. May I also impress on you to hasten and intensify the protection, reforestation, and rehabilitation of Kenya's water towers. While I appreciate the Kenya Water Towers policy and bill that are in the pipeline, serious intermediate remedial action should be directed to protecting increasingly vulnerable Government Gazetted forests in some counties. Sometimes we mistake tree cover where we have achieved 12.1% of the 30% target with forest cover. We must attune ourselves to statistics that show Kenya's forests are





fragmented across the country. Combined, forests cover over 37 million hectares. Out of those 37 million hectares, 2.1 million are woodlands, 24.8 million are bush lands and 10.7 are wooded grasslands. Yet, we are at a meager 9% forest cover, purely out of neglect and destruction. It is commendable what we have done to protect the Mt Kenya Water Towers. The annual community rehabilitation of Kaptagat Forest also requires emulating.

10. In the same vein, we must accelerate the protection of the Mau Water Tower. In Kakamega, the only existing rainforest is under encroachment threat; the Tsavo Tsavo Ecosystem Restoration Initiative in Taita/Taveta County needs support; and the Maragoli Hills Forest now stripped bare of tree cover, requires urgent reforestation. These areas require fencing and security by enough wardens to protect these forest areas against human activity. I have been approached by these counties to patronize these mitigation activities through planned Marathons to fund afforestation. I ask for your support.





11. Finally, please feel this pristine place where we are launching the Strategic Plan today. See the fruits of rehabilitation, conservation, and managing our environment - the fresh air you are breathing and the shade you are enjoying. It is because someone like you planted a tree. It tells us responsible stewardship of the environment starts with you and I. From here, let each one of us do ourselves a favor; plant a tree at every available opportunity. A greener, cleaner, and safer environment today equals intergenerational equity tomorrow.

12. It is my pleasure to declare the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry Strategic Plan Officially Launched.

THANK YOU

GOD BLESS YOU AND GOD BLESS KENYA

