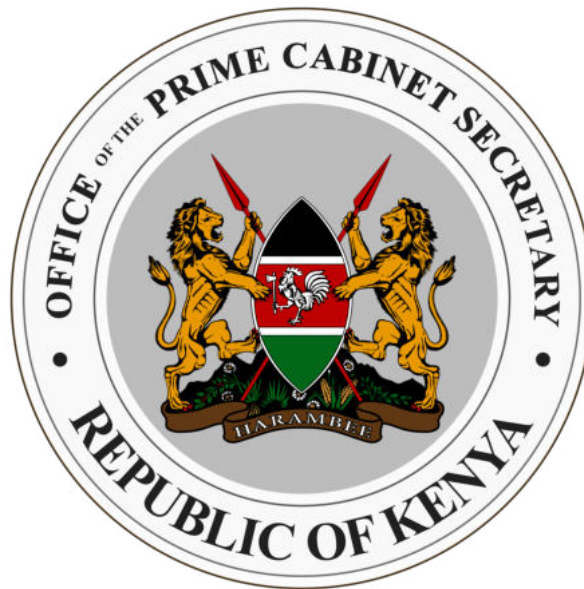




**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF  
THE PRESIDENT**  
OFFICE OF THE PRIME CABINET SECRETARY

SPEECH BY H.E. DR. MUSALIA MUDAVADI, EGH., PRIME CABINET SECRETARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA DURING THE GRADUATION CEREMONY FOR KRA REVENUE SERVICE ASSISTANTS WEDNESDAY AUGUST 23, 2023. ELDORET, UASIN GISHU COUNTY



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CABINET SECRETARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA  
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REVENUE SERVICE ASSISTANTS**

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ELDORET, UASIN GISHU COUNTY**





**Chief of the Kenya Defence Forces;**

**Board Chairman, Kenya Revenue Authority;**

**Acting Commissioner-General, Kenya Revenue Authority;**

**Commissioners Present;**

**Kenya Defence Forces Staff;**

**KRA Staff;**

**Distinguished Guests;**

**Our esteemed Revenue Service Assistants Grandaunts.**

**Ladies and Gentlemen;**

**1.** I am pleased to join you to witness this significant graduation of Kenya Revenue Authority's (KRA), Revenue Service Assistants (RSAs). This ceremony marks the end of training that has developed talents to protect our tax revenues and boost national tax revenue. In turn, taxes will enhance the capacity for national transformation as desired by our Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BeTA).





**2.** I congratulate the graduands on the successful completion of the two-month training to become Revenue Service Assistants. Allow me to also commend the instructors from Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) and KRA for guiding these grandaunts during the rigorous training. I also extend my commendation to the families and friends of the grandaunts for supporting them during training.

## **Ladies and Gentlemen;**

**3.** All nations depend on taxes to provide public services to citizens and sustain economic growth. We use taxes to build and run hospitals; develop schools and pay teachers; deliver water; construct national transport networks, and provide national security, among other public necessities.

**4.** As the Government, we have an obligation to keep our promises to reduce the cost of living, provide affordable housing, and eliminate poverty. These can only be realized if we have adequate finances. Developing effective and efficient revenue mobilization measures is therefore a signature in gauging the performance of the Government. In turn, it is an obligation for every citizen to pay their share of taxes.

**5.** Although taxes are legal and obligatory, and as the tax bracket is expanded, there are those to be persuaded to meet their tax obligations. KRA should consequently continue to inspire confidence in taxpayers to embrace





voluntary tax compliance. This can be achieved if KRA embraces professionalism, enhances efficiency, fairness, and transparency, and ensures accountability. It is for this reason that the Government has introduced radical measures to transform our tax administration to achieve the full potential in revenue mobilization. We must all understand that revenue mobilization is the only way the country can meet our national and international obligations.

**6.** One of the stringent measures KRA must implement is the professionalism of tax officers. Training of tax administration officers is such an endeavor through which integrity in tax mobilization can be enforced. But this is not unique to KRA. Global tax institutions insist on the urgency of capacity building of tax administration officers in modern tax systems and strategies. Capacity building should therefore be seen in the prism of developing an effective contemporary tax system to fund development and create economic resilience.

**7.** The officers graduating today have received tax education and paramilitary training to instill discipline in them. Through technical skills in VAT, Excise tax, and tax business systems; combined with the ethos of patriotism, integrity, and national values instilled in them, we are optimistic that these officers' commitment to duty will enable the Government to raise resources to implement the Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BeTA).





**8.** As tax officers, you will be expected to enforce tax compliance. But even as you engage in revenue collection and sealing leakages, you must also be respectful of the taxpayers. Understand them and give them room to make good. This is especially important in your relationship with our informal sector. Understand the flow of their revenue streams and help them organize themselves to operate within the law. They are your valued patrons, not criminals. Remember the lessons you learned, among them, that effective revenue mobilization is about facilitating income-generating businesses. Help businesses comply with their tax obligations through simplification of processes and providing a steady and predictable business environment. A business-friendly approach is what you are obligated to do.

**9.** Indeed, you are joining a KRA that has maintained an upward trajectory in revenue collection, after adopting business-friendly approaches. It recorded a 6.7% growth in the Financial Year 2022/2023 after collecting Ksh2.166 Trillion compared to Ksh2.031 Trillion in the 2021/2022 financial year. This is commendable and your entry should make tax collection laudable in the financial year 2023/2024.

**10.** Your assignment is therefore clearly spelled out. When you leave this place, you will be deployed countrywide to mobilize revenue, enhance compliance, and recruit more Kenyans into the tax bracket. However, constantly remember your responsibility is to perform your duties lawfully in a manner that promotes good KTA-taxpayer business relations. While engaging taxpayers, carry yourselves with





the utmost integrity; there should be no room for collusion, facilitating tax evasion, or engaging in corruption.

**11.** Finally, I want to commend KRA for its role in supporting the country's development agenda. I encourage you to continue working hard to improve tax collection to make this country financially sovereign.

**12.** May I also applaud the KDF for partnering with various Ministries, Departments, and Agencies to provide training programs intended to equip public servants with the requisite knowledge, skills, and values that enhance their competency. I also congratulate the Commandant, for the splendid job of preparing a new generation of Revenue Assistant Officers. Your mission ***'to contribute to education and training, research, leadership development and practice in national security and strategy for the transformation of Kenya'***, has been fully sanctioned.

**Congratulations!**

**And God Bless You.**

**H.E. DR. MUSALIA MUDAVADI, EGH**

**PRIME CABINET SECRETARY  
THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA**

