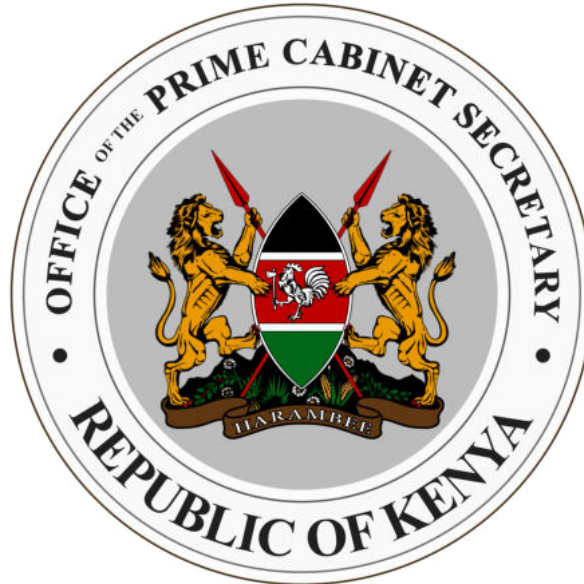




EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF
THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF THE PRIME CABINET SECRETARY

SPEECH BY H.E. HON. DR MUSALIA MUDAVADI, E.G.H., THE PRIME CABINET SECRETARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA DURING THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE 2023 A.S.K. KISUMU REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL SHOW



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KENYA DURING THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE 2023
A.S.K. KISUMU REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL SHOW**

MAMBOLEO SHOWGROUND, KISUMU COUNTY, KENYA

FRIDAY JULY 28, 2023.





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The Governor, Prof. Peter Anyang' Nyong'o;

**The CS Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock
Development, Hon. Mithika Linturi;**

Senator, Kisumu Senator Hon. Prof. Tom Ojienda, SC;

Principal Secretaries;

ASK National Chairperson, Ms. Annabel Kiriinya;

Kisumu Regional ASK Show Chairperson,

Members of Parliament;

Members of County Assembly;

The ASK CEO, Mr. Batram Muthoka;

All Exhibitors;

Invited Guests;

All Show Attendees;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

1. I feel honoured to officiate at this year's Kisumu Regional Agricultural Show; an event that provides Kenyans with invaluable opportunities to showcase, experience, learn and market technologies, innovations and products related to the agricultural sector. But we must not forget that the show also provides students with the necessary timeout





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for practical learning outside the confines of the classroom.

2. Particularly inspiring is the theme of this show; **“Promoting Climate Smart Agriculture and Trade Initiatives for Sustainable Economic Growth”**. The theme alignment with the national commitment on economic development in a sustainable environment is spot-on. My gratitude, therefore, is to all those who have packaged this show to respond to the country’s urgent agricultural and Climate Change needs.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

3. Agriculture remains the backbone of Kenya's economy and livelihoods. Even as Climate Change wreaks havoc on productivity, agriculture still contributes about 33% (or Ksh5 trillion) of Kenya's Ksh15 trillion Gross Domestic Product (GDP); it employs more than 40% of the total population, and 70% of the rural population. We know, therefore, that improvement in the agriculture sector has the potential to create jobs, improve incomes, enhance foreign exchange earnings, promote industrialization, and lower the cost of living.





4. It is for these strategic reasons that the Government has placed innovation in agriculture as the top pillar of the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BeTA). BeTA has prioritized rice, edible oils, cotton, coffee, maize, tea, leather and dairy value chains with the aim of food security, increasing exports, reducing imports and creating employment. Indeed, studies show that we can reduce the number of poor people by 1% for every 2% increase in crop productivity; and that agricultural development has 11 times more potential to reduce poverty than any other sector of our economy. Our commitment is to purposefully put money in the farmers' pockets through increased production and agro-processing value addition. We have to **transform from subsistence agriculture to a commercially and globally competitive industry.**

Ladies and Gentlemen;

5. To achieve these immense potentials in agriculture, we have to combat reducing soil fertility, deteriorating climatic conditions due to global warming and reducing farm sizes. We must determine the application of





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appropriate fertilizers. Already, the Fertilizer Subsidy Programme has borne fruits of expected bumper harvests that will lower the cost of food. In the first round, we reduced KSh6,500 prices to KSh3,500 for the 50kg bag of fertiliser. Consequently, we expect **41.2 million 90kg bags of maize**, a **31% increase** from a long-term annual average of **31.3 million bags**. In the coming short rains planting season, this will go down to Ksh2,500 a bag. For the long-term stabilisation of fertiliser prices, the government is encouraging investment in manufacturing and blending in Kenya, instead of importation dependence.

6. On Climate Change, we are determined that the 15-Billion National Tree Cover Campaign will increase over forest cover to 30% in 10 years. We are also embracing climate smart technologies in irrigation to build a resilient agriculture sector. The Government will construct 100 mega dams and a further 1,000 uptake dams in parts of the country so as to increase irrigated land to 500,000 acres by the year 2026. Through this initiative, we intend to achieve food self-sufficiency, save **Ksh87.5 billion** on food imports and create 3 million new jobs. This speaks to the Western Region as a whole in





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increasing production of rice, sugarcane, maize, beans, sweet potatoes, poultry and fresh vegetables.

7. In the Livestock sub-sector, our herd of 5.1 Million dairy cattle produces 4.1 Billion litres of milk valued at Ksh181.6 Billion; 16.5 million beef cattle produce 244,217 MT of beef worth Ksh104 billion; and an estimated 36 million goats and 25.3 million sheep annually produce 80,739 MT of chevon worth Ksh36.6 billion and 79,679 MT of mutton worth Ksh 33.6 billion, respectively. However, we must increase production in the livestock sub-sector to achieve local market saturation and competitive exports. The Government, therefore, intends to set up a Ksh400 Million plant to provide semen to dairy farmers at Ksh1,500 down from the current market price of Ksh7,000.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

8. Over-relying on food imports not only strains our foreign exchange reserves but also predisposes our country to food insecurity and impoverishing our farmers. We therefore have no option but to urgently become





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self-reliant by increasing agricultural production. Under the Whole-of-Government initiative that obliges all governments to deliver as one, the National Government is currently collaborating with County Governments in implementing initiatives to increase production and productivity by supporting farmers with high-yielding seed varieties, increasing mechanization, control of pests and strengthening farmers' groups and cooperatives.

9. Kisumu County, for instance, should become a leading producer of edible oils. In addition to vegetable oil processing, the edible oil value chain feeds into the cosmetic, pharmaceutical and food processing industries. Kenya's annual consumption for edible oil is estimated to be more than 900,000MT with a mere 80,000MT being sourced locally. We import 95% of our vegetable oil, valued at Ksh100 billion. Yet this region has the agroecological conditions to produce these oils and pump some of these Ksh100 billion into the pockets of local people here. I am therefore proud to announce that the government has allocated Ksh134 million to the Edible Oil Crops Promotion Project this 2023/24 financial year. I encourage County Governments to dip into this fund to





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procure planting material and build the capacity of our farmers to produce edible oil crops.

10. Also of interest to this region is that Cotton production, which was our pride here, declined from a peak of 13,000 MT (70,000 bales) in 1986 to a meagre average of 2,000 MT (10,000 bales) in the last 2 years. The annual lint consumption by the textile mills is estimated at 8,000 MT (41,200 bales). Meanwhile, Kenya has the potential to produce up to 37,000 MT (200,000 bales) of lint annually from 385,000ha of land suitable for cotton growing. **The good news is this: The government will subsidize inputs; revamp extension services; establish industrial sheds for garment making; and resuscitate cotton ginneries.** The initiatives will increase cotton production to 107,000 bales by 2025 which will boost household incomes; increase manufacture of textiles and apparel products; achieve Ksh150 billion worth of exports and reduce imports by 50% in the next 5 years. **As a commitment towards achieving these goals, the government has allocated Ksh120 million this financial year to purchase cottonseeds and for farmers' capacity building.**

Ladies and Gentlemen;





11. Let me pronounce myself on the sugar industry debacle. The Sugar industry has been very important to the country, and more so the western region, in terms of income and employment. This industry is, however, bedevilled with existence of old mills, high indebtedness, managerial incompetence and cheap imports competition, among other issues. Last year, we produced only 802,846MT, against a national consumption of 1,000,000MT. The greatest concern at the moment, however, is the acute cane shortage leading to the closure of sugar mills. This has been inevitable given the demotivation of farmers who are owed millions in unpaid delivered cane and have stopped growing cane. These historical difficulties, together with the global shortage, have resulted in increased prices from an average of Ksh6,199 per 50kg bag last year to Ksh7,244 today. We must be honest that scarcity of the commodity is the cause of current high prices. We must also be honest that there are no easy solutions to longstanding issues aggravating the sugar industry. We have a national problem that requires leaders to engage for a lasting solution to the hinderances the industry faces. There are





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no easy options. If one option cannot work, we must bite the bullet and take the other.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

12. Allow me to end my remarks by highlighting some of the projects and programmes the Government is implementing to address specific agricultural needs in the County of Kisumu;
13. As indicated earlier, we have the Capacity Building Project for Enhancement of Rice Production in Irrigation Schemes (CaDPERP) whose objective is to increase rice production and to disseminate appropriate techniques in rice production. The project is being implemented in the rice-producing sub-counties of Muhoroni and Nyando;
14. The Empowering Novel Agri-Business-Led Employment for the Youth Programme (or ENABLE Youth). The project aims at skills acquisition for youth to become owners of profitable agribusinesses. This will be attained through the Youth Agribusiness Incubation Centres (YABICs);





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15. Kisumu is among 27 counties benefitting from the National Value Chain Support Programme (NVSP) whose objective is to enhance sustainable food and nutrition security, incomes, employment and wealth creation; and
16. The Crop Insurance Program whose objective is to manage risks and losses amongst smallholder farmers and increase their productivity.
17. I encourage the people of Kisumu to embrace these projects to realise their full benefits.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

18. May I reiterate that the Government is alive to the ageing farming population? I urge the youth to venture into agriculture because incomes from agriculture and related activities are expected to increase. With the increase in technologies in agriculture as exhibited in this show, young Kenyans should take advantage of these innovations to make farming a profitable career. Take time to learn the new methods and technologies and use the knowledge to invest in agriculture.





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19. I thank the Agricultural Society of Kenya, the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, the County Government of Kisumu, exhibitors and other stakeholders who contributed towards making this fabulous regional show a resounding success.

20. It is now my pleasure to declare the 2023 A.S.K. Kisumu Regional Show officially opened.

Thank you

And May God Bless You.

**H.E. HON. DR MUSALIA MUDAVADI, E.G.H.,
PRIME CABINET SECRETARY,
REPUBLIC OF KENYA.**

