



Republic of Kenya

**ADDRESS BY H.E. DR. MUSALIA MUDAVADI, EGH, PRIME
CABINET SECRETARY AND CABINET SECRETARY FOR
FOREIGN AND DIASPORA AFFAIRS AT THE MEETING TO
DISCUSS "THE EASE AND COST OF DOING BUSINESS AND,
FACILITATION OF A SMOOTH BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT FOR
THE PRIVATE SECTOR" AT RAILWAYS HEADQUARTERS**

DECEMBER 9, 2025

**Cabinet Secretaries,
Principal Secretaries,
Distinguished guests,
Esteemed colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen:**

1. Let me begin by welcoming all of you to this meeting which I have convened pursuant to the urgent directive of His Excellency the President. I am, therefore, deeply honoured to have this gathering of distinguished leaders from Government, the Private Sector and key Stakeholders. Today, we stand united in pursuit of a shared goal: creating an environment where business can flourish and investment in our homeland can thrive.
2. The renowned economist Milton Friedman once said:

"The business of government is to facilitate business."

- 3.** It is imperative that we take this wisdom to heart. Our Administration's transformation agenda demands that we, as public servants, become the catalysts that ignite the engine of economic growth. This engine is powered by the private sector.

- 4.** Today's deliberations are a call to action. We, as a government, know very well that the private sector is not just a partner but the backbone of our economy. From the farmer in Kilifi exporting mangoes to the entrepreneur in Thika processing leather goods, these are the people who fuel our

nation's prosperity. Our role is to clear and light up their path, not obstruct it.

- 5.** As we reflect on the ease and cost of doing business in Kenya, let us also be frank in identifying the bottlenecks. We know that excessive bureaucracy, outdated regulations and inefficient infrastructure have, at times, become barriers rather than bridges to success. Today, we must think of collectively charting a new course. This meeting is, therefore, an opportunity for those of you in the private sector to tell us "where the shoe pinches".

6. First, we must address the regulatory and bureaucratic frameworks that stifle innovation and investment. How can we create a regulatory environment that promotes and supports, rather than hinders, growth? Second, we must invest in infrastructure to reduce logistical costs and enhance competitiveness. Third, we must tackle corruption head-on, ensuring that transparency becomes the norm, not the exception.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

7. This meeting is a testament to our unwavering commitment to fostering a robust and productive public-private dialogue. History has shown us that meaningful progress can only be achieved when government and the private sector work hand in hand. As we face the winds of change in a dynamic global economy, we must seize this moment to shape a future that is in Kenya's national interest.

8. There is the often-quoted African proverb:

"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."

- 9.** This reminds us that sustained economic growth requires unity between the government and the private sector, adopting a shared vision for long-term prosperity.

- 10.** When we leave this room today, let us do so with a renewed sense of purpose. The success of our economy depends on our collective efforts. The government's role is to create an enabling environment, one where businesses can innovate, compete and scale. In return, we expect the private sector to rise to the challenge, creating jobs, driving innovation, and contributing to Kenya's economic prosperity.

11. The true measure of leadership, whether in government or the private sector, is not in words but in action. Let this meeting set the pace for our commitment to collaboration. Together, we can drive Kenya toward a future where the engine of our economy runs on the fuel of opportunity, enterprise and a supportive government.

Ladies and Gentlemen

12. As we deliberate on creating a more conducive business environment, we must focus on the untapped potential of our youth. Kenya's young population is brimming with energy, ideas and ambition.

They are not just the future; they are the present drivers of innovation and creativity. If we equip them with the right tools, resources and platforms, they will catalyze the transformation of our economy. Empowered, they can be key agents for development and peace. Let us ensure that our policies create an ecosystem where young entrepreneurs, innovators, and professionals can flourish because, if they are left on society's margins, all of us will be impoverished.

13. In closing, I leave you with the words of Theodore Roosevelt:

***"Do what you can, with what you have,
where you are."***

- 14.** This philosophy aligns with a “**whole of systems approach**,” which calls for harmonizing our efforts between government and the private sector as well as across **all** sectors, institutions and disciplines. Such an approach will enhance efficiency, eliminate silos, and maximize our impact.

- 15.** Ladies and Gentlemen, **together** we have the tools, the talent, and the persistence to achieve greatness.

Thank you, and I look forward to fruitful discussions.