



PRESS RELEASE
(For Immediate Release)

DESPATCH FROM CABINET

PRESIDENT William Samoei Ruto, Ph.D., CGH today chaired the inaugural Cabinet Meeting of our nation's Fifth Administration. **The Meeting was preceded by a historic first**, a State reception in honour of the Members of the previous Administration's Cabinet last week; and a State luncheon in their honour immediately after the day's meeting. The new tradition heralded by this gesture demonstrates the **vitality of Kenya's democracy** and the maturity of its political landscape.

IN HIS opening remarks **His Excellency the President** called on all Cabinet Secretaries to honour the profound privilege to serve in our nation's apex policy making organ – Cabinet with **dutiful service to the Sovereign – the People of Kenya**. The Head of State and Government highlighted to the Members of Cabinet that *"in our hands lies the Destiny of a Nation, the Hopes and Dreams of her People, and the power to positively impact the lives of generations of Kenyans."*

RECOGNIZING that shaping the destiny of a nation into a reality is not the burden of only one man or one woman, the President challenged all Members of Cabinet to serve the people of Kenya unceasingly and well aware that with the **high honour of being members of Cabinet comes high responsibility and accountability**.



THE HEAD OF STATE further called on all members of Cabinet to consciously **UPHOLD THE RULE OF LAW** and actively consider new ideas and issues as they emerge; whether through public participation/engagement, work with Parliamentarians, or advice from Constitutional Commissions, Independent Offices and or any other organ of State.

THE DAY'S agenda kicked-off with an appraisal of the ongoing State interventions to meet Kenya's **growing humanitarian needs** occasioned by the subsisting drought situation in the Horn of Africa. The Meeting noted that the drought response was fortified by the growing partnership between the National and County Governments; whose efforts are equally complimented by other stakeholders including UN Agencies, International Non-Governmental Organizations, the private sector, and local community institutions.

THE CABINET noted that part of the ongoing humanitarian support covered **Food Assistance, Health and Nutrition, provision of water supply points** through water trucking, support for the operation of boreholes, and de-silting of water reservoirs. Other areas of targeted response include support for the **Education Sector in areas affected by drought** so as to ensure continuity of teaching and learning through enhancement of the schools feeding programme. The Cabinet further noted that the drought response also supports the Livestock Sector, Peace and Security, Agriculture, Wildlife and Forestry.

AS PART of the long-term strategy towards securing **enduring drought resilience**, Cabinet approved the initial phase of incentives that will catalyze recovery efforts by building drought resilience, food security and adoption to climate change resilience programmes through preparedness and recovery through proactive investment in high-impact large-scale water harvesting, storage and distribution. Cabinet applauded the **unity of purpose demonstrated by the County Governments and other**



stakeholders such as the Kenya Red Cross Society, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and Community Based Organizations (CBOs) in supporting Government efforts that cushion households that have been severely affected by the ongoing drought.

TO ADDRESS rise in the cost of living, Cabinet approved a framework to position the **Kenya National Trading Corporation (KNTC)** as the anchor of **State initiatives** to create a price stabilizer for essential household food items. As such, KNTC, as a trading company, will supplement other State initiatives by creating **Strategic Reserves for staple and essential food items, vital farm inputs including fertilizer** and any other goods necessary for ensuring stability in the prices of core goods consumed by Kenyans. It was noted that KNTC will leverage on its infrastructure and capacity to help stabilize prices of all essential items in instances where price swings of essential items are abnormal and against the public interest.

TO REALIZE this mandate, **KNTC** will continue to partner with the National Cereals and Produce Board (**NCPB**) and local and regional financial intermediaries specializing in trade and commodity financing.

AS PART of human capital development, Cabinet was apprised on the **state of preparedness for the national examinations** scheduled to commence later this month. The 2022 national examinations **will feature a record 3,500,000 pupils** sitting the **Kenya Primary School Assessment (CBC Class 6)** scheduled to start on the 28th of November through to 30th November, the **Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE)** to be administered from 28th November through to 30th November, and the **Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE)** where candidates will sit for the examinations from 21st November through to 23rd December.



THE NATION'S apex policy organ also received an update on the progress being made by the **Presidential Working Party on Education Reforms**. The Meeting noted that the Presidential Working Party had thus far conducted public hearings in a total of thirty-seven (37) counties. In that regard, the team would conclude the county hearings and thereafter receive oral submissions from stakeholders including Teachers Unions, Associations, Parliament, and others by **24th November, 2022**.

CABINET noted that on receipt of the first interim report of the Presidential Working Party, which will cover the curriculum assessment and quality assurance, **HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT** will offer guidance to the nation on the **vesting of the Junior Secondary (*being Grade 7-8*)** on the strength of the recommendations of the Presidential Working Party.

CABINET was also apprised on the progress that has been made in securing the legal and regulatory compliance as a pre-requisite for the launch and roll-out of the **Administration's signature programme** that seeks to enhance access to capital, styled as the **'Hustlers Fund'**. The Meeting noted that the Hustlers Fund, set to be launched on the **1st of December, 2022**, will mainly target informal and unstructured business enterprises which are currently unattractive to mainstream financial institutions.

THE GROUND BREAKING financial products to be progressively launched under the Fund will include **Personal Loans, Micro Loans, SME Loans, and Start Up loans**. These products will be powered through mobile technology, and will be accessible to Kenyans across the country. The Fund is part of the **Administration's transformative Economic Plan** to spur productivity in the informal sector and revolutionize access to credit by deepening financial inclusion.

IN AN EFFORT to position the **Blue Economy, Fisheries, and Aquaculture** as key growth areas for shared prosperity across the country,



Cabinet approved the establishment of the **Kabonyo Fisheries and Aquaculture Service and Training Centre of Excellence in Kisumu County**. The over **Ksh. 1 Billion Centre** will facilitate training, research, innovation, and best practices in Fisheries and Aquaculture through demonstrations and incubations.

THE SEMINAL project will include development of a Nile Perch Technology and Innovation Centre, an Aquaculture Resource Centre, and the Kenya Fishing School. It will also involve adoption, domestication, and selective **breeding of Nile Perch, Common Carp, Milk Fish, Tilapia, and Catfish** to increase the numbers available to small and large-scale fish farmers.

THE CENTRE will offer **complimentary sources of production of raw materials for animal feeds and fertilizer**; thereby reducing the current inordinate pressure on Lake Victoria and thus allowing for the rejuvenation of the Lake's fish production. This in turn will lead to improved food and nutrition security, poverty alleviation, and employment creation for the host communities.

TO SUPPORT the **ongoing construction of roads to bitumen standards** being presently undertaken by the Kenya National Highways Authority – KeNHA, the Kenya Urban Roads Authority – KuRA, and the Kenya Rural Roads Authority – KeRRA; as well as to **address the outstanding pending bills owed to contractors in the road sector**, Cabinet considered the Road Infrastructure Financing Plan for FY 2022/23 to FY 2025/26.

TO SECURE the completion of all ongoing road projects across the country, Cabinet approved the proposed amendments to the Petroleum Development Act. The amendments provide a framework for the allocation



of the **Petroleum Development Levy to road infrastructure development.** In the intervening period, the Meeting approved a framework to settle all outstanding obligations owed to road contractors in the amount of **Ksh. 92 Billion through a bridge bond.**

IN HONOUR of our nation's international obligations, and in furtherance of our national quest to remain a global leader in wildlife conservation and environmental protection, Cabinet approved Kenya's position on the **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).** The Convention is a consequential multilateral agreement that Kenya is a signatory to. In that regard, Cabinet affirmed Kenya's position on the strict regulation of international trade in all species of Elephants, Rhinoceroses, and all other endangered terrestrial and marine species.

CABINET OFFICE
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Thursday, 10th November, 2022