



## PRESS RELEASE

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### DESPATCH FROM CABINET

**HIS EXCELLENCY President William Ruto, C.G.H.**, has today chaired the inaugural meeting of his reconstituted Cabinet. The meeting was preceded by a Cabinet induction programme designed to establish the framework for each portfolio's execution of **a reimagined and catalyzed agenda** as part of the Administration's over-arching plan espoused as the **Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA)**.

**CABINET CONSIDERED** a range of policy proposals aimed at supporting the **rollout of various State programmes** and pioneering initiatives. Additionally, the meeting received an appraisal of the progress being made in the implementation of the administration's key programmes as part of the periodic continuous reporting obligations.

**AS PART** of the **Administration's commitment** to **advancing accountability and transparency** in the management of public affairs as a **strategy to combat corruption**, Cabinet assessed the progress made under a series of initiatives aimed at **strengthening governance and ensuring the prudent use of public resources**. These measures, as proclaimed by His Excellency the President during the swearing-in ceremony of the reconstituted Cabinet include:

- I.** Implementation of **surcharges against any accounting officer or public official whose actions or omissions lead to loss of public resources**, in accordance with Articles 226(5), 201(d), and 232(b) of the Constitution;
- II.** Implementation of a **Unified Personnel Identification system** to eradicate *'ghost worker'* payroll fraud across all levels of Government, including constitutional commissions;



- III. Establishment of a legal and institutional framework **for mandatory and continuous vetting of all public officers**, centralizing wealth declarations under a single office across the Government;
- IV. Timeously investigation and prosecution of corruption and economic crimes, amending relevant statutes such as the **Evidence Act and the Criminal Procedure Code** to ensure that **corruption cases are concluded within six months**;
- V. Review of the and amendments to the **Witness Protection Act** to provide **appropriate incentives and safeguards for whistleblowers**;
- VI. Transition to a **zero-based budgeting system** starting from FY 2025/26;
- VII. Review of the **VAT refund process to enhance** openness, transparency, and accountability.

**TO INSTITUTIONALIZE** the governance reforms annotated above, Cabinet sanctioned the **conclusion of the ongoing stakeholder consultations**, ensuring that **public participation remains at the heart of the process**. The outcome of this consultative process will be considered by Cabinet at the next meeting as the **Omnibus Bill on Governance**.

**TO ACCELRATE** the implementation of the **Universal Health Coverage (UHC)** pillar of the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), Cabinet ratified the transition from the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) to the **Social Health Authority (SHA)**, effective **1<sup>st</sup> October, 2024**.

**AS KENYA** transitions into the leagues of nations with universal health coverage, the scope of existing programmes such as **Edu Afya** will be **broadened to encompass all school-going children**, extending beyond its current focus on secondary school students. In tandem, the acclaimed



**Linda Mama Programme** will be expanded to not only cover prenatal care but also provide comprehensive postnatal care, ensuring a holistic approach to maternal and child health. This expansion seeks to **safeguard the well-being of both mother and child throughout the entire continuum of care**. In that regard, Cabinet urged all Kenyans to register under **the new scheme through \*147# or [www.sha.go.ke](http://www.sha.go.ke)**.

**THE NATION'S** top policy-making organ was also apprised of the progress made in advancing financial inclusion through the administration's flagship initiative, the **Financial Inclusion Fund**, commonly referred to as the "**Hustlers Fund**." Cabinet noted that, to date, the Fund has disbursed **Ksh. 57 billion** to Kenyans, with at least **2 million customers** now regular daily borrowers. Additionally, in keeping with the Administration's pledge to inculcate a culture of saving for posterity, the Fund has successfully mobilized **Ksh. 3.2 billion** in savings.

**IN COMMEMORATION** of the Fund's second anniversary, Cabinet directed the rollout of a **third product offering** specifically focused on the **Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) sector**. This new product will initially target the **2 million beneficiaries** who have demonstrated a strong credit history with the Fund. This groundbreaking initiative aims to create a pathway for banking the targeted beneficiaries, further **deepening financial inclusion within the SME sector**.

**IN FURTHERANCE** of the administration's commitment to **conserving the nation's heritage and natural splendour**, the meeting considered a raft of programmes and policies designed to accelerate **climate change adaptation** within **Kenya's terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems**.

**AS THE** onset of the short rains approaches (*October-December*), Cabinet was briefed on preparations for **seedling distribution** under the **National Landscape and Ecosystem Restoration Strategy 2023–2032**, which aims to plant **15 billion trees**. Cabinet acknowledged with appreciation the growing partnership between the public and private sectors in advancing the tree-planting campaign. In that regard, and in an effort to further deepen the partnership from the grassroots Cabinet directed The



Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, and Forestry to establish a more robust framework for **Community-Based Forest Associations** to further empower local communities in forest conservation efforts.

**IN LINE** with the nation's advancing global leadership on climate change and adaptation, Cabinet considered and approved the establishment of the **Kenya Watershed Services Improvement Program (KEWASIP)**. This seminal programme seeks to preserve the nation's rich heritage through the restoration of degraded landscapes, while enhancing watershed services and building climate resilience across the country.

**THIS PROGRAMME** aligns with Kenya's commitments to global environmental goals, including the **Bonn Challenge**, which calls for the restoration of 350 million hectares of degraded and deforested landscapes by 2030, and the **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)**, which requires each member state to formulate **Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN)** targets aimed at addressing the main causes of land degradation.

**IN AFFIRMATION** of Kenya's rich **biodiversity as one of the nation's most strategic assets and natural wealth**, positioning us as a conservation and tourism destination second to none, Cabinet was briefed on the **progress of the ongoing 2024-2025 national wildlife census**.

**THIS CENSUS** marks Kenya's second such effort and demonstrates our leadership in implementing **bold actions to conserve and promote our ecological wealth**. In addition, the state's interventions respond effectively to **threats facing botanical and zoological life and their habitats**, updating the annotated inventory of our wildlife resources, thereby acknowledging their significance as crucial national assets.

**AS A** testament to our commitment to enhancing the nation's **Meetings, Conventions, and Exhibits (MICE) tourism**, Cabinet approved the hosting of **The Third African Forum on Cybercrime in November 2024**. Further, Cabinet approved the calendar of activities to



mark the United Nations World Tourism Day/Week in September 2024. The week-long event, running from 22<sup>nd</sup> September to 29<sup>th</sup>, will **include free entry to all parks on 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2024.**

**IN CONCLUDING** the day's session, Cabinet expressed satisfaction with the **enhanced surveillance protocols at all national entry points**, designed to **curb the spread of MPOX disease across the country**. These measures build on the national experience from the COVID-19 pandemic and underscore the **commitment to strengthening public health safety through vigilant monitoring and control of potential outbreaks.**

**CABINET OFFICE**  
**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**  
Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2024