



PRESS RELEASE
(For Immediate Release)

DESPATCH FROM CABINET

HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT has today chaired a meeting of Cabinet at State House, Nairobi. The meeting was preceded by a series of Cabinet Committee meetings under the stewardship of His Excellency the Deputy President.

CABINET CONSIDERED various policies, reform proposals, and Bills geared towards the implementation of the Administration's socio-economic blueprint, the **Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA)**. The meeting also assessed the progress being made in the implementation of seminal projects and programmes that further BETA, and are helping deliver tangible improvements to the **day-to-day lives of all Kenyans**.

TO CATALYZE the contribution of the **co-operative movement** to our national development, Cabinet considered and approved the **Co-operatives Bill, 2023**. The legislative proposal is anchored on the National Co-operative Policy (Sessional Paper No. 4 of 2020) titled *"Promoting Cooperatives for Socio-Economic Transformation"*.

THE PROPOSED law is expected to strengthen the governance framework for Co-operatives by **re-introducing the role of the Commissioner of Co-operatives** and also expanding the protection of co-operative members' funds through enhanced supervision and regulation.

THE STRENGTHENING of the institutional framework that oversights co-operatives is a shot in the arm for smallholder agriculture that is the mainstay of millions of Kenyan households. The new framework will facilitate **aggregation of agricultural produce** for both our staple cash crops and emerging and fast-growing ventures in fisheries & aqua-culture, cereals,



horticulture, poultry, bee keeping, avocados, macadamia nuts and cashew nuts, among others. Additionally, the **complex barriers within the Coffee sub-sector** will be eliminated, allowing farmers to more effectively **participate in the coffee value chain and enjoy greater returns.**

IN FURTHERANCE of the Administration's agenda to position mining and the extractives sector as a springboard for industrialization, job creation, and exports development, Cabinet considered and approved a **raft of reforms on the administration of the mining sector.** The interventions were preceded by the Nationwide Airborne Geophysical Survey.

TO GIVE dignity to the work of every citizen, Cabinet **vacated the prohibition on mining using traditional and customary means** known as Artisanal Mining. To enhance accountability and formalization of the work of an **estimated 800,000 artisanal miners in Kenya**, Cabinet approved the proposal that the miners be encouraged to form co-operatives or groups; which will in turn receive group permits.

AS A pathway to unlocking the potential of the nation's mining sector, Cabinet authorized the **partial lifting of the moratorium on issuance of new mining rights** effected by Cabinet in the year 2019. To protect Kenya's national interest, the intervention comes in tandem with a **more transparent and competitive licensing system.**

IN ADDRESSING the governance challenges posed by the nationalization of **Telkom Kenya Limited** in the run-up to last year's General Election, **Cabinet rescinded the decision that the Government of Kenya** shall purchase from Jamhuri/Helios sixty per cent (60%) of the ordinary shares of Telkom Kenya.

BY DINT of this decision by Cabinet, Jamhuri/Helios will refund to the Government of Kenya the amount paid as consideration for the takeover. The decision by Cabinet offers Telkom Kenya an opportunity to source and onboard another strategic investor, subject to the receipt of all regulatory approvals. Cabinet's intervention will **enhance the operational capacity of Telkom Kenya and make it a competitive player** in the telecommunications market.



IN AFFIRMATION of the **solemn duty of the State** to protect the family as the fundamental unit of the society and the necessary basis of social order, Cabinet considered and approved the **National Policy on Family Promotion and Protection**.

THE NATIONAL Policy on Family Promotion and Protection seeks to **promote inter-generational transfer of societal knowledge, norms, and taboos**. As part of the Administration's plans for transforming Kenya into an economic powerhouse, the Policy also seeks to empower families to participate in the socio-economic development of the country by **addressing loss of values, dissipating sense of civic duty, skewed work-life priorities, and the breakdown of our families** and communities.

IN HONOURING our heritage and splendour, as well as in celebration of our diverse ethnic and cultural diversity, Cabinet considered and approved **the Culture Bill, 2023**. The Bill seeks to protect, preserve, and promote the unique identity of the people of Kenya; and to use **our culture as a spur for our well-being and development**.

TO PROMOTE all forms of national and cultural expressions while recognizing the **roles of both science and indigenous knowledge in national development**, Cabinet considered and approved Kenya's accession to the **UNESCO Convention for the Protection of Cultural Properties in the Event of Armed Conflict**. The Convention highlights the concept of common heritage and underscores the significance of cultural property in peace-building and sustainable development.

IN ADDRESSING the **growing vice of irresponsible gambling and betting** (*gambling culture*), and the socio-economic challenges that result from the menace, the nation's top policy organ considered and approved the **Gambling Policy, 2023; the Gambling Control Bill, 2023; and the National Lottery Bill, 2023**.

ON APPROVAL by Parliament, the legislative proposals will repeal the existing legal and institutional framework on **gambling and betting**



enacted in the year 1966, and which has failed to properly govern the modern gambling and betting phenomenon in Kenya.

THE NEW paradigm is designed to address the negative effects of gambling and betting by building a national culture and psyche of "*responsible betting and gambling*" whilst also establishing a more active and responsive governance framework to curb money laundering.

ON THE State of the Economy, Cabinet considered the progress being made in the implementation of the FY2023/24 Budget. Arising therefrom, and as part of the **Administration's fiscal consolidation plan** that seeks to contain fiscal deficit, Cabinet sanctioned the **reduction of the recurrent budget of each Ministry and State Department by ten percent (10%)**. The proposed budgetary cuts will be effected as part of the Supplementary Appropriations No. I of the FY2023/24 Budget cycle.

CABINET WAS also apprised on the progress being made in the implementation of various programmes in the water sector, which are being implemented in keeping with the Administration's plans for universal water coverage, enhanced water security, and building resilience towards Climate Change; all of which are critical planks of the **Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA)**. Towards that end, Cabinet considered and approved additional financing for the **Lower-Nzoia Irrigation Project** and the **Mwache Dam Water Supply Project** under the Kenya Water Security and Climate Resilience Project.

THE MEETING took stock of the state of preparedness for the ***El Nino*** rains expected to take place between October and December of this year. The El Nino rains are expected to be characterized by elevated precipitation across the country. In that regard, the **Government will continue to timeously issue statements forewarning of any expected incidences**, including flooding in the lowlands and riverine zones. Cabinet urged all Kenyans to **seize the opportunity and to join the ongoing Government efforts on tree growing by planting trees** within their compounds and their communities.



THE NATION'S apex policy organ also assessed the progress being made in the implementation of the **National Shared Security Strategy for Enduring Peace and Security within the North Rift Region**. The meeting noted that as part of the medium-term strategy for peace in the area, various interventions are **continuing apace as sanctioned by the National Security Council**. These include opening-up of security roads across the concerned counties, enhancing Government presence in under-represented areas, rehabilitation of dilapidated primary and secondary schools, drilling and equipping of boreholes and construction of water pans, and construction and rehabilitation of health facilities. Cabinet further directed that coverage of **the programme be extended to include Igembe North Constituency of Meru County and within Boni Region**.

IN KEEPING with the Administration's pledge to lead **an open and accountable Government**, Cabinet noted that sensitizations on corruption and accountability have been undertaken under the stewardship of the Head of the Public Service across all the ranks of Government. As part of this initiative, all the Ministries, State Departments, and State Agencies have committed to a "*Zero Fault Audit*". In that regard, with **effect from FY 2023/2024, no MDA is expected to have any audit queries**.

CABINET DIRECTED all Cabinet Secretaries to take charge of all institutions under their ministerial portfolio to secure strict fidelity to public finance management laws, **so as to safeguard public resources and ensure that corruption is eliminated**. Cabinet noted that achieving this goal will allow the people of Kenya to realize the promise of a healthier, more secure, and more equitable and prosperous nation as envisioned in the **Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA)**.

CABINET OFFICE
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Tuesday, 3rd October, 2023