



PRESS RELEASE
(For Immediate Release)

DESPATCH FROM CABINET

CABINET CONVENED this morning for the inaugural meeting of the Year 2023. The Meeting was preceded by the Administration's maiden Annual Retreat for Cabinet, Presidential Advisors, Principal Secretaries, and the senior ranks of the Executive.

TODAY'S MEETING was a historic first as our nation's apex policy making organ ushered **a new dawn in the management of public affairs by transitioning to a paperless system (*e-Cabinet*)**. The new order honours the Administration's pledge to lead the nation through a technological disruption as part of the **Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA)**.

CABINET CONSIDERED various policy proposals and programmes; including on the **State of the Economy, Education, Healthcare, assessment of the Drought Situation, Status of the Ongoing Land Reforms, Technology and the Creative Economy** as well as the productive sector's key drivers being **Agriculture, Mining, Trade, and Investments**.

AS PART OF ENHANCING opportunities for all Kenya's to participate in economic development, Cabinet considered and approved the implementation of the **Kenya Digital Superhighway Project**. The revolutionary project seeks to strengthen our nation's ICT backbone by increasing the fibre network coverage across the Country, reducing the cost of internet connectivity, and enhancing the **delivery of e-Government services**.



THE SEMINAL PROJECT will feature the laying of over **100,000 Kilometers of fibre optic cable** across Kenya, the creation of **25,000 public Wi-Fi hotspots** and the establishment of **Digital Village Smart Hubs and Studios in each of the nation's 1,450 wards.**

AS PART OF THE NEW PARADIGM in delivery of public services Cabinet similarly considered the progress made in automation of Government Services. As part of the programme the Administration seeks to **automate the provision of over 5,000 Government Services within six months.** Towards that end, the day's meeting noted that over the last month **over 1,200 services have already been on boarded on e-Citizen.**

THE AUTOMATION of Government services is being steered under thematic approach covering; Business Process Automation, digitization of manual records, enhanced data sharing across agencies, the use of single Unique Identifier for access to digital services. Part of these innovations are being rolled out under the **Kenya Digital Economy Acceleration Programme (KDEAP)** and supported under the **World Bank's Digital Economy Moonshot Project.**

TO SHOW CASE the progress our nation is making in embracing technology, and as part of global peer review and exchanging of learning experiences, Cabinet approved the hosting of the **International Association of Science Parks (IASP) World Conference 2024 in Kenya.**

IN RECOGNITION of the place of land as a factor of production and the sacred duty of the State to guarantee the sanctity of land administration, Cabinet was apprised on the progress made to fully digitize land records within Nairobi City County. This pilot phase of the countrywide digitization project is part of the **National Land Information Management System commonly known as 'Ardhisasa'.** To facilitate business continuity, and in response to feedback from stakeholders, Cabinet sanctioned the fast-tracked roll out of *Ardhisasa* system.



CABINET ALSO ASSESSED the drought situation in the country, its impacts, and the ongoing interventions to mitigate the growing effects of the drought. In light of the subsisting drought situation, **Cabinet called for continued collaboration between the two levels of Government, and with development partners and the private sector;** in an effort to scale-up of drought responses aimed at alleviating the suffering of all households affected. The interventions will **continue targeting vulnerable individuals and households, with the primary objective of saving lives and preserving livelihoods.**

AS PART OF THE ENDEVOUR to transition the country towards Universal Health Coverage, Cabinet approved the consolidation of the existing State-sponsored health insurance schemes into a single pool with a harmonized benefits package and provider-payment mechanism/rates. The consolidated programme will feature a **Health Insurance Subsidy Program (HISP) for orphans and vulnerable children, older persons, and persons with severe disabilities.**

ON THE STATE OF THE ECONOMY, Cabinet approved the **FY 2022/23 Supplementary Estimates No. 1** that rationalizes the FY 2022/23 National Budget with the Administration's priorities. The Supplementary Budget gives effect to the Presidential Directive to realize savings of Ksh. 300 Billion in the FY2022/23 Budget as a measure of containing the fiscal deficit.

CABINET NOTED that the proposed fiscal consolidation will be key to rationalizing our national debt and making it more sustainable. To that end, Cabinet also considered the 2023 Budget Policy Statement as well as the Medium Term Debt Management Strategy. **The 2023 Budget anchors the economic recovery agenda of the Government through a growth friendly fiscal consolidation plan** designed to slow down the annual growth in public debt and implement an effective liability management strategy.

TURNING TO AGRICULTURE Administration's plan to position agro-processing and value addition as a driver of enhanced earnings for our



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nation's farmers, Cabinet noted that as part of Kenya's export promotion strategy the Ministry of Agriculture will in the coming week flag off the **first ever full shipload of value added tea** destined for Australia.

THE NATION'S APEX POLICY organ also considered proposals that seek to achieve the **twin goals of unlocking the mining sector's potential and also promoting in-country mineral processing**. To that end, Cabinet sanctioned the development of a responsive regulatory framework, with **mineral processing and value addition** as its key planks as part of the **Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA)**.

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Tuesday, 31st January, 2023