



**OFFICE OF THE
DEPUTY PRESIDENT**

**SPEECH OF H.E. RIGATHI GACHAGUA, EGH, DURING THE
DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP FORUM AT THE OFFICIAL
RESIDENCE IN KAREN, NAIROBI, ON NOVEMBER 22,
2023**

The Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, Hon. Musalia Mudavadi;

Cabinet Secretaries;

Principal Secretaries;

Co-Chairs of the Development Partnership Forum, Amb. Marteen Brouwer, Ambassador of the Kingdom of The Netherlands and UN Resident Coordinator, Stephen Jackson;

**Excellencies High Commissioners and Ambassadors;
Representatives of our Development Partners &
Agencies;
Colleagues in Government;
Distinguished Guests;
Ladies and Gentlemen;**

1. It is my distinguished honor to host and welcome you on behalf of the Government of Kenya to this Development Partnership Forum (DPF), the first under the Kenya Kwanza Administration.

There is a saying that “If you want to walk fast, walk alone, but if you want to walk far, walk together”. Ladies and Gentlemen, we are here today, because we want to walk together.

2. Ladies and Gentlemen, The Kenya Government, subscribes to the principles of effective development co-operation of: Ownership of development priorities by developing countries; Focus on results; Inclusive development partnerships; transparency and accountability under the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation.

3. In this regard, the DPF forms a critical cog of Kenya's development framework as it allows us to come together to exchange views on the progress, challenges, and future prospects of Kenya's development priorities.

This forum reflects our collective commitment to advancing our nation's development agenda and fostering effective collaboration between the Government and our partners.

4. Ladies and Gentlemen, today's DPF, comes at a time when the global economy is still grappling with the negative impacts of the Covid 19 pandemic. At the domestic level, the combined effect of the pandemic and climate change, has reversed the gains we had made in reducing poverty and inequality.

5. Ladies and Gentlemen, the Kenya Kwanza Government took office in the backdrop of a very challenging operating environment.

Nevertheless, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to assure you that the Government has a comprehensive Plan that aims to turn the economic fortunes of every Kenyan as espoused in the Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda.

6. In this regard Ladies and Gentlemen, one of the objectives of the forum today, is to provide a platform where we can share with you the development priorities of the Kenya Kwanza Administration and invite you to align your funding priorities accordingly.

7. Ladies and Gentlemen, we are aware that our development cooperation is not without challenges.

Some of these include the low absorption of committed funds, lengthy bureaucratic procedures that slow down the implementation of programs and duplication of interventions.

8. You are also aware, previous efforts in strengthening coordination and harmonization stalled due to limited participation of the principal actors.

Towards this end, I would like to assure you that the Kenya Kwanza Administration is committed to addressing all challenges that have hitherto undermined effective coordination in a gradual and systemic manner. And this DPF marks the beginning of this process.

9. I would like to assure you the commitment of this administration to strengthen our partnership and in this regard, has integrated coordination in the structure of government and anchored in my office, giving me the mandate to steer this process. You will agree with me, that the placement of this mandate, demonstrates the seriousness of our commitment.

- 10. In this forum, we will also be seeking the endorsement of the revamped coordination framework which has been jointly developed and which we hope will guide our cooperation going forward.**

- 11. Ladies and Gentlemen, the coordination framework we shall unveil today, takes a whole-government approach and provides a platform for engagement at all levels of Government.**

It also brings all players together through the various fora identified in the architecture.

- 12. The key foundation of this framework is the Joint Sector Working Groups which are co-chaired by Principal Secretaries and Development Partners. It is therefore imperative that all the designated Principal Secretaries as co-conveners of the working groups, provide the right impetus and participation as is required of them.**

13. On my part and that of His Excellency the President Dr. William Ruto, we commit to expedite resolving any issues that require our attention at the cabinet level.

You will notice in the coordination framework, that I have set up a secretariat in my office co-chaired by myself and the Prime Cabinet Secretary to provide policy and political level guidance to the process.

Excellencies, Ladies & Gentlemen

- 14. In conclusion, this forum marks the beginning of a new trajectory that defines our common endeavors and aspirations as partners. It is my expectation that this forum will conclude with a good commitment and focus on results because what gets measured, gets done.**

- 15. Ladies and Gentlemen, I invite you to network through the informal session that follows immediately after these formal deliberations.**

- 16. I once again on their behalf and that of the Government, most sincerely thank you for being friends indeed. I wish you honest and fruitful deliberations in today's forum.**

17. I now wish to give the floor to the DPF Co-Chair, Ambassador Marteen Brouwer, to make his statements.

ASANTENI SANA