



OFFICE OF THE
DEPUTY PRESIDENT

**SPEECH OF H.E RIGATHI GACHAGUA, EGH, THE DEPUTY
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA, DURING THE
NAIROBI INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR ON FRIDAY,
SEPTEMBER, 29, 2023 AT ASK JAMHURI SHOWGROUND,
NAIROBI**

The Cabinet Secretary, Agriculture, Mithika Linturi;
Principal Secretaries;
The Governor, Nairobi County, Johnson Sakaja;
The Senator, Nairobi County, Edwin Sifuna;
Members of Parliament;
The ASK National Chairperson, Annabelle Kiriinya;
The ASK CEO, Batram Muthoka;

The Nairobi International Trade Fair Chairperson, Joseph Mugo;
Students and Managers of Learning Institutions;
Distinguished Guests;

The “Day of Learning and Institutions” is an important occasion of speaking to students as we recognise them for the display of their work at the 2023 Nairobi International Trade Fair.

Indeed, we are recognising their role in “Promoting Climate Smart Agriculture and Trade Initiatives for Sustainable Economic Growth”, the theme of the 2023 Trade Fair.

Agriculture and Education are related sectors, which depend on each other.

That is why the Ministry of Agriculture is mainstreaming youth-targeted programmes such as the Youth in Modern Agriculture Project (Y-MAP) and Enable Youth to encourage the youth in schools and tertiary institutions to direct their energy into this sector, especially innovation-led agribusiness.

We also introduced the Presidential Award Scheme into the rebranded and revitalised 4-K Clubs, which are now fully engaged in agricultural activities including exhibition at ASK shows.

Allow me to recognize the top performing 4K Clubs, which were identified through a very competitive judging process:

- 1. St. Lukes School for the Deaf - Embu County**
- 2. Mazeras Primary School - Kwale County and**
- 3. Amagoro Primary School - Trans Nzoia County**

Congratulations for the outstanding performance at the Show. You have shown that farming is not for the old; it is for all.

We are also celebrating the winners of the National Farmers Awards 2023. We appreciate partners like Elgon Kenya for supporting the National Farmers Awards under modernisation of farm practices.

We also thank the counties, which have adopted and turned the winning farms into models of excellency.

**Distinguished Guests and Students;
Nurturing the youth from school to tertiary institutions
is cultivating and securing our future in agriculture. And
here is why.**

**In the recent famine resulting from prolonged drought,
I coordinated the Government and other actors'
response to the emergency crisis in saving lives and
livelihoods.**

It was not the best time- having just assumed office. Begging for food was demeaning, degrading and dehumanising.

However, out of the crisis, we learnt the importance of investing in solution-centred innovations.

Innovation is no longer domiciled in research institutions; best innovations are sparked and spurred from curiosity in students of learning institutions.

This is one of the reasons the Ruto Administration has invested more than 628 Billion Kenya Shillings under the current budget.

This is to support radical and transformative reforms in the Education System, to churn out thinkers and solution providers to contemporary challenges of our time.

Distinguished Guests and Students;

Agriculture is one of the Pillars of the Kenya Kwanza Plan of transforming the socio-economic fortunes of our people. Agriculture also feeds directly to the Pillar of Manufacturing as we re-ignite the country's industrial potential.

For us to deliver on these two Pillars, research-led innovation is a crucial component that is to sustainably address endemic challenges in the Agriculture Sector.

As alluded to earlier, our country and indeed the Horn of Africa was thrown into a quagmire of prolonged drought and resulting famine by Climate Change.

While Africa is united in mitigating Climate Change, we must come up with orthodox methods of rolling back the impact of this phenomenon.

Distinguished Guests and Students;

In this situation we are in, we are called upon to infuse technology and innovation to not only solve issues, but also mitigate.

For instance, upgrading of technology of the existing early warning systems on disasters like the drought and El Nino cannot be gainsaid. Such innovations will inform mitigation and resilience strategies.

Even with the ongoing rains, they may not last. Learning and research institutions must work towards high yielding drought, disease and pest tolerant crop and animal breeds.

This will not only boost our food security, but also improve access to regional and international markets, which are very stringent on the maximum pesticide residue content in agro-produce. Organic farming will also support preventive healthcare as we embrace curative treatment.

We now need to destroy and discard the box, think freely and innovate articulate solutions especially in integrating Climate Smart Agriculture into our daily production.

Climate Smart Agriculture imbedded in recycling of resources will reduce the cost of production to the farmer and ultimately, the cost of living.

Distinguished Guests and Students;

On Tuesday this week, President William Ruto commissioned over 100,000 Community Health Promoters, most of them being young graduates from our tertiary institutions.

It is a deliberate move to complement counties in strengthening structures of preventive healthcare under the Universal Health Coverage.

This is the first time the country is rolling out such a countrywide initiative in which a Community Health Promoter serves about 100 households under the Afya Nyumbani Programme.

We are what we eat. Learning institutions cannot walk with us; they must go ahead and clear the way through innovation that responds to the unique grassroots challenges. Learning institutions are key to supporting full implementation of the programme through creative nutritive components.

Distinguished Guests and Students;

As a tradition, National Trade Fairs are held annually to showcase and share innovations from various actors in diverse sectors.

While they showcase what learning institutions are doing, we must work backwards to present technological advancements for possible incubation and scaling up.

The Government appreciates that successful innovation is accomplished through financial support. We have established a very vibrant Ministry of Cooperatives and Micro, Small and Macro Enterprises to provide financial support to farmers alongside young innovators through the Hustler Fund, and other products.

I wish to congratulate the Cabinet Secretary, Mr Simon Chelugui for establishing structures to support young innovators from bottom to the top. There is no excuse for a stalled innovation.

In conclusion, I commend the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, the Agricultural Society of Kenya, the Governor and County Government of Nairobi, learning institutions, students, other exhibitors and all other stakeholders who contributed towards making this show a success.

ASANTENI SANA