



OFFICE OF THE
DEPUTY PRESIDENT

**SPEECH BY H.E RIGATHI GACHAGUA, EGH, DEPUTY
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA DURING THE
17TH ANNUAL PLANNERS' CONVENTION AT DIANI REEF,
KWALE COUNTY, ON NOVEMBER 28, 2023**

The Principal Secretary, State Department for Lands and Physical Planning; Nixon Korir Generali;

The Host, Governor Fatuma Mohamed Ahani;

The Chairman, National Land Commission, Gershom Otachi;

The Food and Agriculture Organisation Representative to Kenya, Carla Mucavi;

Honorary Secretary, Mildred Ambani;

Honorary Registrar, Kelvin Ritho;

UN-Habitat Kenya Country Office Chief, Ishaku Maitumbi;

The Kenya Institute of Planners CEO Tim Okoth;

The President of the Governing Council of the Kenya Institute of Planners, Fawcett Komollo;

Distinguished Planning Professionals;

I am delighted to join you this morning for the 17th Annual Convention of the Kenya Institute of Planners.

Kenya is rapidly developing. This Convention, therefore, is an opportunity to canvass and align priorities of the Planners into the Kenya Kwanza Plan, as we work in "Making Kenya a Planning Society".

That is why the theme: *"Integrating the Blue, Green and Brown Agendas: Mainstreaming Planning in all Sectors for Attainment of National Socio -Economic Transformation"* is timely.

I note that the theme is centred on Urbanisation and Housing, Land, Natural Resources and Climate Change, Economy, Trade and Investments.

Esteemed Planners;

The Ruto Administration recognises the crucial role of spatial planning in socio-economic development.

Further, we are committed to providing policy direction in land administration and management, urban development and management as well as Affordable Housing. Thus, our target of 250,000 housing units annually in five years.

To sustainability, planners have to ensure the housing units are accompanied by proportional transport and infrastructure, as well as accessible social amenities.

Through the Ministry of Lands, we are working towards ensuring that land laws and regulations are regularly updated alongside mainstreaming spatial planning into development plans. This will fortify urban development and management.

Esteemed Planners;

We recognise the importance of County Governments in grassroots development.

In this regard, we have supported counties in establishment and strengthening of urban institutions. As a result, the number of municipalities created in the last five years has increase to 59. There have also been substantial infrastructure investments in the municipalities as a result of conditional grants provided for improving quality of life in urban areas.

We are also advancing the National Urban Development Fund for sustainable financing of urban areas and cities across Kenya.

Distinguished Planners;

In a bid to modernise and streamline processes, we will escalate the scale of the National Land Information and Management System (NLIMS). This expansion will facilitate integrated online application and Planning and Development at the Counties.

We are also spearheading digitisation and archiving records and we are fully dedicated to implementing the ARDHISASA platform.

The success of these endeavours hinges on collaboration among Government agencies, Private Sector stakeholders and communities.

Esteemed Planners;

It is important, therefore, to address related challenges of environmental sustainability and Climate Change.

For instance, this Convention takes place when El Nino is causing havoc across the country. Buildings have been marooned and road networks damaged. Lives and livelihoods have been lost.

This adds to the challenges of collapsing buildings across the country. Between 2009 and 2019, at least 87 buildings tumbled down leaving 200 people dead and

over 1,000 injured. The country lost over 2.4 Billion Shillings in such losses. Last year alone, 13 houses collapsed in Nairobi metropolitan region.

While such unfortunate incidences have been linked to rogue contractors, substandard materials, limited or no geo-technical studies, greed, among other factors, the ingredient of proper planning for a safe, secure and sustainable built environment cannot be gainsaid.

Distinguished Planners;

This conference, therefore, should delve into harmonisation of Climate Financing with Planning, building resilient urban communities, sustainable land and resource management, among others.

With the immense untapped potential in the Blue Economy, our Administration will work with the Institute of Planners and other partners in addressing challenges in this sector and harnessing of maritime spatial planning for sustainability.

In addition, the Digital Economy presents transformative opportunities for streamlining planning and management of data for informed decisions.

On this note, I wish you a productive discussion and declare the 17th Annual Planners' Convention open.

ASANTENI SANA