



OFFICE OF THE
DEPUTY PRESIDENT

**REMARKS OF H.E RIGATHI GACHAGUA, EGH, DEPUTY
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA, DURING THE
COMMISSIONING OF THE EXPANDED JOY MILLERS
PROCESSING PLANT IN KUTUS, KIRINYAGA COUNTY,
ON FEBRUARY 9, 2024**

**Cabinet Secretary for Investment, Trade, and Industry,
Rebecca Miano;**

Kirinyaga Governor Anne Waiguru;

Senator Kamau Murango;

Gichugu MP Githinji Gichimu;

Woman Representative Jane Njeri;

All Leaders Present;

The CEO of Joy Millers Limited Julius Chomba;

**The Management and Staff of Joy Millers Limited;
Business Men and Women;
The Great People of Kirinyaga County;**

- 1. Today, we celebrate the growth and expansion of Joy Millers Limited, as the company also receives the prestigious Diamond Mark of Quality from the Kenya Bureau of Standards.**

2. It is an inspiration that Joy Millers Limited has risen from a supplier of fast-moving consumer goods to a giant processor of Maize and Wheat- Kenya's leading staple foods.

They have kept to quality standards, as attested by KEBS.

3. We are here, therefore, to not only witness what it means to start from the Bottom, but also expanding opportunities for others in the spirit of inclusive growth.

- 4. Congratulations, therefore, are in order to the staff and management of Joy Millers for these two key milestones- doubling the processing capacity to 800 Metric Tonnes per day in maize flour and sustaining quality.**

- 5. The expansion of the Processing plant happens when the Country has increased maize production from 44 Million Metric Tonnes to 61 Million Metric Tonnes.**

6. It is also a time that we are working to end importation of maize as one of the ways of spurring production and protecting the market for our farmers' benefit.

7. We are here today because one of the Pillars of the Kenya Kwanza Administration is stimulating Manufacturing and setting up of Industries by the Public and the Private Sector.

8. Under Agriculture, processing becomes key in boosting the value of our produce, not to mention the jobs created along the supply chain.

Starting with Joy Millers, absorption of over 1,000 direct employees means a stronger and better society in Kirinyaga County, the Mount Kenya Region and the entire Nation.

More opportunities mean that our people, moreso the youth, will be busy building their lives.

9. That is why we are proud that Joy Millers Limited is making a footprint into the Middle East in export of maize and wheat flour.

It is creating local demand for more maize and wheat.

It is an important move as we seek to earn more foreign currency in exports and minimise on importing what we can produce locally.

10. The Ruto Administration is focused on increasing farm production through reducing the cost of inputs for farmers.

Indeed, it is one of the reasons we have increased production in various crops, with maize posting a 40 Percent rise in 2023.

11. We encourage the Private Sector to invest in training farmers for harvests that meet the standards and demands of the market.

In addition, with the country still registering post-harvest losses of up to 36 Percent in storage, training of farmers in moisture and environment-friendly pest control measures is key to sustaining quality raw materials.

This requires formal engagement with farmers. This has been done in Tea, Coffee, Dairy, among other subsectors. It is working.

12. Further, the Ruto Administration is investing in County Aggregation and Industrial Parks across the country.

This is aimed at harnessing the production and processing potential of Counties. We ask, you, to strategically position yourselves in tapping into such opportunities.

13. I would like to throw a challenge to Joy Millers and other local producers to give priority to our farmers because they are the base of the economy.

We commit to continue improving the investment environment to encourage local companies to competitively run business in the country.

This is our strategy of involving you in socioeconomic transformation of our Nation, Kenya.

ASANTENI SANA