



OFFICE OF THE
DEPUTY PRESIDENT

**TALKING POINTS FOR H.E RIGATHI GACHAGUA, EGH,
DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA
DURING A MEETING WITH SENIOR LEADERS OF
MINISTRIES, DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES,
LEGISLATORS AND THE NAIROBI RIVERS COMMISSION
ON NAIROBI RIVERS REGENERATION ON APRIL 24,
2024 IN KAREN**

Cabinet Secretaries;
Principal Secretaries;
Governors;
Members of Parliament;
MCAs;
Commissioners of Nairobi Rivers Commission;
Other Senior Government Officials;
Partners;
Distinguished Guests;

1.I Welcome you to this important consultation meeting on restoring the Nairobi Rivers.

2. We converge here this morning when most parts of our country are receiving enhanced rains.

While the rains are good for production and food security, the negative impact of flash-floods has been devastating. Houses have collapsed and washed away. Livelihoods have been destroyed.

3. Nairobi, the City under the Sun, has not been spared. Several Estates are flooded as the limited drainage infrastructure is overstretched.

It is even worse in areas where there is no infrastructure. Lives have been turned upside down.

4. This calls for urgent joint action to avert further negative impact and establish and foster structures for sustainable containment of such episodes in Nairobi, and restore its glory.

5. This is in line with the Mandate of the Nairobi Rivers Commission, which President William Ruto established in December 2022, and placed under the Office of the Deputy President.

It covers the Counties of Nairobi, Kiambu, Kajiado, Machakos and Makueni.

6. The ultimate goal of the Commission is to reclaim the rivers of Nairobi into the Blue and Green Socio-Economic Resources for improved quality of life.

This requires joint action from everyone.

7. The Commission has been working closely with Ministries, Departments, Agencies and other stakeholders including the community.

This meeting has, therefore, been convened to update stakeholders, consolidate and renew our commitment to delivering a clean Nairobi Rivers Basin in the City and the Counties downstream.

**8. It is very important and urgent.
Nairobi is the door to Kenya and Africa.**

Pollution and other forms of degradation of the Nairobi Rivers are a threat to the existence of our people, not only in Nairobi and its environs, but also across the country.

9. We cannot take pride in Nairobi as the top investment destination in Africa and globally, when the rivers are chocking in pollution- a high health hazard to our people.

10. Long-term benefits to the Nation must not be shortchanged with selfish gains to few individuals. That is why we must be resolute in our decisions. We have a responsibility of making the right decision in the interest of our people.

11. Key among other issues, the Nairobi Rivers Regeneration will involve relocation from the riparian and adjacent areas.

I am informed that the communities living along the three rivers are ready to move. The issue at hand is dealing with those claiming to own the properties on the riparian areas.

12. Through coordination of the Commission, the communities along the rivers- Ngong, Nairobi and Mathare, have been mapped and segmented into 18 zones.

13. Reclaiming the riparian areas will pave the way for programmes of transforming the rivers through a Multi-Agency Approach.

The role of the National and County Governments will be key in the success of the mission as will be demonstrated by the presentation from the Ministry of Defence.

14. It is encouraging that these communities and other stakeholders are ready to reinforce the work of the Government in this initiative.

15. We also want to connect the Affordable Housing Programme with the rivers regeneration plan.

16. I take this opportunity to thank the various agencies, which have contributed to the cleaning and rehabilitation of the rivers since the El-Nino period last year.

I want to single out the Environment and Land Court in Nairobi, which will partner with the Commission in tree planting and taking part in an Open Day with the communities along Nairobi River at Korogocho tomorrow.

We invite other partners work with the Commission.

17. As we start this engagement, there is no turning back. Let us to contribute ideas for a better Nairobi, for our people today, and the future.

ASANTENI SANA.