



OFFICE OF THE  
DEPUTY PRESIDENT

**REMARKS OF H.E. RIGATHI GACHAGUA, EGH, DEPUTY  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA, DURING THE  
OPENING OF THE 23<sup>RD</sup> ORDINARY SESSION OF THE  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL BUDGET AND ECONOMIC  
COUNCIL (IBEC), ON MAY 6, 2024, AT KAREN, NAIROBI**

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**Cabinet Secretaries;**

**Principal Secretary for Devolution, Teresia Mbaika;**

**Other Principal Secretaries;**

**Chairperson, Council of Governors, Anne Waiguru;**

**Chairpersons of Independent Commissions,**

**Governors and Deputy Governors;**

**County Executive Committee Members;**

**Ladies and Gentlemen;**

**It is my pleasure to welcome you to this 23<sup>rd</sup> Ordinary Session of the Intergovernmental Budget and Economic Council.**

**Our being here signifies the importance of the mandate of the IBEC in enhancing consultations between the National Government and County Government, alongside the core agencies.**

**Through IBEC, we have cultivated and sustained cordial working relations as we transform the lives of Kenyans as per the Plan.**

**Indeed, engagement between the two levels of Government is crucial for faster and equitable social, political, and economic development of this country.**

**Ladies and Gentlemen;**

**We have made significant progress towards achieving the resolutions of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Session. An example is the valuation and transfer of assets to Counties.**

**As you may have observed, we have commenced transferring motor vehicles, machinery, and other equipment to the counties. The most recent transfer occurred in Uasin Gishu County.**

**Additionally, we have finished valuing assets in 30 Counties, and the ownership documentation for transfer is ongoing.**

**Further, we have concluded the handover of the Construction of County Headquarters in 5 devolved units, including, Tana River, Lamu, Isiolo, Tharaka Nithi and Nyandarua.**

**These headquarters have been under construction for over 10 years. The respective Counties can now complete their own construction with support from the National Treasury.**

**Ladies and Gentlemen;**

**There is also steady progress in reduction of outstanding pending bills. As of March 31, 2024, the total amount of pending bills reported by 47 counties was 150.66 Billion Shillings.**

**This reflects a reduction of 8.61 Billion Shillings over the past 9 months since the start of the FY 2023/24. This represents a decrease of 5.4%. By the end of the Fiscal Year, we anticipate that this figure will decrease significantly.**

**We need to do more to settle all eligible pending bills and process all that is considered 'in-eligible' to the satisfaction of our businessmen at both levels of Government.**

**I wish to restate the commitment of the Ruto Administration to timely disbursement of funds to Counties.**

**The National Treasury also cleared the equitable share to Counties for November and December 2023 as resolved during our 22<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Session.**



**Despite the fiscal revenue challenges, the National Treasury has also cleared disbursement to Counties up to the end of February 2024, with some, already in receipt of their March allocations.**

**As of today, 66.5% of the total allocation for the Financial Year has been disbursed.**

**Ladies and Gentlemen;**

**With the support of the National Assembly, the County Government Additional Allocation Act 2023/24 was passed and accented to by H.E President William Ruto.**

**Counties are accessing and using additional funds for the benefit of our people.**

**I urge the relevant institutions to collaborate and seek appropriate amendments to the statutes within the two Financial Years in which the exemption has been granted.**

**Ladies and gentlemen;**

**As a result of our 21<sup>st</sup> IBEC resolutions to expand and include more value chains in our Agricultural Sector transformation agenda, my Office has made significant progress in the Avocado and Potato subsectors.**

**On the other hand, our Dairy, Coffee and Tea subsector reforms have yielded significant results to the farmer.**

**I wish to urge Counties to enhance Agricultural Extension support to farmers.**

**Ladies and Gentlemen;**

**As we collaborate to address productivity in the entire economy, we must tackle the threats of the rising wage bill.**

**The Salaries and Remuneration Commission will be sharing the resolutions of the just concluded Wage Bill Conference, which we need to integrate.**

**Ladies and Gentlemen;**

**While we seek to strengthen working together in transforming our country, Climate Change is increasingly becoming a threat to our existence.**

**We moved from one of the longest droughts in four decades, into the deluge of El-Nino. Even before recovery from the adverse impacts of the two disasters, we are in another season of enhanced rains.**

**With more than 30 counties being most affected, no part of our country has been spared to some extent.**

**While hundreds of our people have been displaced, we have lost more than 210 lives, besides the enormous livelihoods. Roads, bridges and other infrastructure have been destroyed.**

**Ladies and Gentlemen;**

**Response requires that we enhance collaboration in implementing safety measures as outlined by our President, H.E Dr William Ruto, besides the roadmap to restoring normalcy.**

**Disaster knows no boundaries between mandates of National and County Governments. We are one Government and saving lives and livelihoods is our Number One Priority.**



**It is encouraging that budgeting for disaster response is one of the agenda items of this Session.**

**Finally, I wish to thank you all for your invaluable support to our BETA transformation agenda.**

**ASANTENI SANA**