



OFFICE OF THE  
DEPUTY PRESIDENT

**SPEECH BY H.E RIGATHI GACHAGUA, EGH, THE DEPUTY  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA DURING THE  
REOPENING OF THE NAIROBI COFFEE EXCHANGE ON  
AUGUST 15, 2023**

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**The Cabinet Secretary, Cooperatives and MSME  
Development, Hon. Simon Chelugui;**

**The Cabinet Secretary, Investments, Trade and Industry,  
Hon. Moses Kuria;**

**The Cabinet Secretary, Agriculture, Hon. Mithika  
Linturi;**

**The Acting CEO, Nairobi Coffee Exchange, Ms. Lisper  
Ndung'u;**

**The Principal Secretary, Cooperatives Mr. Patrick Kilemi  
Other Coffee Stakeholders;  
Distinguished Farmers;  
Distinguished Guests;**

**On this momentous occasion for our coffee farmers, I  
bring you greetings from His Excellency President  
William Ruto.**

**It is a historic day for the Coffee farmer as I RING the BELL marking the reopening of the Nairobi Coffee Exchange auction.**

**The BELL we RING today signifies that the small-scale farmer, who has been toiling and sweating for peanuts, will meet the buyer and negotiate the price of their coffee- not through middlemen. Not Again.**

**Indeed, the journey to putting the money to where it belongs- the pocket of the farmer- is firmly on course.**

**Among a raft of other changes, it is also a milestone as the Direct Settlement System through the Cooperative Bank of Kenya has been implemented to ensure the farmer is paid on time.**

**Counties will license millers while the auction will be under the Capital Market Authority for stronger governance. On the other hand, the Agriculture and Food Authority will license buyers.**

**This is just the beginning of delivering the Coffee Subsector Reforms, which began as President Ruto instructed me under Executive Order No. 1 of the 2023.**

**The reforms we are undertaking are based on the resolutions of the Coffee Subsector Stakeholders Conference, which I convened in Meru County in June.**

**Distinguished Guests;**

**Agriculture is at the heart of the Kenya Kwanza Administration's Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda.**

**The Sector is employing more than 40% of our population and over 70% of the rural people.**



**It is immensely contributing to our economy directly and through interlinkages.**

**Coffee was once the pride of Kenya, fetching us foreign exchange.**

**But with the capture of the subsector by cartels and brokers, the crop lost value to the farmer as it benefited those who worked least.**

**It is one of the reasons production has dropped from an average of over 130,000 metric tonnes in the late 1980s to as low as 34,000 metric tonnes.**

**We want to boost the crop production per bush from an average of 2kg to about 8kg in the next one year as we target at least 200,000MT by 2027.**

**This will boost our foreign exchange earnings and contribute to sustaining a stable economy.**

**That is why the we have set aside funds for fertiliser subsidy, coffee cherry fund, besides enhancing the capacity of the Coffee Research Institute.**

## **Distinguished Guests;**

**During the Coffee Stakeholders' Conference, it was recommended that the Coffee Board of Kenya and the New Kenya Planters Cooperative Union be redesigned for farmer-centred operations. We are reforming these agencies to serve the farmer better.**

**As we also work on value addition and Marketing through SPECIALTY COFFEE ROUTE, our interest and focus remain in the farmer, especially the small-holder, earning more at the international market.**

**I wish to assure our farmers that the reforms are unstoppable.**

**With the support of the Ministries of Cooperatives, Agriculture, Trade and Parliament, we are aligning legislative and administrative frameworks for sustainable reforms in the subsector.**

**I, therefore, ask the actors in the subsector to take measures to comply with the raft of reforms we are making because we shall not retreat until the farmer is the King.**

**ASANTENI SANA.**