



PRESS RELEASE
(For Immediate Release)

DESPATCH FROM CABINET

HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT today chaired a Cabinet Meeting at State House, Nairobi. At today's sitting, Cabinet considered various Bills, Policies, and Treaties that seek to further anchor the continued implementation of the Administration's Transformative Agenda for Kenya; as well as **re-position the economy onto a steady and sustainable growth trajectory** as part of our Post-COVID-19 Economic Recovery Strategy (ERS).

A. BILLS AND OTHER LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

To promote the wellness of our nation, and mindful of the central place of the family as the basic unit of our society, Cabinet considered the *Children Bill, 2020*. The Bill seeks to address the increased vulnerability of children in Kenya by addressing the challenges that arise from the breakdown of families and of community systems.

Cabinet noted that the curriculum reforms being instituted under the stewardship of the Ministry of Education have an interplay with enhancing the opportunities available to children in Kenya. As Kenya's apex policy making organ, Cabinet also underscored the need to continuously drive focus on children and children affairs in every aspect of public life.

As part of human capital development geared towards strengthening the governance and management of universities, Cabinet considered and approved the *Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2021*. The proposed amendments seek to entrench the ethos of good governance in our



institutions of higher learning; whilst also enhancing the regulatory role of the Commission on University Education.

Cabinet also considered legislative proposals that seek to enhance the ease of doing business and foster the participation of Micro, Small and Medium enterprises in business by establishing a legal framework for Multiple Awards of Contracts. That framework would allow for large contracts to be awarded in one-unit price to multiple parties, as opposed to the current **"winner takes it all"** approach.

To enhance participation of the private sector in national development, Cabinet also considered and approved the *Public Private Partnerships Bill, 2021*; a legislative intervention to strengthen and revitalize the Public Private Partnerships (PPP) Programme through enhancing the ease of private sector participation in financing, construction, development, and operation or maintenance of infrastructural or development projects undertaken by the Government.

With respect to Bills, Regulations and other Statutory Instruments, Cabinet approved the Bills set out hereinafter for transmittal to Parliament, as follows:

- I. The Public Private Partnerships Bill, 2021;
- II. The Public Procurement and Asset Disposal (Amendment) Bill, 2020;
- III. The Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2020;
- IV. The National Sustainable Waste Management Policy and Bill, 2020;
- v. The Community Groups Registration Bill, 2019;
- VI. The Proposed Public Management (Equalization Fund) Regulations, Bill 2020;



- VII. The Irrigation Act (Amendment) Bill, 2020 and the Irrigation (General) Regulations, 2020;
- VIII. The Children Bill, 2020;
- IX. Business Laws (Amendments No.2) Bill, 2020;
- X. The National Electronic Single Window System Bill, 2020;
- XI. The 2021 Budget Policy Statement; the Division of Revenue Bill, 2021; the County Allocation of Revenue Bill, 2021; and the Medium-Term Debt Management Strategy, 2021;
- XII. The Winding Up of Dormant Funds and the Repeal of their Enabling Acts;
- XIII. The Propose Public Finance Management (Public Investment Management) Regulations, 2021; and
- XIV. Water Regulations, 2021.

B. POLICIES AND STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS

To accelerate the implementation of the Administration's Transformative Agenda for Kenya— espoused as *the Big Four*, Cabinet Considered various far-reaching policies concerning **Food and Nutritional Security, Manufacturing, Affordable Housing, and Universal Health Coverage**.

Towards the realization of greater food and nutritional security, Cabinet considered the *Agriculture Policy*, which positions crop diversification and irrigation as the two main planks for both enhanced food production as well as improved earnings for farmers. The Agriculture Policy also addresses the emerging threats of Climate Change, novel diseases, pesticide-resistant pests, and other challenges to food and nutrition security.



As the Administration steers the nation to the adoption of 'smart agriculture', and mindful that the average age of the Kenyan farmer is 60 years, Cabinet considered and approved the policy on revival of **4K-(Agricultural) Clubs** in all Schools across the Republic. This endeavor seeks to foster the interest of children in agriculture, so as usher a new generation of techno-savvy agricultural players who will revolutionize every aspect of agriculture in Kenya.

To further enhance food production in Kenya, Cabinet also considered the *National Water Policy*; which provides a more robust framework to guide our national efforts towards the achievement of sustainable management, development, and use of water resources. The Policy achieves this by creating better integrations between water resources management, water harvesting and storage, and water supply and sanitation services.

In regard to Manufacturing, as a key driver of our national development goals, Cabinet considered the *National Automobiles Policy*. The Policy seeks to provide an enabling environment for the domestic motor vehicle industry; with opportunities to achieve greater competitiveness in the local manufacturing of automotive products. The Policy repositions the legal, institutional, and regulatory frameworks for the development of the automotive industry; supports local motorcar and motorcycle assembly; and facilitates market access for sector products and services.

Cabinet also considered the Local Content Policy; which seeks to transform Kenya's economy by promoting the development of advanced industries through the maximization of in-country value addition. The Policy leverages on Kenya's longstanding competitive advantages and combines them with the established know-how of business operating in Kenya; thereby creating a platform where Kenya output is both domestically attractive as well as internationally brand-recognized and competitive.

Mindful that upstream and midstream petroleum sectors in Kenya are emerging sectors of the economy with promising potential especially following the nation's commercial oil discoveries; Cabinet



considered and approved the development of the Integrated Crude Oil Infrastructure in Kenya.

As part of the Administration's Agenda on Universal Health Coverage, Cabinet considered the *National Emergency Medical Care (EMC) Policy*. The Policy seeks to enhance universal access and delivery of the highest quality of emergency medical care as part of the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) pillar of the Big Four; thereby minimizing the morbidity and mortality rates arising from medical and public health emergencies.

In recognition of the fact that Kenya's socio-economic development is inextricably tied with our greater national cohesion and integration, Cabinet also considered the *National Policy on Culture and Heritage*.

The Policy seeks to promote greater respect, appreciation, and understanding of the various heritages and cultures that make Kenya a vibrant melting pot made stronger by her diversity. The Policy positions culture and heritage not as a static or academic aspect of life that is far removed from the day-to-day concerns of Kenyans, rather it centers culture and heritage as an important and dynamic part of 21st century life that creates a platform for combining our traditions with the demands and opportunities of the modern age.

To foster the development of the creative industry, Cabinet also considered the *National Music Policy*. The Policy acknowledges that unique role played by music as a powerful vehicle for economic growth, youth empowerment, culture and national identity building, education, and entertainment. Cabinet lauded the Creative Sector for playing a significant role in facilitating positive discourse and in both informing and entertaining the public. In approving the Policy, Cabinet noted that Kenya's creatives can play an important role in marketing Kenya internationally.



C. TREATIES AND CONVENTIONS

To further secure Kenya's overall competitiveness and attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), Cabinet considered and approved the following:

- I. The Acceptance of Amendments to Maritime Labour Convention, 2006; Acceptance of ILO Convention C185; Acceptance of ILO Convention C188; Acceding to the STCW-F Convention; and Ratification of the Cape Town Agreement.
- II. Progress Report on The Economic Partnership Agreement between the Republic of Kenya a Member of the East African Community of the One Part, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland of the Other Part;
- III. The Memorandum of Understanding Between the Republic of Kenya and the Republic of Estonia on Cooperation in the Field of Information and Communication Technology (ICT);
- IV. The Ratification of the East African Multilateral Agreement on Aircraft accident and Accident Investigations; and
- V. The Ratification of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Older Persons and on the Rights of Persons' with Disability in Africa.

D. EMERGING NATIONAL ISSUES/CONCERNS

As part of the nation's response to the **Coronavirus Pandemic**, Cabinet sanctioned heightened surveillance at all of Kenya's international borders, so as to stem the propagation of the disease into the country.

Cabinet also noted that the first batch of the country's **COVID-19 vaccines** would arrive in Kenya in the first week of March, 2021. In that regard, Cabinet ratified the distribution framework for the



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vaccines; with first priority being given to Health Care Workers, Frontline Workers including Security Personnel and Teachers, vulnerable persons and groups and Hospitality Sector Workers.

The Nation's Apex Policy organ also received a briefing on the **Desert Locusts Invasion**. It was noted that the locusts continued to pose a significant threat to food security in Kenya and across the Region. Cabinet noted the success of the State's control operations; which had proved very successful in reducing the number and size of locust swarms.

In response to the **increasing adverse weather and climatic occurrences** across various parts of Kenya, exemplified by rising water levels in **Lake Baringo and Lake Bogoria**; Cabinet directed that an inquiry be made into Biodiversity and Nature Crises. In that regard, the Technical Committee was directed to inquire into the matter and table both its Report, as well as an actionable Emergency Response Plan, within seven (7) days from the date hereof.

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Thursday, 25th February, 2021