

**STATEMENT BY HON. ROBINSON NJERU GITHAE, MINISTER FOR FINANCE, DURING THE
FOURTH DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP FORUM MEETING ON TUESDAY, 19TH JUNE 2012, AT
THE KICC**

The Rt. Hon. Raila Odinga, Prime Minister,

Hon. Ministers Present,

Your Excellencies,

Other Development Partners,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen

1. First and foremost, let me take this opportunity to welcome you all to the fourth Development Partnership Forum (DPF) meeting. This is the first time for me to participate in this forum as the Minister for Finance and I would like to take the earliest opportunity to express my full support to this process because I am convinced that it is a very effective way of engaging in dialogue on key development priorities that are critical in driving our development agenda.

2. The importance of this meeting cannot therefore be over-emphasized and in this regard, I would like to commend those who initiated this process. Towards this end, I wish to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to all our development partners for finding time from their busy schedules to attend this meeting, and also for the support they have continued to provide to the Government for the implementation of the various projects and programmes as envisaged in our Vision 2030.

Ladies and Gentlemen

3. As you all know, I just presented the 2012-2013 budget last week on 14th June 2012 that is very central to what we are doing here today. That budget is very special in several respects. Firstly, it the budget that will usher in devolution that has been brought about by the new constitution. In this regard, we have had to budget for County Governments that will become effective soon after the forthcoming elections. Secondly, we must finance preparations for the next elections which for the first time will involve more than three ballots that we have been used to.

4. Thirdly, we must finance our development agenda to cater for broad based growth while at the same time taking care of social service delivery. I will elaborate more on these later. Nonetheless, I must say that this was therefore a big challenge for us and I would like to thank our development partners for coming forth with support.

5. Underlying that budget is a set of reforms and development priorities that are very much consistent with what we are going to discuss in this meeting. The priorities we are discussing here today are therefore part and parcel of our overall development agenda and I would like to assure you that we have full ownership.

6. I am therefore very pleased that we have this partnership forum that provides us with a framework for focusing on the priorities that we have identified and implementing them in a systematic manner, and within a set timeframe. There is doubt that such a framework helps to ensure implementation which is what we must do in order to achieve our development objectives as set in Vision 2030.

Ladies and Gentlemen

7. I have been informed that a Pre-Development Partnership Forum meeting was held on 7th June 2012, whose agenda was to review sector notes that form the basis for identifying our commitments, review progress on the commitments that were agreed on during the last meeting; and also discuss proposals for new commitments. There were also discussions on the Budget outlook for the 2012/13 period as well as progress in implementing the new constitution and preparations for the forthcoming elections.

8. I am also told that the meeting was very successful and was very well attended by both Government officials and development partners who engaged in a very constructive and candid dialogue on pertinent issues. To us as Government, we are very encouraged because this is a clear indication that the Development Partnership Forum has come out of age to become an effective vehicle for driving our development agenda forward.

9. Building on this success, I would like to encourage each one of us to remain focused and conscious of the need to keep this partnership strong because if we do so, there is no question that we will succeed. In this regard, effective participation by each one of us is paramount and I look forward to such vibrant and frank discussion today.

Ladies and Gentlemen

10. In today's meeting, we shall first hear presentations on progress in implementing the new constitution and the state of our readiness in preparing for elections. We shall also hear brief presentations on the 2012/2013 National Budget including fiscal decentralization as well as a review of the First Medium Term Plan (MTP) under Vision 2030 together with preparations for the next MTP.

11. The rest of the meeting will focus on review of progress in implementing the commitments that were agreed during the last meeting and also agree on new ones. I understand that these commitments were the subject of intensive discussions during the Pre-DPF meeting on 7th June 2012 and what we will now focus on are the recommendations from that meeting.

12. I will not comment on these issues now since they will be elaborated shortly by the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister and also discussed at length in the presentations that will follow.

Ladies and Gentlemen

13. To conclude, let me restate our Government's appreciation for the good cooperation that we continue to enjoy with our Development Partners. Finally, let me assure you of Government commitment to pursuing prudent economic management for the betterment of the people of Kenya and once again thank all our partners for the continued support extended to Kenya.

Thank You.

-----OoO-----