

**THE ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE BETWEEN THE  
GOVERNMENT OF KENYA AND  
THE ARAB DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS**

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**STATEMENT BY MR. HENRY ROTICH, EGH, CABINET  
SECRETARY/NATIONAL TREASURY**

**10<sup>TH</sup> AND 11<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2017 AT LAICO REGENCY HOTEL**

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**Fellow Cabinet Secretaries Present  
Head of Delegations of Saudi Fund, BADEA, OPEC  
Fund, Kuwait Fund  
Your Excellences, Ambassadors  
Principal Secretaries  
Distinguished Guests  
Ladies and Gentlemen**

1. On behalf of the Government of Kenya let me take this opportunity to welcome you all to this important Round Table Conference. We particularly extend a special welcome to Kenya, the delegations of participating Development Partners namely; BADEA, Saudi Fund, Kuwait Fund and OPEC Fund. I appreciate your efforts towards strengthening cordial multilateral and bilateral development cooperation that we have enjoyed over the years.

2. **Ladies and Gentlemen**, let me express our sincere gratitude to the Arab Development Partners for your continued financial and technical support towards our development agenda, throughout our long standing development cooperation. This support has financed key social and infrastructural development projects such as the Wote-Makindu Road, Emali-Oloitokitok Road, Dundori-Olkalau-Njabini Raod, Nuno-Modogashe road, Garissa Sewerage, Bura and Hola Irrigation scheme among others. These projects have contributed towards

the socio-economic development of our country thus helping in the achievement of our development goals.

3. Going forward, this support will greatly contribute towards achievement of Kenya's long term development plan, focusing on transforming Kenya from a low-to-a middle income country by 2030. Modern and efficient infrastructure facilities are critical in supporting the achievement of this Vision, which require construction, rehabilitation and upgrading of roads and rail networks, education, health facilities as well as access to safe water. We appreciate this support towards achieving this agenda. Improved infrastructure is necessary to support the reduction of poverty.

4. **Ladies and Gentlemen;** on the economic front, the Kenyan economy has remained robust despite the global economic slowdown due to its diversified nature, registering strong economic growth of 5.6 percent in 2015 and by 5.8 percent in 2016; this growth is much higher than both the Sub-Saharan African region and global averages of 1.6 percent and 3.1 percent, respectively. The economy is further expected to grow by about 6.0 percent in 2017, thanks to the on-going infrastructural investments, resilient domestic demand, recovery in the tourism sector, and growth in exports in the sub-Saharan.

5. I am happy to indicate that the economy continues to register macroeconomic stability with inflation remaining largely within target range, short term interest rates remained stable and exchange rate competitive.

6. To ensure steady growth, the economic policy of the government in the FY 2017/18 budget and the medium term is to consolidate the economic gains of the Transformation Agenda that was started four years ago. The Agenda will achieve higher and sustainable growth,

generate employment and reduce poverty and inequality enabling Kenya realize faster the aspirations under Vision 2030.

7. Going forward, our policies and reform measures continues to focus on: sustaining conducive business environment for investment opportunities; continued spending in infrastructure to unlock constraints to growth; sustaining sectoral spending for employment creation; sustained investment in social services for the welfare of Kenyans; enhancing service delivery through devolution; and continued structural reforms in the public sector, financial sector and business regulation for better service delivery. Our budget for FY 2017/18 focuses on creating jobs, delivering a better life for all Kenyans mainly through industrialization which is aimed at boosting the manufacturing sector for value addition.

8. **Ladies and Gentlemen**, Kenya is widely known for innovation in financial inclusion and to this end, I am happy to inform you that we recently launched the M-Akiba bond worth Ksh 150 million on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2017, the bond achieved its target in full subscription by April 05, 2017 with 102,632 registrations, this demonstrates the appetite and zeal of Kenyans to adopt and use innovation and technology to boost their economic well-being.

9. **Ladies and Gentlemen:** As you are all aware, Kenya is now being governed through National and devolved system. Government is putting all efforts to support and strengthen devolution process, to ensure better service delivery and rapid local economic development, as well as jobs creation in line with our Vision 2030. As witnessed across the country over the last 3 years, the new devolved system of governance is bearing fruits as service delivery gets closer to the people despite some teething challenges.

10. **Ladies and Gentlemen:** Turning to our meeting, I am aware that today's Round Table Conference seeks to enhance the positive impact of development co-operation by taking stock of the implementation of our development cooperation through various projects that you have supported and others in the pipeline. The meeting will also provide a learning space to share successes and lessons learned, and deliberate mutual approaches to sustainable development that can be scaled up.

11. This Conference is a very timely as it comes at a time when our country requires huge resources to support development of physical infrastructure projects, particularly in the Northern and North Eastern part of Kenya. This is in the recognition of the need to pursue balanced regional growth which helps achieve economic and social development. We expect to deliberate identified challenges that hinder timely completion of projects, and also share with you new priority projects for your consideration.

12. To complement the support from our Development Partners in realizing of our Vision 2030 objectives, the Government is focused on investment in priority sectors that will spur economic growth. In particular, the Government is finalizing plans to fund rehabilitation and expansion of key roads which are crucial in enhancing traffic movement in all parts of the country. In addition, launching of an electronic single window and improved procedures at the Mombasa Port will facilitate ease trade and customs clearance. Exploration of various sources of energy is also a key Government priority. All these integrated efforts aim to reduce the cost of doing business.

13. **Ladies and Gentlemen,** We are confident that the growth path we have undertaken to pursue prudent

economic management, accompanied by huge investments in critical sectors of our economy will help us achieve our development targets.

14. Finally, let me assure our Arab Partners that we appreciate your support and urge you all to critically review the progress of implementation of on-going projects and come up with proposals that can ensure fast implementation of projects.

15. I trust that during your stay in Kenya, you will find some spare time to sample the Kenyan hospitality.

**THANK YOU.**

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