

**REMARKS BY THE CABINET SECRETARY, NATIONAL TREASURY & PLANNING HON (AMB) UKUR YATANI, DURING THE FAREWELL DINNER OF MR. GABRIEL NEGATU, DIRECTOR GENERAL, EAST AFRICA REGION HELD ON 27<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2019 AT INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL**

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**Mr. Gabriel Negatu,  
Outgoing Director General, Eastern Africa Regional Office of African  
Development Bank.**

**Cabinet Secretaries,**

**Principal Secretaries,**

**Members of Delegation of the African Development Bank Group,**

**Distinguished Guests,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. Let me first take this opportunity to warmly welcome you on behalf of the Government of Kenya, to this farewell dinner in honour of Dr. Gabriel Negatu, the Director General, for East Africa Regional Office, African Development Bank in Nairobi.
2. Thank you all for setting aside other engagements on Friday evening to attend this special occasion to bid farewell to Mr Gabriel Negatu who will be completing his official assignment in the Bank as from 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2019.
3. I am privileged to host this farewell dinner which is a minor gesture gratitude on my part and that of the Government of Kenya especially when compared with enormous contributions that Mr Negatu through the Bank has made to economic growth and the social economic prosperity of this country. Truly, this is a great man and a true friend of Kenya and we applaud you.
4. His exemplary leadership is best demonstrated through the growing bank's portfolio in Kenya which increased from USD 1.10 billion in 2012 to USD 3.03 billion to date. The quality of life for Kenyans has been transformed through prioritized investments in various sectors of our economy. Behind your footprints you have left landmark projects like Nairobi – Thika Super highway, Marsabit- Turbi-Moyale Road, Athi River – Namanga Road,

Taveta-Holili Arusha Road just to mention a few. We are also very alive to the tremendous contribution of the Bank to the energy sector under your leadership. To date the bank has made over Ksh.500 billion in support of development agenda since 1967. This substantial financial support is indeed laudable and a clear testimony of the commitment of the development not only in Kenya but also East African Region

5. We also recognize your efforts in reforming the Banks operations which led to the opening of a field office Nairobi in 2006 which is now a Regional Resource Centre.
6. Going forward, the Government of Kenya looks forward to continued support from ADB specifically in the context of the 'Big 4 Agenda' and also to our international commitments to the Global Agenda under the Sustainable Development Goals. We look forward to partnering with ADB and other Development Partners in the realization of these goals.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

7. I wish to reiterate the Government of Kenya's great appreciation for our cordial relationship with ADB and to confirm that we will continue to cement and grow this relationship to great heights.
8. As I conclude, on my own behalf and on behalf of the Government of Kenya, I wish Mr. Gabriel Negatu well in his future plans and endeavor and assure him that Kenya is indeed his home and is always welcome.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Propose a toss in honour of this great leader and a friend of Kenya.

**Thank You**