

Speech for the Cabinet Secretary, National Treasury & Planning, Hon (Amb.)Ukur K. Yatani, EGH, during the signing of the Financing Protocol for the Supply of Medical Equipment with H.E Mrs. Aline Kuster-Menager, the Ambassador of the Republic of France in Kenya on 27th August, 2020 at 9.00AM

Your Excellency Mrs.Aline Kuster-Menager, the Ambassador of the Republic of France in Kenya and your delegation

Representative from the Ministry of Health

Colleagues from the National Treasury

1. Let me welcome you all to this signing ceremony for the Financing Protocol for the Supply of Medical Equipment supported by the French Government.
2. Your Excellency, the Government of Kenya and the Government of France continue to enjoy very solid development cooperation, economic and business relation spanning over decades. The visit by H.E President Emmanuel Macron in March 2019 accompanied by a high-powered delegation from Government and Private sector in France, reaffirmed this friendship. In the same spirit Mr. Djebbari made a follow-up on the commitments made between the two governments during his visit in January 2020 whereby we signed Framework Agreement on the financing,

development and implementation of strategic priority projects in Kenya.

3. France is one of the leading bilateral development partners to Kenya and has made commitments of over Euro 2.2billion (Kshs. 257.4Billion) in the last 20 years to support Energy, Water & Sanitation, Roads & Transport, Environment, Agriculture, Private Sector Development and Governance Structure.
4. Turning to today's event, as you are aware, Kenya just like many other countries in the world was hit by COVID-19 pandemic reporting her first case in March 2019. As the country progressed with strategies on mitigating and curbing the spread of the virus, different sectors of the economy were negatively impacted by this pandemic. This has resulted to economic activities slowing down occasioning low revenues to finance Government programmes as well as dealing with the Pandemic whose magnitude is still unfolding.
5. The government of Kenya turned to mobilizing resources and support to cater for the resultant extra spending in Health, Water & Sanitation, Private Sector stimulus, Security and Social Protection. It is in this context, that H.E President Uhuru Kenyatta and H.E President Emmanuel Macron held conversation on the

ways to fight COVID-19 when we were still grappling with the sudden turn of events as cases were being recorded every other day.

6. Against this background, the National Treasury on behalf of the Government of Kenya made an appeal to the Government of France in May 2020 for support on the fight against COVID-19. We are pleased to note that our appeal for support was positively considered.
7. Your excellency in addition to the support in various forms received from the French Government in the fight against COVID-19, your government has agreed to provide a highly concessional loan of Euro 33million (approx. Kshs. 3.8billion) towards financing of (i) Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital Mother and Baby Care unit rehabilitation, (ii) acquisition and installation of equipment dedicated to enhancing the capacities of twenty (20) hospital to effectively manage COVID-19.
8. The signing of this protocol will pave way for the signing of the implementation agreement between Natixis and the National Treasury for this project. I therefore urge all parties involved in this project to move with speed and within legal provision to ensure that the execution of the project is not delayed so that the country can reap the intended benefits.

9. Your excellency in conclusion on my own behalf and that of the people of Kenya, sincerely thank the Government of France once again for its continued financial support to the development priorities of the Government of Kenya and reiterate the willingness and commitment of the Government of Kenya to work closely with your Government in realising our development goals.

Thank you, your Excellency,