



**TALKING NOTES ON BEHALF OF THE PRIME CABINET SECRETARY  
H.E. (DR) MUSALIA MUDAVADI, EGH, DELIVERED BY THE  
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS DURING THE  
INDO EAST AFRICA TRADE EXPO 2023 BY RAK KENYA, FORTI  
INDIA HELD ON 5<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2023 AT KICC, NAIROBI**

**Ms. Susan Nakhumicha - Cabinet Secretary, Health**

**Mr. Alfred K'Ombudo - Principal Secretary, Trade**

**H.E Ms. Namaga C Khampa - High Commissioner of India to Kenya**

**Dr. Sonvir Singh - Chairman Rajasthan Association of Kenya**

**Mr. Rajiv Agrewal - Ex Minister of State Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation Government of Rajasthan India**

**Dr. Dhir Shrivstav - Commissioner of Rajasthan Foundation**

**Dr. Bimal Kantaria - Chairman of Agribusiness Confederation of East Africa**

**Dr Ruto - Chairman Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI)**

**Distinguished Guests**

## **Members of the Business Community Exhibitors**

## **Invited Guests**

## **Ladies and Gentlemen**

Let me take this opportunity to thank the organizers of this important event for making a significant contribution towards advancing trade and investment between India and Kenya.

Please receive the assurance of partnership of the Government of the Republic of Kenya, with our traders and investors, and with the Rajasthan Association of Kenya (RAK) in this endeavor that showcase opportunities for business in several sectors; from agriculture, agro processing, and manufacture of items from several other industries.

This Expo is a powerful marketing tool that provides a platform for Indian businesses and companies to showcase their products and services therefore enhancing their brand image and visibility.

One of the ever present and mind-boggling challenges for nations across the globe is how to provide opportunities for its citizens to lead decent lives and contribute to the economic development of their countries. This challenge is confronted through a myriad of initiatives such as social welfare and encouragement of private sector business and connections for their people.

The partnership between the Rajasthan Association of Kenya; the Federation of Rajasthan Trade & Industry (FORTI) and Rajasthan Export Promotion Council (REPC) is a commendable effort.

Expos like this are thus great platforms to forge and maintain business alliances that spin the economies of countries to even greater heights. It is because of this that I take this early opportunity to thank all present persons and institutions for aspiring to connect with and empower each other through business.

## **Ladies and Gentlemen**

Kenya's Economic Blue print envisions "a newly industrializing, middle-income Country, providing a high quality of life to all its citizens in a clean and secure environment". India is one of the fast-growing economies in

the world. Thus, exhibitions by key sector players is poised to help the County in its Bottom-up Economic Transformational Agenda.

India is one of the fast-growing economies in the world and a member of the economic bloc of countries known as BRICS. Agricultural, Industrial, Commercial and Economic cooperation between the business enterprises of Kenya, the EAC and India is therefore very timely and strategic.

India and Kenya are maritime neighbours and the Bilateral partnership between the two countries has evolved into a robust and multi-faceted partnership, marked by increasing trade and investment, regular high-level

visits, as well as extensive people to people contacts.

Trade relations has remained cordial over the years and both countries have signed agreements on the promotion and protection of trade and investments. These include India-Kenya Trade Agreement signed in 1981, under which both countries accorded Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status to each other.

Followed by a number of India - Kenya Joint Trade Committee (JTC) meetings; signing of a bilateral Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement



(DTAA); setting up of a Joint Business Council (JBC) as well as signing of various Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs).

## **Ladies and Gentlemen**

As you are aware, economic transformation is at the heart of the current Administration's Agenda. To this end, the Government has prioritized a number of business-oriented areas as core propellers of economic prosperity under the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda.

These are Agriculture, the MSME economy, Housing & Settlement, Healthcare; the Digital Superhighway and the Creative Economy and lastly Environment and Climate Change. Any business initiative towards these areas are therefore encouraged.

This Expo therefore will greatly spur trade between the two countries in areas of production and manufacturing especially for the Kenyan audience. From the exhibition brochure.

I note that the companies exhibiting include those from the sectors of Manufacturing, Banking, Building and Materials supply, Leather Fisheries, Oil and Gas, Handicrafts, Construction, Automobiles, Hospitality, Pharmaceuticals, Education and Energy amongst other sectors that are important to Kenya's economy. Already, the country hosts over 60 Indian companies involved in various sectors, some of which I have mentioned.

May I observe that the country has a relatively well-developed manufacturing base in the Eastern African region. Therefore, exposure of Kenyan investors to the agricultural and industrial sector in India is an

investment opportunity to boost the economy and market for Kenyan products.

### **Distinguished Guests**

The Government is committed to making Kenya an attractive investment destination in various sectors and has put in place incentives to attract foreign businesses. Kenya is a free market economy that is democratic with a well-developed legal system guaranteeing the security of property rights.

Finally, ladies and gentlemen, it is now my pleasure to declare the **INDO East Africa Trade Expo 2023** officially opened.

Thank you.