



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

TALKING NOTES FOR JAMES MUHATI, PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, STATE DEPARTMENT FOR ECONOMIC PLANNING DURING COURTESY CALL TO THE NEPAD/APRM KENYA SECRETARIAT

1. It is a pleasure to be here with you today and during my first week in the office. I am grateful for your warm welcome and a very astute brief on the operations of the NEPAD/APRM Secretariat. I want to say that I am impressed with what the Secretariat has achieved and what has been lined up for implementation.
2. Today's visit is very important for it has enlightened me on the NEPAD/APRM Kenya Secretariat mandates. I must say, your functions are focused to address the challenges being faced across the continent and will not only complement the government's programmes for mainstreaming of Sustainable Development Goals and the Africa Agenda 2063 into the country's development plans but also the promotion of good governance.
3. As you may be aware, the African Union Agenda 2063 Aspirations for the "*Africa We Want*" are motivated by development based on self-reliance and self-determination of African people. This resonates well with the Vision 2030 and the Third Medium Term Plan, and the same will be true for Fourth Medium Term Plan Currently under preparation, expected to align to the Kenya Kwanza Manifesto. It is then paramount for the Secretariat to come up with more innovative programmes that align to the current government priorities.
4. In cognizance of that, the Secretariat need to focus on the five priority areas the new administration is emphasizing on, to drive the government agenda. These include Agriculture; Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME); Housing and Settlement; Healthcare; and Digital Super Highway. They are envisaged to create space and conducive environment to bolster economic growth and development anchored on the bottom up approach strategy.

5. In the same breadth, as you embark in the development of the fourth generation Strategic Plan, I would advise you to ensure your programmes and projects promote inclusive growth for a shared prosperity
6. During your presentations, I noted that the Secretariat has been struggling to adequately finance its broad mandates. As you seek my support in mobilising the requisite resources to enable you carry out your operations seamlessly, I advise you to come up with bankable proposal that will motivate your partners to support your activities. I'm saying this based on the financial constrain the Country is facing currently.
7. To support good governance at the County level, I want to assure you of my support towards the implementation of the County Peer Review Mechanism (CPRM). It is good and ideal for country as an avenue for peer learning and sharing of best and working practices across the Counties. In this regard, I expect a workable mechanism in line with the Government.
8. Indeed, the government is aware that the NEPAD/APRM Kenya is a mirror of the Country at the African Union (AU) and the Continent. Therefore, your functions are paramount both at the National and Continental level and need to be anchored on a strong legal framework. This means that the current legal status of the Secretariat needs to be strengthened to allow smooth and un-interrupted operations. In lieu of this, I will work closely with the Chief Executive Officer to ensure that the legal framework of the Secretariat is reconsidered.
9. As I conclude, let me mention that an enormous amount of work still lies ahead. But what you do is essential. You provide an invaluable service to this country and Continent and I want to encourage you to continue with the same dedication

I would like to close by saying thank you for kind hospitality.

Thank you.