

**STATEMENT BY**

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**CABINET SECRETARY**

**THE NATIONAL TREASURY AND ECONOMIC PLANNING**

**NATIONAL TREE GROWING CAMPAIGN – MACHAKOS COUNTY**

**MONDAY, 13TH NOVEMBER, 2023**

**Her Excellency the Governor of Machakos County**

**The great people of Machakos,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. It is a great honour and privilege to have this opportunity, to be with you today in this great Occasion of Tree Growing in Machakos County.
2. As you are all aware, His **Excellency the President** is currently presiding over the National Tree Growing event in the neighboring County of Makueni in Kibwezi.
3. This is in line with the National Tree Growing and Restoration campaign which was launched by His Excellency the President in December last year with the aim of growing 15billion tree seedling by 2032.
4. The campaign dubbed ***Mission 15B#Jaza Miti*** will see the country’s forest cover move from the current 8.83% to 30% by 2032 with the restoration of the degraded landscapes.
5. Why is the President Concerned about the restoration of the landscape? – The impacts of Climate Change are real and are here with us. We have just come out of the worst drought ever witnessed in the last 4 decades. The drought led to the loss of 2.5million heads of animals and directly impacted on more than 4 million Kenyans.
6. Currently, the floods are causing havoc in many parts of the country leaving behind serious humanitarian crisis on top of the economic losses including destruction of the infrastructure.
7. The Climate Change impacts over the last 10 years is estimated to have led to losses of between 3 to 5 % of the GDP.
8. As the tree growing exercise is conducted across the Country today, here in Machakos, we are targeting to plant **ten thousands** of tree seedlings in an effort to green the County.
9. The National Treasury and Economic Planning has adopted Machakos and we will be walking with you in Annual tree planting events and other tree planting initiatives with the aim of improving the current county tree cover of **6.03%.**
10. We recognize the fact that this ambitious plan requires partnership with various stakeholders. I wish to call upon the various stakeholders in the county both state and non-state to join hands so that together we can realize this dream.
11. As I conclude, allow me to leave you with a Greek proverb which says that a ‘A society grows great when old men plant trees in whose shade they shall never sit’. Let us do it for the next generation.

**I Thank you.**