



Republic of Kenya

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY H.E. DR. MUSALIA MUDAVADI, E.G.H.,
PRIME CABINET SECRETARY AND CABINET SECRETARY FOR
FOREIGN AND DIASPORA AFFAIRS, DURING THE OFFICIAL
LAUNCH OF THE CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME FOR COUNTY
GOVERNMENTS ON ECONOMIC PLANNING AND STRENGTHENING
NATIONAL - COUNTY INTEGRATION MECHANISMS, LUBIRI
RESORT, BUSIA COUNTY.**

7TH OCTOBER, 2025

**The Rt. Hon. Raila Amolo Odinga, Former Prime Minister of
the Republic of Kenya,**

**Hon. Moses Wasike Wetangula, Speaker of the National
Assembly,**

Hon. Amason Jeffa Kingi, Speaker of the Senate,

**H.E. FCPA Ahmed Abdullahi, Chairperson, Council of
Governors,**

**Hon. FCPA John Mbadi Ng'ongo, Cabinet Secretary, The
National Treasury and Economic Planning,**

**Dr. Bonface Makokha, Principal Secretary, State Department
for Economic Planning,
H.E. Dr. Paul Nyongesa Otuoma, Governor, Busia County,
All Governors Present,
All Members of Parliament Present,
Distinguished Representatives of Development Partners,
Ladies and Gentlemen.
Good morning!**

1. I am delighted to be here with you all to officially launch the **Capacity Building Programme for County Governments on Economic Planning and Strengthening National-County Integration Mechanisms.**
2. It is refreshing to see the rich diversity of stakeholders represented in this forum, who include government and county officials, development partners, civil society and potential beneficiaries of this initiative from Busia County and beyond.

- 3.** This transformative Government programme reflects the commitment by H.E. President William Samoei Ruto and the Kenya Kwanza administration to deepening synergies between the national and county governments to foster Kenya's socioeconomic prosperity. Further, it advances sustainable development while promoting responsible management of our natural resources and ecosystems.
- 4.** Building a seamless, collaborative and effective planning system is critical to bridging the national government's priorities with the dynamic engines of growth across our 47 counties. This is the spirit that brings us together, to strengthen the foundations of inclusive and resilient growth for all Kenyans.

- 5.** The implementation of this programme will strengthen our grassroots support to the people and enhance our capacity to navigate the challenges our economy is experiencing from domestic and external factors. It is the bedrock of effective policymaking and implementation, specifically designed to ensure that County Integrated Development Plans are dynamic, living blueprints fully aligned and synchronized with national priorities, anchored on the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), the Fourth Medium-Term Plan (MTP IV) and our long-term Kenya Vision 2030.
- 6.** We recognize that closing the gap between policy design and effective implementation of our priority development programmes requires deliberate and sustained effort across three key areas, all of which are central objectives of this capacity-building programme:

- i. First, immediate intervention in **technical capacity enhancement** is needed to address weaknesses in our devolution framework arising from historical disparities in planning, budgeting and project management competencies.

This programme therefore aims to equip county officers with modern skills required for evidence-based planning, robust economic forecasting and effective application of MTEF. Key outcomes of such intervention include better project identification, effective implementation, prudent fiscal management and a more attractive environment for domestic and international investment.

- ii. Second, we urgently need to **strengthen our Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning and Reporting** systems. We cannot effectively manage what we do not diligently measure. To this end, the national government is making significant investments in integrated digital platforms to enhance the quality, timeliness, and accessibility of data for decision-making. These platforms will facilitate real-time MELR, allowing both levels of government to track progress against targets, identify bottlenecks early and make necessary adjustments to ensure that public funds deliver tangible and visible results for our citizens. This data-driven approach will foster greater accountability and transparency at all levels of government.

- iii. Third, **deepening collaboration**, guided by the Intergovernmental Relations Act, will enable us to harmonize regulations, simplify business processes and systematically eliminate internal bureaucratic barriers that hinder economic integration and free movement of goods, services and people within Kenya. Together with the National Treasury and Economic Planning, my office is fully committed to establishing and sustaining structured, continuous and outcome-oriented dialogue with the Council of Governors.

7. Through this programme, you have a great opportunity to champion a new era of integrated and transformative planning. I encourage you to focus your renewed efforts on three strategic priorities:

- i. **Invest in our people, with a special focus on the most vulnerable.** People-centred investments in quality healthcare, relevant education and practical vocational training will advance our human capital and labour productivity. This is in line with the recommendations of the International Labour Organization (ILO) 2024 report, which strongly emphasizes investing in social protection as a vital economic stabilizer that protects households during downturns and creates a foundation for a more productive and secure society.

- ii. **Foster productive transformation** within your counties and across your regional economic blocks. This will enable us to collectively move beyond the export of raw materials and primary commodities. Your planning processes should actively identify priority value chains based on the comparative advantage of each county. Scale up this process by strategically using your planning, licensing and incentive structures to attract investments that foster value addition, create sustainable jobs and increase local wealth creation and retention. This is core to positioning our rural economies to contribute to Kenya's industrialization journey.

iii. **Embrace climate-smart planning.** Integrate climate action and resilience into every aspect of your county planning, from agriculture and water management to urban development and energy policy. Sustainable agricultural practices, renewable energy and green urban development strategies will enable us to build a green economy, which is an essential prerequisite for our economic resilience and long-term survival.

8. Let me assure you of the Government's commitment to a stronger, dynamic partnership with the county governments.

9. As key stakeholders, we are taking a vital step, renewing our commitment to walk together in this transformation journey for a more prosperous Kenya. Let us envision a Kenya where the National and County Governments clasp hands in unbreakable unity, marching forward as one indomitable force in service to the great people of our Republic. We look forward to a future of turning the dreams of our youth into realities, the labours of our farmers into abundance, the innovations of our entrepreneurs into global triumphs and, where every citizen, in every village and every town, will experience measurable dividends from the implementation of BETA priorities at national and devolved levels.

Thank you all!

God bless you. God bless Kenya. God bless Africa