



REPUBLIC
OF
KENYA



Poverty Reduction Through Sustainable NRM



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, WATER AND NATURAL RESOURCES

UPPER TANA NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (UTaNRMP)

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**SPEECH BY PROF JUDY WAKHUNGU, CBS, CABINET SECRETARY
FOR ENVIRONMENT, WATER AND NATURAL RESOURCES DURING
THE COMMISSIONING OF THE PROJECT VEHICLES, MOTOR
CYCLES AND TRACTORS TO COUNTY/SUBCOUNTY PROJECT
IMPLEMENTING STAFF AT KANGARU GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL, EMBU
ON 10TH JULY 2015**

**THE GOVERNOR OF EMBU COUNTY, HON. MARTIN WAMBORA,
THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, WATER AND
NATURAL RESOURCES,
THE PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS,
REGIONAL COMMISSIONERS, Eastern and Central Regions,
MEMBERS OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES FROM THE SIX COUNTIES,
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN;**

IT GIVES ME GREAT HONOUR AND PLEASURE TO JOIN YOU TODAY, IN THIS IMPORTANT OCCASION.

LET ME START BY APPRECIATING YOU ALL FOR COMING TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS OFFICIAL HANDING OVER OF PROJECT VEHICLES, MOTOR CYCLES AND TRACTORS TO PROJECT IMPLEMENTING TEAMS IN THE COUNTIES AND SUBCOUNTIES.

I ALSO WANT TO APPRECIATE IN ABSENTIA THOSE WHO WERE NOT ABLE TO COME PERSONALLY DUE TO VARIOUS UNAVOIDABLE COMMITMENTS BUT HAVE SENT REPRESENTATIVES TO THIS OCCASION.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN;

I AM HAPPY TO NOTE THAT THE OVERALL GOAL OF THE PROJECT IS TO CONTRIBUTE TO REDUCTION OF RURAL POVERTY BY PROMOTING MORE EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES. I

NOTE ALSO THAT THIS GOAL WILL BE ACHIEVED THROUGH TWO DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES NAMELY;

- (i) INCREASED SUSTAINABLE FOOD PRODUCTION AND INCOMES FOR THE POOR RURAL HOUSEHOLDS AND
- (ii) SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR PROVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES.

THE GOAL AND OBJECTIVES ARE IN LINE WITH THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT OF KENYA'S DEVELOPMENT BLUEPRINT, THE VISION 2030 WHICH AIMS AT CREATING A "GLOBALLY COMPETITIVE AND PROSPEROUS COUNTRY WITH A HIGH QUALITY OF LIFE BY 2030" AND TRANSFORMING KENYA INTO "A NEWLY-INDUSTRIALIZED, MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRY PROVIDING A HIGH QUALITY OF LIFE TO ALL ITS CITIZENS IN A CLEAN AND SECURE ENVIRONMENT".

THE PROJECT'S GOAL AND DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES ARE ALSO IN LINE WITH IFAD'S GOAL OF EMPOWERING RURAL WOMEN AND MEN TO ACHIEVE HIGHER INCOMES AND IMPROVED FOOD SECURITY.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN;

WE ALL KNOW THAT POVERTY IS MULTIFACETED AND DEALING WITH IT REQUIRES A MULTISECTORAL APPROACH. AM HAPPY TO NOTE THAT THE UPPER TANA NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PROJECT IS DESIGNED ALONG THESE LINES AND THAT IMPLEMENTATION IS THEREFORE BEING UNDERTAKEN BY BOTH NATIONAL AND COUNTY MINISTRIES AND DEPARTMENTS THAT INCLUDE; AGRICULTURE,

LIVESTOCK, FISHERIES, KWS, KFS, NEMA, DEVOLUTION AND PLANNING NATIONAL TREASURY AND MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, WATER AND NATURAL RESOURCES WHICH IS ALSO THE PROJECT'S LEAD AGENCY.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN;

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE UPPER TANA CATCHMENT NEED NOT BE OVEREMPHASIZED. AS WE ARE ALL AWARE, RIVER TANA IS THE MOST IMPORTANT RIVER BASIN IN THE COUNTRY AS IT PROVIDES 50% OF THE COUNTRY'S HYDROELECTRIC POWER, SUPPORTS LIVELIHOOD OF ABOUT 5.2 MILLION PEOPLE LIVING WITHIN THE UPPER TANA CATCHMENT AND SUPPLIES 95% OF WATER USED IN THE CITY OF NAIROBI.

WITH THIS BACKGROUND, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT ACTIVITIES GEARED TOWARDS MANAGING THE CATCHMENT MUST BE SUPPORTED BY ALL OF US.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN;

YOU ARE AWARE THAT SOME OF THE KEY CHALLENGES FACING THE UPPER TANA CATCHMENT INCLUDE;

- LAND DEGRADATION AND DRASTIC REDUCTION OF SURFACE WATER AVAILABILITY
- DECLINING WATER QUALITY DUE TO HIGH SILT LOAD GOING INTO OUR RIVERS, DAMS, WATER RESERVOIRS AND WETLANDS
- POOR AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES

- THE UPPER TANA CATCHMENT AREA IS DENSELY POPULATED WITH LARGE SECTIONS OF INHABITANTS BEING EITHER POOR OR VERY POOR AND DEPENDING ON SMALL LAND HOLDINGS FOR THEIR LIVELIHOOD.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN;

IT HAS ALSO BEEN NOTED THAT DUE TO DECLINING LAND PRODUCTIVITY CAUSED BY DECLINING SOIL FERTILITY, SOIL EROSION, REDUCED TREE COVER, OVERGRAZING IN THE LOWLANDS AND GENERAL POOR LAND MANAGEMENT ,THE CATCHMENT CHALLENGES WILL BE ACCELERATED IF NO ACTION IS TAKEN. THIS THEREFORE CALLS FOR CONCERTED EFFORT BY ALL TO ARREST THE SITUATION.

IT IS WITH THIS IN MIND THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF KENYA REQUESTED THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (IFAD) FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT IN ADDRESSING SOME OF THE CHALLENGES THE CATCHMENT IS FACING. THE UPPER TANA NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PROJECT WAS DESIGNED IN RECOGNITION THAT THERE IS HIGH CORRELATION BETWEEN POVERTY AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN;

I AM HAPPY TO NOTE THAT THE PROJECT TARGETS TO ACHIEVE THE FOLLOWING KEY INDICATORS:

- I. CAPACITY BUILDING FOR 24 WATER RESOURCE USER ASSOCIATIONS (WRUAs), PREPARATION OF SUB CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT PLANS AND SUPPORT THEIR IMPLEMENTATION IN LINE WITH WATER ACT 2002;
- II. CAPACITY BUILDING FOR 33 COMMUNITY FOREST ASSOCIATIONS (CFAs), PREPARATION OF PARTICIPATORY FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANS AND SUPPORT THEIR IMPLEMENTATION IN LINE WITH THE FOREST ACT OF 2005;
- III. CARRY OUT 273 PARTICIPATORY RURAL APPRAISALS (PRAs) IN DELINEATED FOCAL DEVELOPMENT AREAS ALONG THE RIVER BASINS CULMINATING IN DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY ACTION PLANS AND FUNDING OF COMMUNITY GROUPS THROUGH GRANTS;
- IV. CONDUCTING 1,230 ON-FARM TRIALS AND DEMONSTRATIONS UNDER ADAPTIVE RESEARCH & DEMONSTRATIONS BY THE KENYA AGRICULTURAL AND LIVESTOCK RESEARCH ORGANIZATION (KALRO);
- V. CONDUCTING MULTI-TREATMENT TRIALS FOR SOIL FERTILITY ENHANCEMENT IN 63 SITES WITHIN THE PROJECT AREA BY THE KENYA AGRICULTURAL AND LIVESTOCK RESEARCH ORGANIZATION (KALRO);
- VI. SUPPORT SEED MULTIPLICATION AND DISTRIBUTION IN COLLABORATION WITH THE KENYA AGRICULTURAL AND LIVESTOCK ORGANIZATION (KALRO) WITH THE EXPRESS

PURPOSE OF PRODUCING 720 TONS OF CERTIFIED SEEDS WITHIN THE PROJECT AREA;

- VII. DISBURSE MATCHING GRANTS TO 3,210 COMMON INTEREST GROUPS (CIGs) ENGAGED IN INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES (IGAs);
- VIII. PROVISION OF EXTENSION SERVICES THROUGH ESTABLISHMENT OF 888 FARMERS FIELD SCHOOLS (FFS) FOR TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER;
- IX. CONDUCT PUBLIC CAMPAIGNS FOR WATER AND SANITATION, INCREASING TREE COVER, SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION;
- X. REHABILITATE OR DEVELOP 10 DAMS, 100 SPRINGS, 55 BOREHOLES, 55 SHALLOW WELLS, CONSTRUCTION OF 12 COMMON WATER INTAKES AND SUPPORT INSTITUTIONS WITH 110 PVC RAINWATER TANKS FOR ROOF WATER HARVESTING;
- XI. REHABILITATE OR UPGRADE IRRIGATION SCHEMES TO COVER 2000 HECTARES;
- XII. REHABILITATION OF 1300 HECTARES OF DEGRADED FOREST RESERVES IN THE MOUNT KENYA AND ABERDERES FORESTS;
- XIII. FACILITATE 3,500 SCHOOLS IN THE SCHOOL GREENING PROGRAM WHERE PUPILS AND STUDENTS “ADOPT A TREE” AND NURTURE IT TO MATURITY TO INCULCATE A CULTURE OF TREE PLANTING;
- XIV. CONSTRUCT 60 KILOMETERS OF SOLAR ELECTRIC FENCE AROUND THE FOREST BORDERS OF MT. KENYA IN THARAKA NITHI AND MERU COUNTIES;

AND IN ADDITION

XV. CAPACITY BUILDING OF BOTH IMPLEMENTING STAFF AND COMMUNITIES.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN;

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I WANT TO APPRECIATE THE SUPPORT WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM IFAD AND THE SPANISH TRUST FUND AS DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS. THE RESOURCES PROVIDED BY IFAD AND THE SPANISH TRUST AMOUNTING TO USD 50 MILLION WILL GO A LONG WAY IN SUPPLEMENTING BOTH THE NATIONAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT RESOURCES EARMARKED FOR DEVELOPMENT. THESE RESOURCES WILL CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY IN SUPPORTING REALIZATION OF DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES STIPULATED IN OUR VISION 2030 AND OTHER NATIONAL AND COUNTY POLICY DOCUMENTS.

I ALSO WANT TO APPRECIATE AND RECOGNIZE THE SUPPORT BEING PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY GOVERNMENTS, THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND COLLABORATING PARTNERS SUCH AS THE RHINO ARK AND MOUNT KENYA TRUST IN IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN;

I NOTE THAT SO FAR, FOR THE TWO YEARS THAT THE PROJECT HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED, SOME COMMENDABLE ACHIEVEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE. NOTABLE AMONG THESE INCLUDE:

- DELINEATION OF FOCAL DEVELOPMENT AREAS (FDAs) ALONG 12 RIVER BASINS AND TRIBUTARIES OF 4 OTHER RIVER BASINS AND PREPARATION OF COMMUNITY ACTION PLANS WHICH ARE CURRENTLY BEING IMPLEMENTED THROUGH GRANTS TO COMMON INTEREST GROUPS;
- CONSTRUCTION AND REHABILITATION OF 10 WATER SPRINGS, 4 SHALLOW WELLS AND 2 COMMON WATER INTAKES, UPGRADING OF 1 IRRIGATION SCHEME COVERING 40 HECTARES;
- CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPING OF TWO WATER LABORATORIES, ONE IN EMBU AND ONE IN MURANG'A;
- REHABILITATION OF 667 HECTARES OF DEGRADED FOREST AREAS IN BOTH THE MT. KENYA AND ABERDERES ECOSYSTEMS;
- SUPPORT OF 433 SCHOOLS IN THE SCHOOL GREENING PROGRAMME;
- COMPLETION OF 50KMs OF RIVERLINE CONSERVEATION USING GIANT BAMBOO SEEDLINGS AND OTHER INDIGENOUS WATER FRIENDLY SPECIES;
- CONSTRUCTION OF 40KMs OF WILDLIFE CONTROL FENCE IN MT KENYA ECOSYSTEM TO CONTROL WILDLIFE;
- CARRYING OUT OF 60 ON-FARM TRIALS AND DEMONSTRATIONS;
- ESTABLISHMENT AND SUPPORT OF 40 FARMER FIELD SCHOOLS AS A METHODOLOGY FOR TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER;
- FUNDING OF 228 COMMON INTEREST GROUPS (CIG) TO EXPAND THEIR ENTERPRISES IN VARIOUS SECTORS INCLUDING CROPS, LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES;

- SEED MULTIPLICATION OF LEGUMES (BEANS, COWPEAS & GREEN GRAMS) AND ROOT CROPS INCLUDING CASSAVA, SWEET POTATOES & IRISH POTATO BY THE KENYA AGRICULTURAL & LIVESTOCK RESEARCH ORGANIZATION (KALRO) EMBU.

AND :-

THE PROCUREMENT OF 38 MOTOR VEHICLES, 73 MOTOR CYCLES AND 7 TRACTORS TO SUPPORT IN PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN;

AS I FLAG OFF THESE EQUIPMENTS, I WOULD LIKE TO ONCE AGAIN EXPRESS MY SINCERE APPRECIATION TO THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (IFAD) AND THE SPANISH TRUST FUND FOR FUNDING THE PROCUREMENT.

I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ASSURE OUR DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS THAT THESE EQUIPMENTS WILL BE PUT INTO THE USE THAT THEY WERE INTENDED FOR. THAT IS, TO ASSIST THE PROJECT TO IMPLEMENT THE PLANNED ACTIVITIES INORDER TO REALIZE ITS OBJECTIVES.

AS THE PROJECT'S LEAD AGENCY, I AM AWARE THAT THE EQUIPMENTS ARE NOT ENOUGH FOR USE IN ALL THE ACTIVITIES IN THE SUB-COUNTIES. I THEREFORE REQUEST ALL IMPLEMENTING OFFICERS;

- I. TO DEVELOP ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION PLANS SO AS TO MAKE OPTIMAL UTILIZATION OF THESE EQUIPMENTS;
- II. TO TAKE UTMOST CARE IN THEIR USE AND MAINTENANCE AND
- III. TO UPHOLD ALL GOVERNMENT OF KENYA RULES AND REGULATIONS WHEN USING THEM.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN;

FINALLY, I CALL UPON ALL PROJECT STAKEHOLDERS TO REDEDICATE THEIR EFFORTS IN DEVISING INNOVATIVE WAYS AND MEANS TO ENSURE TIMELY IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND PRUDENT UTILISATION OF THE AVAILABLE RESOURCES SO THAT TOGETHER, WE CAN MEET THE PROJECT GOALS AND DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES.

THANK YOU!!