



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND MINERAL RESOURCES

REMARKS BY HON. CHIRAU ALI MWAKWERE, E.G.H.;
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT & MINERAL RESOURCES

At the launch of the
KENYA NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN

Wednesday, 27 March 2013
Hotel Intercontinental – Nairobi

Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am happy to officiate at today's event for the launch of Kenya's National Climate Change Action Plan. Climate change is one of the most serious global challenges of our time. The scientific evidence is overwhelming, both at the global and local levels. About eighty per cent of the Kenya's total land area is categorised as Arid and Semi Arid Lands (ASALs). These are the areas that are most vulnerable to climate variability and change; with droughts and floods, among other extreme climate events, becoming ever more severe in magnitude and frequency. The Inter-governmental Panel on Climate change (IPCC) has indeed indicated that climate change will lead to an increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme climate and weather events. Flash floods associated with rainfall storms have become ever more common; and have at times led to landslides culminating in loss of life and damage to property. Frost and hailstorms have in recent years wantonly impacted on some of the most agriculturally productive areas of the

country, leading to losses that not only impact negatively on the economy, but also on the country's food security. Another related problem is that of crop failure as a result of poor distribution of rainfall within the season, accompanied by increased in-season dry spells whose frequency and intensity have been on the rise.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The year 2010 marked a paradigm shift in Kenya's approach to tackling climate change through the launch of National Climate Change Response Strategy, whose vision is "a prosperous and climate resilient Kenya". The Strategy has become Kenya's climate change agenda guide, providing a basis for strengthening and focusing nationwide action towards climate change adaptation and mitigation.

The Government has taken further steps to secure the country's development against the risks and impacts of climate change. The Constitution of Kenya, for example, binds the State to work towards achieving and maintaining a tree cover of at least ten per cent of the land area of Kenya; and guarantees every citizen the right to a clean and healthy environment.

Today's launch of the National Climate Change Action Plan, whose objective is to implement the National Climate Change Response Strategy, is yet another landmark stride by the country to address climate change vulnerability. The Action Plan has been developed in collaboration with other stakeholders; and with the support of development partners.

The Action Plan forms the basis for the country's transition to a low carbon climate resilient development pathway through adaptation response actions aimed at enhancing the resilience of our social and bio-physical systems, and mitigation actions aimed at tackling the causes of climate change. It also encourages people-centred development; ensuring that climate change response actions are aligned to the Constitution, Vision 2030 and the Millennium Development Goals.

The Action Plan process has been coordinated by my Ministry with the help of a Taskforce that has representatives of the Private Sector, Academia, Civil Society and the Government, and chaired by Permanent Secretary Ali D. Mohamed. At the technical level, these stakeholder groups have also been represented in the different Thematic Working Groups, which guided the technical work of the consultants. I would like to thank the PS, the members of the taskforce and the various thematic working groups for a job well done.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would also like to recognise our development partners for their support to the Action Plan process; and in particular, UK-aid through the Department for International Development (DFID); the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA); the Government of Japan through the UNDP administered Africa Adaptation Programme, and the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN). In addition, I would like to acknowledge the consortia of national and international experts who provided management support and technical input to the process.

I am aware that the priority intervention actions proposed in the Action Plan proposes are costly, but the solutions are within our reach. We once again look forward to continued cooperation with our development partners and stakeholders in the implementation of these actions.

It is now my pleasure and honour to officially launch the Kenya National Climate Change Action Plan (2013 – 2017).

Thank you.