



**PRINCIPAL SECRETARY OPENING REMARKS DURING ASSESSMENT OF
POTENTIAL OF MANUFACTURER AND ASSEMBLY OF ELECTRIC BUS
RAPID TRANSIT BUSES (BRT) HELD ON 11TH AUGUST, 2026 AT PULLMAN
HOTEL FROM 7.30-10.00AM**

The Principal Secretary -State Department for Industries

The Director General -Nairobi Metropolitan Area Transport Authority

United Nations Environmental Program Representation

German Development Corporation -delegation

World Resource Institute-Africa Representative

Sustainable Transport Representative

CEOs, MDs, Expatriates and executives from the Private Sector

Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am deeply honored to be part of this noble undertaking. Allow me to begin by expressing my heartfelt gratitude to our investors, industrialists, and entrepreneurs for choosing Kenya as your investment destination. Your commitment to this country is evident not only in your investments, but also in the support you have consistently extended to the Technical Working Committee during their industrial visits.

Your diligence is reflected in your availability today and in the rich feedback you have shared. As we say in Kenya, “**Tumewasikia.**” In fact, we have not only heard you but we have seen what you do in your factories. From the reports prepared, the level of investment in product development, mass production, marketing, and compliance is nothing short of impressive.

I also wish to express our gratitude to our development partners represented here today. We acknowledge with appreciation the support from GIZ, with co-funding from the European Union. Kenya does not take lightly the structured support you continue to extend across diverse sectors, from sustainable public transportation to industrial growth promotion. **Asanteni sana.**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to reiterate the unwavering commitment of the Government of Kenya, under the leadership of His Excellency the President in making bold, decisive, and actionable decisions for sustainable growth. The President is keen on laying a level playing field for development, not only within the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda, MTP IV, but also beyond Vision 2030. In the draft Vision 2060 document currently under development, manufacturing and value addition proudly stand as Pillar Number Two. That is not by accident but by design.

The Technical Working Committee conducted **thirty-six industrial visits** across private sector institutions. We observed remarkable capabilities in assembly, body building, and components manufacturing. We also noted significant localization of critical materials including steel, rubber, and cables. Additionally, the Committee engaged **eighteen government entities** to appreciate their strategic interventions in fostering localization within the automotive sector.

The feedback received today, coupled with the written submissions, will enrich the report currently underway. In the spirit of the Whole-of-Government Approach, we are

committed to seeing this process to its logical conclusion and more importantly, to implementing the recommendations.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to highlight a few quick wins and opportunities available, particularly within the roads sector, to support industrial growth. In June 2025, the Engineers Board of Kenya (EBK) achieved **Provisional Signatory Status** to the prestigious **Washington Accord**, an international agreement recognizing the equivalency of accredited engineering programs globally. This milestone affirms that Kenya's engineering capacity aligns with global benchmarks, enabling graduates from recognized Kenyan universities to qualify for professional roles internationally.

This recognition is a strong endorsement of Kenya's commitment to quality assurance and outcome-based education. I urge our industrial investors to leverage this opportunity. The government has also strengthened accountability and certification mechanisms for engineers and technologists through EBK and the Kenya Engineering Technologists Registration Board (KETRB). We have also enhanced reciprocal recognition, curriculum updates, and continuous professional development for practitioners.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

While global alignment of engineering qualifications is key, reciprocal recognition of our locally manufactured parts, systems, and vehicles is equally critical for sustainable socio-economic growth. The world is increasingly focused on safety, environmental protection, fuel efficiency, just transition, sustainability, and inclusivity even within the vehicle value chain.

It is for this reason that we embarked on a multi-stakeholder, multi-agency assessment of Kenya's viability for ascension to the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29). From the preliminary report, it is clear that most global vehicle regulations derive legitimacy and reference from WP.29. Consequently, global manufacturers, component producers, regulatory bodies, testing entities, type-approval organizations, and umbrella bodies participate actively in this forum. While becoming a contracting party is voluntary, remaining a non-member denies a country the opportunity to shape global vehicle regulations and to enjoy the full benefits.

Recognizing the need for Kenya to move from being merely a consumer of global regulations to being a contributor, the process towards becoming a contracting party

is underway. We are committed to informing and engaging the sector as we move toward this objective. I assure you that we are ready to pick up actionable points that will improve the investment architecture in line with our mandates and the Whole-of-Government Approach.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As I conclude, allow me to reaffirm the government's commitment to **safety, environmental protection, industrial growth, and sustainable public transportation** through the application of national, regional, and global best practices. We are keen to ensure that both existing and upcoming investors in Kenya enjoy a fair share of national, regional, and global opportunities.

By the end of this workshop, I expect detailed feedback on the current status and clear action points. Given the invaluable support from the sector, you will be accorded the noble opportunity to access the final document during validation. And let me emphasize, the **report will not be the end, but the beginning of transformative action across the entire value chain.**

It is now my duty and pleasure to declare this workshop **officially open. Asanteni na Mungu awabariki.**