



STATEMENT BY HON. REBECCA MIANO, EGH, THE CABINET SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF INVESTMENTS, TRADE & INDUSTRY DURING THE RECOMMISSIONING OF THE EAST AFRICAN PORTLAND CEMENT PLC PLANT ON 30TH APRIL 2024.

SALUTATIONS

- **Principal Secretary, Min. of Investments. Trade and Industry, Juma Mukhwana.**
- **The Chairman, Board of Directors, EAPC PLC, Rtd Brig. Richard Mbithi**
- **Members of the Board**
- **Staff of EAPC PLC**
- **Distinguished Guests**
- **Ladies & Gentlemen**

1. Today marks a significant milestone in Kenya's manufacturing sector journey. The successful

recommissioning of the East African Portland Cement PLC plant marks a transformative moment in our nation's industrial landscape, a symbol of the Government's unwavering commitment to revitalizing and growing our manufacturing sector.

2. It is a step towards **achieving the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda**, a strategic plan to transform our economy by attracting investment in manufacturing, which will, in turn, create **employment**.
3. Our manufacturing sector, a key driver of economic growth, job creation, and industrialization, has faced challenges, but today, we celebrate our collective triumph over them.
4. Despite the challenges, the Government has remained resolute in its commitment to supporting the competitiveness and growth of local industries. One of the key initiatives in this regard has been setting ambitious targets for the manufacturing sector,

including increasing its contribution to GDP to 20% by 2027.

5. The recommissioning of the EAPC PLC plant is not just a significant step towards realizing this goal but a beacon of hope for the future of our manufacturing sector. EAPC PLC, with its strategic investments in plant refurbishment and modernization, is poised to regain profitability and resume dividends in the coming fiscal year 2024-25.
6. This achievement signals the resurgence of a key player in the cement industry and, more importantly, the potential for growth and innovation within Kenya's manufacturing sector. At the heart of our efforts to revitalize the manufacturing sector lies a commitment to enhancing competitiveness, efficiency, and sustainability, paving the way for a brighter future.
7. Introducing the Export and Investment Promotion Levy is a prime example of this commitment. By levying 17.5% on the importation of clinker, the Government aims to reduce the reliance of local cement companies

on imported raw materials and promote the growth of domestic industries.

8. This initiative is not just about protecting jobs and safeguarding local industries but about laying the foundation for a more resilient and competitive economy that can thrive in the global marketplace.
9. In addition to promoting competitiveness, the Government is also focusing on promoting import substitution in energy consumption. The utilization of coal deposits in Kenya presents a unique opportunity to reduce our dependence on imported energy sources and create a more sustainable and self-sufficient energy ecosystem.
10. By harnessing the potential of coal, we can reduce energy costs for local industries and create new opportunities for growth and innovation in sectors such as manufacturing, construction, and transportation.
11. However, our efforts to revitalize the manufacturing sector extend beyond economic considerations. We are also committed to promoting

inclusive growth and social development, mainly through initiatives such as affordable housing and employment generation.

12. The partnership between EAPC PLC and relevant ministries is a testament to this commitment, as it seeks to leverage the synergies between the public and private sectors to address pressing social and economic challenges.
13. Amidst Kenya's manufacturing sector's complex and multifaceted challenges, we recognize the importance of fostering a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship. In today's rapidly changing global economy, the ability to adapt, innovate, and embrace new technologies will increasingly determine our success.
14. The Government is committed to supporting research and development initiatives, promoting skills development and training programs, and providing access to financing and market opportunities for local entrepreneurs and innovators.

15. As we look towards the future, we must acknowledge that our landscape constantly evolves, from global economic uncertainties to climate change and technological disruptions. However, in times of challenge and uncertainty, the true potential of our nation's resilience and ingenuity is revealed.
16. In conclusion, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all stakeholders who have contributed to the success of this momentous occasion. From the dedicated employees of EAPC PLC to the Government agencies, private sector partners, and civil society organizations that have supported our efforts, your commitment and dedication have been instrumental in bringing us to this point.
17. As we continue our journey towards a more prosperous and sustainable future for Kenya, let us remain steadfast in our determination, united in our purpose, and unwavering in our commitment to building a better tomorrow for future generations.

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