



REMARKS BY CABINET SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF INVESTMENTS, TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MADAM REBECCA MIANO EGH, DURING THE VISIT AT KENYA VEHICLES MANUFACTURERS (KVM) IN THIKA ON MONDAY 15TH APRIL 2024.

The CEO BasiGo, Mr Jit Bhattacharya,
CEO CFAO-Kenya, Mr Akira Wada,
CEO Toyota Kenya, Arvinder Reel
CFO KVM, Nathan Juma,
CEO Citi Hoppa, Madam Judy Thuo,
Chairman of Super Metro, Mr. Nelson Mwangi Nduki,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies & Gentlemen,

Good Morning!

It is so heartwarming to witness the rolling out of Kenya's first lot of electric buses courtesy of BasiGo Company.

This is a major milestone for Kenya as well as a testament that the Government is committed to fostering an environment that encourages both local and foreign investments. It is also a remarkable watershed moment in so far as job creation is concerned and perfectly in line with Kenya Kwanza's Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda.

Kenya, like many other countries across the globe, continues to grapple with the adverse effects of fossil fuel dependency. Yet it is our onus in this generation to find a lasting alternative.

One of the key priorities of the Government is addressing climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The transport sector is a significant contributor to carbon emissions and transitioning to electric vehicles presents a sustainable solution to mitigate environmental degradation and address the negative effects of climate change.

The adoption of electric mobility is not merely a trend. Rather, it is a necessity dictated to by the vagaries of climate change and the imperative to reduce our carbon footprint. This is as stipulated in our National Climate Change Action Plan and the attendant goal of having 5% of all newly registered units as electric vehicles by 2025.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Two weeks ago, my cabinet colleagues and I launched the Draft National Electric Mobility Policy; an event that marked the beginning of our journey towards sustainable development and transformation of our transport sector.

One of the cornerstones of this policy is the establishment of incentives meant to increase the uptake of electric vehicles. Through the Finance Act of 2019, the Government reduced excise duty on electric powered vehicles to 10%, significantly lowering the duty imposed on fossil fuel powered vehicles. In addition, the Finance Act of 2023 zero-rated the purchase of electric vehicles.

Efforts are also underway to revise the Integrated National Transport Policy (2009) to accommodate electric vehicles and the requisite infrastructure.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

To further support this sector, my Ministry has developed an Automotive Policy to stimulate the assembly and manufacture of vehicles, with a specific focus on electric vehicles.

The Government recognises the critical role that investment such as BasiGo plays in driving economic growth, creating employment opportunities and improving the livelihoods of our citizens. We have therefore prioritised the creation of a conducive business and investment climate, with robust policies besides streamlining regulations and setting up strategic incentives aimed at attracting and retaining investors.

Local assembly, such as what we see here at Kenya Vehicle Manufacturers (KVM) is of paramount importance to Kenya's economic development. By promoting local manufacturing, we not only stimulate industrial growth but also enhance technological advancement, skills development and value addition within our economy.

The commendable partnership between BasiGo and KVM is Kenya's first dedicated, high-volume assembly line for modern electric buses. I note with pride that as of March this year, BasiGo's electric buses had driven over 1.5 million kilometers in Kenya, carried over 2.1 million passengers and side-stepped over 680 tons of greenhouse gas emissions.

As you aim to deliver 1,000 locally assembled electric buses in the next three years and create 300 green manufacturing jobs in Kenya, my Ministry will endeavour to create a favourable business and investment environment in which we shall thrive together.

As a nation, if we develop our abundant potential in renewable energy resources, such as solar and wind, we can establish Kenya as a hub for clean transportation technology in Africa and a leader in this sector across the entire world.

I now take this opportunity to wish you the very best in all your endeavours going forward.

Thank you and God bless you all.



