

SPEECH BY FARIDA KARONEY, OGW, CABINET SECRETARY MINISTRY OF LANDS AND PHYSICAL PLANNING DURING THE LAUNCH OF THE SESSIONAL PAPER No 1 OF 2017 ON NATIONAL LAND USE POLICY (NLUP) AT KENYATTA INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE ON JUNE 12, 2018

Your Excellency the Deputy President, H.E. William Samoei Ruto,
EGH, EBS

Cabinet Secretaries present

The Governor of Nairobi, Hon. Mike Mbuvi Sonko

Chief Administrative Secretaries present

Principal Secretaries present

Heads of State Agencies

Development Partners

Representatives of County Governments
Distinguished Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen

I wish to welcome you all to this great occasion.

Today marks a major milestone in policy formulation in the Land Sector. As a sector, we have made tremendous gains since the passage of the Sessional Paper No 3 of 2009. These gains have further been consolidated in article 60

of the Constitution of Kenya (2010) which outlines the principles for sustainable and equitable land use.

The National Land Use Policy is the framework that will guide all land use practices across sectors. The Policy builds on the need to align the usage of land as a resource in a manner that ensures sustainability and equity. It seeks to build on H.E the President's one government approach to policy formulation because it will align and consolidate all legislation that govern use of land across all sectors of the economy. All legislation affecting land use will be harmonized and aligned to reflect the Policy.

For example your excellency, we do not have a single definition of riparian land as Government, under the Physical planning Act in my Ministry it's defined as land which falls in the proximity of a a water body, a minimum of ten metres from the river bank on either side, under the water Act in the Ministry of Water, the minimum distance is three metres from the edge of the river on either side, and under the Survey Act, the property boundary is defined to be at the centerline of the river meaning there is no provision for

Riparian land. This is what we need to harmonize your excellency so that the Government can better enforce sustainable use of land.

Ladies and Gentlemen

With the launch of the National Land Use Policy, the Ministry of Lands and Physical Planning sends a clear message to all Stakeholders in the Land Sector about the need to balance human settlement, food security needs with responsible exploitation of our environment.

The Policy gives context to our development aspirations at the National and County levels. It anchors the development and realization of the National Spatial plan and County Specific Spatial Plans. The Spatial Plans aim at creating balanced and integrated development across the country.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Land is a finite resource. With competing interests such as rapid urbanization, population density, land fragmentation, diminishing agricultural land and encroachments on fragile Ecosystems, it behooves all of us to adopt sustainable land use practices. This policy provides the framework to guide and inform such sustainable practices.

With the reality of climate change, we must do all it takes for us to bequeath future generations with a sustainable environment. The Policy gives the

framework for many other land uses such as afforestation, environmental management and agroforestry.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The National Land Use Policy provides parameters to anchor the four priority economic pillars of the Government which are Manufacturing, Food Security, affordable Housing and universal Health care.

I wish to thank our development partners for their support and professional advice in the preparation of this Policy. The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations have been true partners in the journey leading to the production of this policy document. I thank you and others who have assisted us in getting to this point.

As we launch this policy today, I wish to call upon all relevant government ministries, departments, agencies, County Governments and the people of our

great Nation to embrace the statements of intent in the Land use Policy for better coordination and facilitation of the Land Use practices in Kenya.

God bless