



12<sup>th</sup> June 2023

**ENGINEERING PARTNERSHIP CONVENTION -OPENNING  
SPEECH BY ENG. ERICK OHAGA, PRESIDENT OF THE  
INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS OF KENYA**

**DELIVERED ON 13TH JUNE 2023**

**AT 13.30HRS**

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**The Chief Guest, Your Excellency Dr. William Samoei Ruto, CGH,  
President of The Republic of Kenya AND Comander-IN-Chief of  
Kenya Defence Forces,**

**Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Roads and Transport, Mr. Onesimus  
Kipchumba Murkomen, EGH,**

**Principal Secretary, State Department of Roads- Eng. Joseph  
Mbugua,**

**Principal Secretaries present,**

**Chairman, Engineers Board of Kenya,**

**Members of the Board, Engineers Board of Kenya,**

**Members of the Institution of Engineers of Kenya,**

**Registrar and CEO, Engineers Board of Kenya - Eng. Margaret Ogai**

**Registrar of Engineers Board of Tanzania**

**President of Institution of Engineers of Tanzania**

**Special Dignitaries - specifically our collaborative stakeholders,**

**Invited Guests,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. It gives me great pleasure to join in this event organized by the Engineers Board of Kenya (EBK), who we also collaborate with on a day-to-day basis.
2. **The** Institution of Engineers of Kenya (IEK) is the learned society of the engineering profession and co-operates with national and other international institutions in developing and applying engineering to the benefit of humanity. IEK has over 12,000 members drawn from engineers working in various government institutions (both national and county), consultancies, contractors, educators, designers, manufacturers, and other persons interested in engineering.
3. The Theme for this three-day convention, *“Transforming Kenya’s Economy-Engineers’ Contribution to Development”*, places a significant challenge to the contribution of the role of engineering in the transformation of the economic agenda of our nation Kenya. As an engineering fraternity, we are alive to the fact that we are expected to work with and support the government in its agenda in the realization of the transformation of the economy. Our role cannot be over emphasized and I call upon my colleagues to rally behind the initiatives that the

government has put in place and in addition, play such innovative role in driving this agenda.

**All Protocols observed, ladies and gentlemen;**

4. We acknowledge with gratitude, the support that we have continued to receive from the Government. We specifically take note of the recognition extended to the engineering fraternity by having more than one of our members being appointed to senior positions in government and more specifically in the Principal Secretary positions to name but a few. Please permit me to audibly mention the support that we have received from the various PSeS with an engineering background and specifically led by Eng. Joseph Mbugua, PS-State department for Roads. I also want to thank the CS, Ministry of Roads and Transport, Mr. Onesmas Kipchumba Murkomen for giving us audience in his office last week. Indeed, this goes a long way to demonstrate the goodwill that the government has in store for the engineering fraternity.

**Your Excellency,**

5. Allow me to say that the growth of any country's economy is hinged upon the engineer and engineering services which put into existence the infrastructure on which the economy thrives. Manufacturing, Education, Banking and Finance, Delivery of Government services, Tourism, Agriculture, Horticulture cannot

thrive without the existence of a well-established infrastructure. Some of these infrastructure areas are; Roads; Transport, Energy, Telecommunications, Housing, Bio medical and manufacturing are crucial towards improvement of the socio-economic livelihood of our citizenry. At the center of all this is the Engineer and Engineering Services.

6. **Engineering** continues to be the heart and soul of all organizations. These three days Engineering Partnerships Convention (EPC) provides us with an opportunity to retrospect, challenge, critique and ask ourselves the role we as engineers need to play in transforming the economy of our nation.
7. **The Kenya Government** has important vision and mission in the areas of Agriculture, Food Security, MSMEs development, Housing, Health Access, Digital Superhighway and Creative Economy among others. With this expected growth, the country requires workers with vision, and passion to transform the vision into action, courage to think differently and energy to combat problems.
8. I wish to reiterate to you again your Excellency that engineers are best placed to be at the forefront of delivering your mandate to the citizens of the country.

9. Our event theme talks of our contribution to economic development in the country. We are seized of the fact that your government is committed to investing Sh. 250 billion in 5 years to boost Agriculture & Food security, provide 50bn annually to MSMEs, build 250,000 affordable houses every year, construction of 100 dams, construction of 100,000km fibre optic network among others;
10. As we embark on achieving these aspirations of a new dawn, we as engineers are fully aware of the heavy responsibility placed on us to design facilities which are safe, reliable and promote wellbeing of our citizens. We call for mutual beneficial working relationship with the government to enable us to contribute our expertise in this regard. In working with the government, we cannot fail to address the welfare of the engineers in Kenya noting that we may wish to see that:
- a. The country urgently requires additional 2500 Engineers to support efficient delivery of services in planning, design, and construction supervision, operation and maintenance at both national and county governments.
  - b. Further as we implement the **BETA** program; where short - term assignments or contracts that do not economically justify foreigners' employment, qualified Kenyan Engineers and Engineering consulting firms should be engaged to oversee Engineering projects and works at all levels of Government from conceptualization, prefeasibility study, Feasibility, design, construction, operation and maintenance)
  - c. I wish to applaud the Government effort of combating climate change by greening the energy mix to 92% and aspiration to

reach 100% clean energy by 2030 by enhancing the share of renewables and introduction of Nuclear Energy.

d. Finally, I wish to address industrialization, last mile infrastructure and use of local content and manufacturing. Engineers support the making of each county a center of industrial development that provides all the local products for large scale projects e.g., dam construction, the affordable housing and a flag ship value added product that can be produced for local and export market supporting job creation in the counties.

11. How do we actualize this? I wish to propose to you, your Excellency as a way forward to incorporate a small team of members of IEK and your team to prepare an Implementation Plan on achieving this transformative development agenda for our country.

12. I wish to conclude by thanking you once again for honoring our invitation and I look forward to meeting you in state house to discuss these aspects in detail.

13. Thank you all and God bless you.

-END-

-Signed-

Eng. Erick Ohaga,