



**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND FORESTRY
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR FORESTRY**

REMARKS BY THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, MR. GITONGA MUGAMBI, CBS, DURING THE KICK-OFF MEETING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT MISSION FOR THE KENYA WATERSHEDS SERVICES IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (KEWASIP) ON MONDAY 26TH JANUARY 2025 AT THE EDGE HOTEL AND CONVENTION CENTER, COLLEGE OF INSURANCE NAIROBI

Colleague PS's present,

Senior Government Official present

World Bank Team

CEO's present

Ladies and Gentlemen, Good morning!

1. It is my pleasure to join you today as we officially commence the implementation of the Kenya Watershed Services Improvement Project (KEWASIP), following its declaration of effectiveness on 23rd December 2025.
2. KEWASIP comes in good time to contribute to the National restoration obligations and our international commitments as detailed in the National Landscape and Ecosystem Restoration Strategy (NLERS);2023-2032.
3. KEWASIP will restore the degraded landscapes, improve watershed management and promote sustainable livelihoods in 12 counties:

Baringo, Marsabit, Isiolo, Samburu, Laikipia, Meru, Kitui, Tharaka Nithi, Tana River, Garissa, Makueni and Kwale.

4. The success of KEWASIP will depend largely on strong partnerships amongst the various implementing institutions - KFS, KEFRI, NEMA, NETFUND, WRA, KWS, State Department of Irrigation, State Department for Wildlife, County governments and Council of Governors.
5. We call upon the leadership and technical teams of these institutions to actively engage throughout the implementation period, working closely with the national coordinating team domiced at the State Department for Forestry to ensure that KEWASIP delivers tangible benefits to communities and contributes to sustainable watershed management.
6. As we move into the implementation phase, let us all maintain the same spirit of cooperation, accountability, and dedication that has brought us this far. Let us now translate our plans into tangible results that will improve watershed services, strengthen institutions, and deliver lasting benefits to our communities.
7. Today's meeting marks the successful completion of the project preparation phase and commencement of the implementation. I sincerely appreciate the World Bank for financing the Project and their strong partnership and technical support provided throughout the project preparation process and call for even more support during implementation.
8. I note that the journey travelled so far also depended on the institutional leadership and technical teams. I commend and sincerely appreciate your commitment and hard work assured that ensured the

timely fulfilment of all effectiveness conditions and urge for your total dedication and commitment during the project implementation phase.

9. In conclusion, I am aware this mission will involve both detailed discussion at this venue and extensive field visits. Let me wish you fruitful discussions and journey mercies during your field visits.

Once again, I thank you all for your commitment to this project, and I look forward to working closely with you as we move towards the successful implementation of KEWASIP.