

**KEY NOTE ADDRESS BY HON. FREDERICK O. GUMO, EGH, MP,
MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITIES
DURING THE LAUNCH OF THE MINISTRY'S STRATEGIC PLAN AT
LAICO REGENCY HOTEL ON 12TH FEBRUARY 2010 AT 11.00AM.**

Distinguished Guests

All protocols observed

Ladies and gentlemen.

It is my great pleasure to be here with you today during this occasion of launching of the strategic plan for my ministry. I thank you all for coming.

The strategic Plan which is to cover the period 2008 to 2012 was formulated in the context of *Kenya Vision 2030*, its first Medium Term Plan (2008-2012), the Regional Development Policy and other national development policies and should be seen as a framework detailing clearly the route-maps to achieving the ministry's vision and mission as well as fulfilling the ministry's strategic objectives, which include among others:

- i. Establishing mechanisms for integrated planning at regional levels;
- ii. Formulating and implementing policy guidelines for sustainable m
Develop resource utilization charters.
- iii. Establishing all inclusive mechanisms for mobilizing local communities to participate effectively in regional development and benefit from resource utilization within the regions.
- iv. Developing and strengthen framework for monitoring and evaluating regional development activities.
- v. Building and strengthen the capacities of Regional Development Authorities.
- vi. Strengthening infrastructure and service linkages between existing and new market centres and towns.
- vii. Developing an effective and sustainable resources mobilisation system to support regional development activities management of resources in the RDAs jurisdiction

Ladies and gentlemen, the strategic plan is also premised on the Service Charter which outlines the services my Ministry offers and clearly indicates the quality of services that should be expected. It is pegged on the service charter's building blocks, namely; integrity, quality service, team work, commitment and

respect. The strategic plan is formulated against a backdrop of remarkable achievements by my ministry in the recent past. These include:

- i. Creation of a Regional Development department to oversee RDAs development activities;
- ii. Developing a Regional Development Policy to act as a guide for regional development;
- iii. Preparing a sustainability strategy to address the funding constraints within the RDAs;
- iv. Increased access to water resources in various regions of the country;
- v. Sustainable utilization and management of natural resources which include formulation of regional master plans in ENNDA and ENSDA;
- vi. Improved agricultural and livestock production in various regions; and
- vii. Increased output from both capture fisheries and aquaculture

Ladies and gentlemen, the Cabinet recently approved eighteen projects proposed by my ministry, three in each Regional development Authority (RDA). These are integrated basin-based development projects that are geared towards achievement of the economic and social goals of the *Kenya Vision 2030*. I have no doubt in my mind that these mega projects will go a long way in ensuring that Kenyans attain enhanced growth and sustained wealth creation for poverty reduction. The strategic plan that we are launching today will therefore be a very important tool to provide the necessary guidelines in the implementation of the said projects as well as other key programmes envisaged during the plan period.

However, we are cognizant of the fact that implementation of the projects will require concerted efforts by all stakeholders including development partners, private sector, NGOs, CBOs, communities among others to optimally and efficiently use the available resources for maximum benefits.

Implementation of this strategic plan calls for committed and focused leadership on the part of all concerned. I assure you that we in the ministry are up to the task of implementing all the strategies contained in the strategic plan. Even so,

we cannot lose sight of the fact that we are launching this strategic plan at a time when the country is facing serious socio-economic hardships, including the IDP situation, drought and the aftermath of the Elnino phenomenon. These have a bearing on the availability of financial resources required to achieve our stated objectives. It calls upon us to explore ways and means of mobilizing the needed resources which is to the tune of Kshs 155 billion. One way is for us to work as a team in selling the proposed projects to interested investors who could possibly come in under the public private partnerships.

Most importantly ladies and gentlemen, let me affirm that my office will ensure that all funds coming from our development partners and others for programme support will be utilized for the purposes intended only.

Ladies and gentlemen, in conclusion, let me at this juncture recognize the important role our stakeholders played in the formulation of this document. It is a product of a rigorous consultative process among our stakeholders and benefited from important advice from key government agencies especially the Ministry of State for Planning, National Development and Vision 2030. I take this opportunity to thank all who saw to it that this plan was a success.

I now declare the strategic plan officially launched.

Thank you.

NAIROBI

12TH FEBRUARY 2010.