



**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**  
**MINISTRY OF ICT, INNOVATION AND YOUTH AFFAIRS**

**SPEECH BY MR. JEROME OCHIENG, CBS, PRINCIPAL  
SECRETARY STATE DEPARTMENT FOR ICT AND INNOVATION  
DURING KONZA TECHNOPOLIS CONFERENCE- PROPERTY  
DEVELOPERS AND FINANCIERS ON TUESDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY,  
2020**

## **SALUTATION**

- 1. DR. REUBEN MUTISO, CHAIRMAN OF THE KOTDA BOARD**
- 2. ENG. JOHN TANUI, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER KOTDA**
- 3. PROPERTY DEVELOPERS AND FINANCERS,**

**Good Morning!**

**Ladies and Gentlemen;**

- 1. Kenya has witnessed a relatively** stable economic growth attributed mainly to microeconomic stability and government expenditure. The Africa economic outlook report 2020 has predicted a 6% economic growth in 2020 a clear indication of a favourable investment climate.

**2. Despite our positive economic** trajectory, we are witnessing a subdued private sector investment especially our local investors. This calls for us to intensify our engagement and identify specific investment areas that we can enhance to attract private investors to government led projects such as Konza.

**3. The Ministry has made deliberate** effort to seize the significant social-economic opportunities that technology brings. We take cognisance of rapidly developing digital economy which we believe

it will provide us with an opportunity to enhance our economy and to create jobs.

**Ladies and Gentlemen:**

**4. The Ministry is committed to** supporting the development of Konza Technopolis and we acknowledge the fact that the world is moving towards a new 'knowledge-based economy' or 'knowledge society', in which the role and significance of knowledge as an input in economic processes has fundamentally changed.

**5. Kenya has identified technology** as a key enabler in attaining the goals and aspirations of Vision 2030 to transform Kenya into a

knowledge and information-based economy. To achieve this, the country needs greater reliance on intellectual capabilities, human capital, and research and development.

**6. We are building Konza as a smart city** to attract all businesses, both nationally and internationally. The smart city will support and educate new and existing tech entrepreneurs.

**7. Smart city with its reliable infrastructure** and connectivity, will foster a technology ecosystem that will bring together a diverse population to offer solutions to local problems.

**8. We note that, building smart cities** requires ideas and expertise from a wider range of stakeholders. That is the reason why we invited you here today.

**9. We have shown the Government's** commitment by being the first movers. As you can see, we have the Konza headquarter building that we invested in as a government, the National Data Center, establishment of the Kenya Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, the Ketraco substation, we have rehabilitated Nolturesh water pipeline to supply clean reliable water. In total we

have committed over Kenya Shillings 80 (eighty)billion to this project.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**10.I am pleased to inform you that this project** has now been gazetted as a special Economic Zone and it is our hope that this will generate additional economic activity within Konza, promote exports of goods and services and encourage more investment.

**11.Over the weekend 60 students** from five (5) universities were hosted here in Konza for a 48 hours hackathon and they had to keep moving to nearby hotels for accommodation.

**12.In December this year additional** 200 young people will be hosted on site. This is a great opportunity for property developers in residential, hospitality and social amenities such as schools and entertainment joints to invest here.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**13.The implementation of Phase 1 (one) of Konza** is progressing well and the Master Plan of this Phase begun on a

400-acre land which is expected to attract 30,000 residents, 7,500 knowledge workers, and 16,700 other workers upon its completion.

**14.The Authority has also engaged investors** drawn from the public sector including Ministry of Education for the development of a Science Technology Park (STP), National Construction Authority (NCA) for the construction of NCA Offices and a Training facility, Kenya Electricity Transmission Company (KeTRACO) for construction of Substation and Residential Units for Staff.

**15. In terms of access we note that Konza** will benefit from the dualling of the Nairobi-Mombasa expressway. The first section, from the Namanga Road junction near Kitengela, will have an interchange near Konza Technopolis and a spur road to the Machakos turnoff at Kyumvi. Clearly, the dual carriage road will significantly cut travel time to Konza and at the same time enable easy access to Nairobi.

**16. We estimate the total investment on** Konza Technopolis Phase 1 on 400 acres both by private sector and the government at over Ksh. 600 billion of which the government will invest about

10% in the development of core infrastructure to facilitate investment by the private sector.

**17.The building you see here today** as mentioned will house KoTDA's headquarters. It will additionally host earlier investors and provide space to our innovators especially in the three (3) clusters of ICT/ITES, Life Science and Engineering. We shall host the SDG Accelerator satellite lab here at Konza. This will attract young people to the site.

**18.To spur economic growth driven** by a robust private sector we are deliberately putting structures in place to position the sector and Konza as a hub. We have provided within the sector opportunities that will enable you tap into the big 4 for agenda.

**19.In the Affordable Housing we** have allocated 26 acres of land in Konza for various housing projects which will cater for the high-end market and the Bottom of the Pyramid populations through provision of *Affordable Housing Unit, the* Phase 1 will accommodate 30,000 inhabitants upon completion in 2022, while

the entire Technopolis will be home to 200,000 population by 2030.

**20. Konza has further allocated 108 acres** to *Industrialization, Light Manufacturing and Agro-processing* within Phase 1. This sector will be supported by the vibrant ICT infrastructure and leverage on the Konza's innovation ecosystem. The private sector should take advantage of incentives within the Special Economic Zone, to support light Manufacturing and Agro-processing within Konza.

**21.The city has made provisions** for Modern *Commercial Agriculture* in addition to playing host to research facilities focusing on affordable and efficient agricultural solutions aimed at addressing the country's Food and Nutrition needs. An additional 26 acres of land within Phase 1 is set aside for the *Life Sciences Band*.

**22.This band will house investments and** developments in the *Universal Health Care* through development of world-class Health Care Facilities, Laboratories and Research Centers.

**23.The private sector need to invest** in research and development that will push affordable healthcare and insurance option targeted at the informal sector. We are calling upon you to invest in local manufacturing of pharmaceuticals and medical equipment so as to reduce the cost of healthcare.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**24.For us to build a world class smart city,** we need to leverage on the strengths and competencies of various organizations in the public and private sector as well countries in Africa and beyond.

**25. Already, over seventeen (17) investors** have been approved to establish different investments, among them a hospital, office buildings, research and investment facilities, housing, schools and recreational facilities. The Phase One of Konza measuring 400 acres of land still has over 145 parcels of land available for investors uptake.

**26. I am sure we are all looking forward** to a fruitful and enlightening discussion this morning and I trust that at the end of it, you will all take up investment opportunities in Konza.

**27.Kenya** is ready for investment and Konza Technopolis is a good place to start.

**Thank you!**