

**REMARKS BY H.E HON NDERITU GACHAGUA, CHAIRMAN OF THE AGRICULTURE AND LANDS COMMITTEE, COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS, DURING THE AGRIBUSINESS SYMPOSIUM HELD ON 21<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2014 AT SAFARI PARK HOTEL**

Your Excellency Honorable William Ruto, the Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya, Honourable Cabinet Secretaries, fellow Governors, County Executive Committee Members, Chair of the Action Platform (Mr. Vimal Shah), distinguished leaders of agribusiness and banks, farmers and support organizations, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning!

I am very pleased to join you today for this Symposium to launch the 'Action Platform to Create Shared Value in Kenyan Agribusiness'. I believe this Symposium marks a pivotal point in our work together to build a competitive and inclusive agricultural sector. We are grateful to Kenya Agribusiness and Agroindustry Alliance, KAAA and Enterprise Solutions to Poverty, ESP for organizing this Symposium and for catalyzing the creation of the Action Platform to Create Shared Value in Agribusiness. This initiative brings together the key players in agriculture and agribusiness who are in the position to transform Kenyan agriculture and agribusiness, the drivers of change in the Kenyan economy. We have come together today to build a shared vision and to make commitments that will realize the objective of creating shared value with millions of Kenyan farmers through the Action Platform. As public and private sector leaders, we each have key roles to play in building a competitive and inclusive agricultural sector which results in increased productivity and income for the progressive small and medium farmers who feed us all.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Together we must transform Kenyan agriculture!

Agriculture is the backbone of the Kenyan economy and the main source of income for most rural households. Agriculture, Agribusiness and related services contribute to over 50% our Kenyan GDP.

We are very pleased that the 'Action Platform to Create Shared Value in Agribusiness' along with Egerton and Strathmore University has prepared very strong analysis of the gaps and opportunities in seven key commodity groups: coffee, dairy, maize, oilseeds, tomatoes, bananas, and potatoes.

I understand that yesterday, leaders of agribusinesses, banks, producer organizations and farmers deliberated about the key gaps and opportunities in each of these commodity groups. I am pleased to learn that many committed to concrete actions in building company actions, collaborations and joint initiatives including public-private partnerships.

I am also pleased to see the strong focus on irrigation at this Symposium, with the CEO of Jain Irrigation, the world's second largest irrigation company present at this meeting. Irrigation is key to the development of agriculture in our counties. We must actualize each county's irrigation potential in order to reduce over reliance on rain-fed agriculture especially in the dry parts of our country.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I hope that today we will forge a series of public-private partnerships and build an agreed framework on the roles of key actors in agriculture, to assist the farmers, and together transform agriculture in Kenya.

Thank you very much and I officially declare this Symposium open.