

**SPEECH BY RIGHT HONOURABLE RAILA ODINGA EGH, MP, PRIME
MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA DURING THE LAUNCH OF THE
STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER**

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KICC

Your Excellency the President,
Your Excellencies the Ambassadors,
Distinguished Guests.

Thank you all for joining me this morning to hear about the first Strategic Plan for the Office of the Prime Minister.

His Excellency the President and I share the conviction that Kenya can be a more prosperous, unified and secure nation.

We stand together in wanting a government and public service that works well for Kenyans and that steers us towards the aspirations set out in Vision 2030.

As the President and I stand together, the Nation must stand together -- in unity and harmony.

As Prime Minister, I have to reflect on our country and ask myself what are the most important things I can achieve for the country.

The answer to this question is at the centre of the Strategic Plan.

This Plan is about making Government work better for Kenyans. It is about turning well-made plans into action, results, and a better quality of life for all.

It is about making sure that there is enough food to eat, decent housing for our people, a sustainable environment, enough water to drink, energy, modern roads, railways and ports to grow our economy.

And it is about eliminating corruption and insecurity which threaten to poison our society and to tarnish our reputation around the world.

We all believe that the Government and the public service can do a better job of delivering the services that people rely on and pay for.

The people of Kenya believe that we should not just develop impressive plans and policies – we should be getting them off the page and implementing them in our schools, our hospitals, national registries and our communities.

And they believe that, with all the education and talent in this country, we should be able to tackle recurring problems like hunger, preventable diseases, and water shortages.

They are right.

For this reason, I directed my officials to draw up a Strategic Plan that gives us the strongest possible opportunity to make these things happen.

It starts with my Constitutional mandate of coordination and supervision of the operations of Government. In view of what many people think about Government, that's a huge task. And it is one I take very seriously.

The quality and efficiency of Government affects our prosperity.

It also influences how we care for each other, and the services we receive as citizens. Citizens need to know that Government is there for them when they need it most.

This is why it is so important that our public sector works smoothly and effectively.

The job of my Office is to make sure that Ministries, Departments and Agencies are focused on government priorities, that they are working well together, that they are

challenged on the progress they make, and that everyone in public service is professional, ethical and accountable for their actions.

It requires coordination and collaboration. That is central in the Strategic Plan.

This Strategic Plan also focuses on delivery – on making sure that Ministries are implementing well-made plans and getting results. We have thought long and hard about what we need to do and about what comes first. We agreed that in order to meet these first targets, we need to put in place the people, the processes and the delivery systems to get things done.

People will understandably ask, what is different about this?

This Plan is different for three reasons:

First, it calls for a Government-wide focus on several major priorities. It recognizes that the Government is often reacting to everything at once and it is hard to

maintain focus on the most important things we need to accomplish. One of the responsibilities of Government is to be clear about what is critical to our success and do it well. That is better than trying to do everything at once and do it poorly.

If everything is a priority then nothing is a priority.

The Plan therefore identifies several major national priorities that will be at the centre of Government activities. We know from experience that a sustained focus on a small number of priorities is key to success in getting big things accomplished.

The major priorities include building new infrastructure, protecting the environment, ensuring food security, and fighting corruption.

They are described in detail in the Plan you have received today.

Achieving these priorities and building a Government culture based on getting results for citizens will also require the transformation of the public service.

The public service has to be exemplary in the way it operates, with high standards of professionalism, integrity and ethics.

I have therefore put a new emphasis on Public Service Transformation and on improving services to citizens.

Second, the Plan will require a change in the way we work – bringing a new focus on getting things done.

This means planning together, sharing information, developing policies together and ensuring that plans get implemented.

Third, to make sure that these things get done; my Office will co-ordinate and supervise this new integrated approach to implementing priorities.

Co-ordination will involve ensuring that Ministries, Departments and Agencies really do link-up and integrate: working together as partners in service delivery to citizens.

Supervision means making sure that Ministries and Departments are doing the right things, in the right way, to deliver on priorities in the service of Kenyans.

This includes being clear about who is accountable for delivery and how progress and performance will be measured.

This is an ambitious plan.

It will take hard work and a great deal of support and collaboration across Government -- and with all of the Government's partners, including NGOs -- to achieve success.

It will also rely on another sector -- the media. Let me first take this opportunity to congratulate Kenya's media community for your recognition at several international awards competitions.

This reflects well on your profession.

I expect that you will bring this same degree of professionalism to your reporting as you watch the progress of the Government and its Ministries implementing priority programs. We see you, the media, as partners.

I am confident that, standing together, we can – we must – we will, succeed.

YES, it can be done.

Thank you.

It is now my singular pleasure to invite his Excellency the President to officially launch the Strategic Plan.