

OPENING REMARKS BY H.E. AMBASSADOR BENSON H.O. OGUTU DURING THE KENYA ENERGY SEMINAR ON 9TH JUNE, 2014 ; TOKYO JAPAN

- ◆ Mr. Satoshi Miyamoto, President, Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO)
- ◆ H.E. Mr. Tatsushi Terada, Ambassador of Japan to Kenya
- ◆ Mr. Albert Mugo, Chief Executive officer, KenGen
- ◆ Co-organizers
- ◆ Excellencies;
- ◆ Distinguished Guests;
- ◆ Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me from the onset welcome you all to today's Kenya Energy Seminar. It is indeed an honor for the Kenya Embassy in collaboration with other co-organizers to host this seminar today. I therefore take this early opportunity on behalf of the Government of Kenya to register our special thanks to our co-organizers notably JETRO, JOGMEC and JICA for their collective efforts and invaluable contribution in the arrangement of this event. The tireless efforts and zeal demonstrated by our co-organizes indeed serves to cement the fact that Japan and Kenya are truly partners in progress.

As we are aware, this seminar comes barely a year after the Joint Kenya-Japan Investment Seminar held in Nairobi following the successful conclusion of the TICAD V. This strong momentum clearly indicates our two countries' earnest efforts in deepening further mutually beneficial cooperation in various fields of development. Over and above, the exchanges emphasize the role of private investment as an engine of development as outlined by the TICAD V framework. It is in this breath that today's seminar sets out to showcase the excellent opportunities in the energy sector in Kenya and the sub-region in general with an aim of encouraging more investment exchanges between our two countries and particularly in the energy sector.

The Energy sector has been earmarked as one of the key enablers to the attainment of the Vision 2030. As such we find this kind of collaboration and other previous similar initiatives spearheaded by ICEP and partners in the sector tremendously timely and beneficial.

To this end, we note with appreciation Japan's heightened involvement in support of the key projects critical to the attainment of Vision 2030. With specific reference to energy, it is noteworthy that Japan has been one of our major partners especially in the fields of hydro and geothermal power generation. I am aware that so far our various energy agencies have signed a number of accords with their counterpart agencies notably JOGMEC and JICA on energy development. Collaboration in training and capacity building has also greatly served to develop our energy sector. We are desirous of even stronger and deeper cooperation in the field.

On her part, Kenya has positioned itself as a preferred investment destination in the Eastern Africa region. This is well demonstrated through economic reforms that promote foreign investments, development of functional institutions, human resource development, and enhanced regional integrations. Mr. Albert Mugo, Chief Executive officer, KenGen and his team will shortly share with you some of the investment opportunities in the energy sector. It is my hope that the private sector will be encouraged to seize these opportunities and invest in the country and region at large.

As I conclude, I once again thank the Government of Japan and the Japanese development partners for walking with Kenya over the years. Indeed Kenya is ripe for more profitable engagements. I earnestly welcome the private sector to join others and take their rightful places as "partners in progress".

Thank you