



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

MINISTRY OF GENDER, CULTURE, THE ARTS AND HERITAGE

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY HON. AISHA JUMWA K. KATANA - CABINET SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF GENDER, CULTURE, THE ARTS AND HERITAGE DURING THE LAUNCH OF ENA'S BOOK: WOMEN CHANGING THE WAY THE WORLD WORKS VOLUME 2 ON 7TH MARCH, 2024 AT ENA OFFICES, NAIROBI.

Dr. Jeniffer Riria, PhD, EBS, MBS, HRM/Goodwill AMB, ICON/HP – President and CEO of Echo Network Africa Foundation

Board of Directors Chair – Dr. Nyambura Koigi

Country Director, Echo Network Africa – Mrs. Lizzie Chongoti

Resident Representative Hanns Seidel Foundation, Kenya and Ethiopia – Mr. Daniel Seiberling

Honourable Members:

- **Hon. Naomi Waqo Jillo – Woman Representative, Marsabit County, Deputy Chief Whip, Majority Party**
- **Hon. Bishop Dr. Jackson Kosgei – Nominated Member of the Senate**
- **Hon. Beth Syengo – Nominated Member of the Senate**
- **Dr. Margaret Karungaru – Member of the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC)**
- **Hon. Zipporah Kittony – Former Nominated Senator**



- **Hon. Waithera Chege – Member of County Assembly, Nairobi South Ward, Nairobi City County**
- **Hon. Milka Areba – Nominated Member of County Assembly, Mombasa County**
- **Prof. Faith Ngure – Deputy Vice-Chancellor (DVC) Academics, Research and Student Affairs at Daystar University**
- **Hon. Rose Waruhiu - Former Member of the First East African Legislative Assembly (EALA)**
- **Hon. Jael Mbogo – Veteran Female Politician**
- **Hon Marere Mwarapayo Wa-mwachai – First Woman to be Elected Member of Parliament in the Coast Region**
- **Rev. Canon Dr. Emily Awino Onyango First Woman Bishop, Anglican Church of Kenya**

Esteemed Women and Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a great honour privilege to join you today for this event on the launch of: *Women Changing the Way the World Works, Vol. 2* having launched Vol. 1 in 2018. **Congratulations!**

This launch cannot have come at a better time as it culminates into the International Women’s Day 2024 which is celebrated annually globally on 8th March. The IWD is a day to celebrate the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating women’s equality. The IWD theme is ***‘Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress’***.



At the heart of this progress are transformative women leaders who have championed and expanded horizons in various subject areas such as education, politics, governance, law, literature, economy and community service. They have inspired many in the course of their campaigns and continue to contribute to nation building.

As the Cabinet Secretary in charge of Gender, my Ministry is responsible for promotion of gender equality, equity and empowerment of women in all spheres of life as spelt out in the Beijing Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other International and Regional instruments.

Ladies and Gentlemen

It therefore gives me great joy to know that we have a strong partner in ENA under the able leadership of its Founder and our Host in today's function, Dr. Jeniffer Riria who is a trailblazer in many fields; entrepreneurship, Corporate Governance and in Microfinance. Your leadership has resulted in the establishment of the first ever Microfinance, The Kenya Women Finance Trust targeting women in business during an era when women were facing barriers in accessing business loans. Not forgetting your recent initiative on establishment of Democracy Trust Fund to support women seeking to participate in leadership – with political leadership being its flagship.

I take note that today's event brings together eminent women recognized as trailblazers and participants comprising of women drawn from various backgrounds whose unique stories have



made a difference in our society. Indeed, this is an affirmation that each one of us can contribute to make a difference in our society.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Women and girls in Kenya just like in many developing countries continue to face many barriers in their quest to achieving their full potential. Such challenges include: limited access and control over productive resources; access to financial services; unequal access to education; gender-based violence and harmful cultural practices including FGM, inadequate technical skills; limited access to information communication technology facilities among other constraints. All these serve to seriously constrain women's ability to effectively participate in and benefit fully from socio-economic development.

In addition, as we strive to advance and transition into digital space, technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV) is an emerging global threat to the health and safety of individuals, societal safety and wellbeing and in particular a threat to women's participation in political and public life. TFGBV encompasses actions such as stalking, bullying, sexual harassment, hate speech and exploitation.

The Ministry therefore is working hand in hand with other arms of government to address the vice. The plans by ENA and HSF to amplify the message of women's security in the face of escalating TFGBV including femicide is therefore most welcome.



The Government is committing to address these challenges by progressively putting in place various measure including legislative and policy frameworks and programmes for the empowerment of women in all spheres as well as in prevention and response to gender-based violence including FGM.

As I conclude, I am pleased to pledge the government's commitment in working together with all Stakeholders, Development Partners, Civil Society Organizations, Private Sector and the Media.

May I also extend an invitation to you to attend the International Women's Day National Celebrations at the Moi Stadium, Embu County – tomorrow 8th March 2024.

(I now declare the book officially launched)

Thank you and God bless you.

Represented by:

Ms. Magdaline Kipkenei – Deputy Director Gender, State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action.