



**REMARKS BY HIS EXCELLENCY WILLIAM RUTO, EGH,
DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA DURING
THE LAUNCH OF THE MINISTRY OF MINING ONLINE
TRANSACTIONAL CADASTER, INVESTMENT HANDBOOK,
STRATEGIC PLAN AND SERVICE CHARTER**

Cabinet Secretary for Mining
Cabinet Secretaries
Principal Secretaries
Ambassadors and High Commissioners,
Representatives of Our Development Partners
Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning,

Anyone who has ever worked in Government or interacted frequently with it comes to understand one thing and one thing only: that Government is HUGE. Institutionally there is nothing bigger in terms of functions, people and bureaucracy.

Anyone who has ever run a Government or Ministry therefore will tell you that the primary goal of governance is to make this mammoth institution small enough to serve the citizen at their convenience. The big idea is to eliminate the bureaucracy as much as humanly possible.

I am pleased this morning because today we celebrate a massive reduction in bureaucracy in the Ministry of Mining.

I am also proud to be here because today we demonstrate that we are governing the way His Excellency the President and I promised Kenyans-the digital way.

Congratulations to the Cabinet Secretary and his entire team.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Ministry of Mining was a surprise inclusion to many in the cabinet portfolio when we announced the structure of the Government. What many did not and still perhaps do not know, is that this was a deliberate decision to locate the management and exploitation of Kenya's mineral resources at the centre of our development agenda.

This was informed by the realization that Kenya is endowed with rich mineral resources whose benefits have not impacted on the lives of host communities or significantly expanded Government revenue in the way it should.

By establishing the Ministry, we elevated a sub-sector that was hitherto shrouded in mystery and opaqueness to the national limelight for it to deliver tangible and transformative results to Kenyans. Additionally, we also refocused Vision 2030 embedding the extractive industry as a key sector in Kenya's economic blueprint.

From the foregoing today's event is literally a reset of the mining sector in Kenya. It is a terrific achievement that from a 2-year old Ministry we are launching the first ever online-based mineral titles management system, the Kenya Investment Mining Handbook and the Ministry's Strategic Plan and Service Charter. These testify of our commitment to transforming the mining sector.

To mining investors in Kenya and without: take the launch of these instruments as a clear message from us to you; we are ready to do business with you.

To the people of Kenya, this launch is our commitment to ensure our common God given resources is managed in a manner to pay big dividends to you and future generations.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Popular wisdom dictates that a parent ought to have no favourites. However, while all these instruments are important and wonderful one of them is much more electrifying than the rest. The Online Transactional Mining Cadaster, a major Vision 2030 flagship project, is a revolution.

With this launch Kenya joins an exclusive club of the few countries in the world in which mineral rights applications are done online and in real-time using this software.

Until now applications for mineral rights had to be done through the submission of physical documents and involved unclear and discretionary processes that resulted in denial of mineral rights to those who applied first or approval to those lacking the ability and or interest to exploit them.

Likewise, renewal of mineral rights was also shrouded in mystery and made the sector unpredictable.

No more. From now henceforth, thanks to the Online Cadaster, any qualified person from anywhere in the world may apply for a mineral license and they will have the ability to track the processing of their application(s) and once granted they can submit their compliance documents and (most importantly) pay online.

This is a major shift in the management of minerals in our country; it will enhance efficiency, raise transparency and increase predictability in the regulatory sector.

The Cadaster fits nicely with the *Uwazi* pillar in our Manifesto and our deep conviction that the use of digital technology can change the way we do business as a country and encourage more investments that will create more jobs and improve the lives of our people.

Let us remember as well that the National Assembly has already passed the Mining Bill and it is awaiting consideration and further input by the Senate. Once enacted, the new Act will form a robust policy and regulatory framework for the sector.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The exploitation and management of natural resources, particularly from the extractive sector requires great pragmatism and care. Mismanagement easily leads to conflicts and in extreme cases total societal breakdown. Kenya will not go down that road.

We expect investors to comply with the law, secure all necessary licenses, win the approval of the communities where they work and pay promptly all revenue due the Government.

To those who pursue shortcuts, embrace fraud and seek to smuggle our mineral resources rest assured, we shall catch you and bring the full force of the law to bear on you.

I know the Ministry is not yet done; more achievements are on the way. I understand the Ministry has already begun discussions with stakeholders towards establishing a Mineral and Metals Exchange in Kenya and is also looking to set up an internationally accredited mineral laboratory.

These twin ventures will position the country as the preferred extractive hub in the region.

I look forward to the launch of the laboratory in the next two months.

I commend the Ministry once again for a job well done.

Thank you.

God Bless You and God Bless Kenya