



OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR DEVOLUTION

SPEECH BY THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, STATE DEPARTMENT FOR DEVOLUTION, TERESIA MBAIKA, CBS, DURING THE BUILDING ON PEACE: EXPLORING PEACE-POSITIVE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN NORTHERN KENYA ON 3RD OCTOBER 2024 FROM 9AM AT THE RADISSON BLU HOTEL, ABORETUM, NAIROBI.

Distinguished Guests,

Esteemed Partners,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning,

It is both an honour and a privilege to address you today at this important event where we seek to **Build on Peace and Explore Peace-Positive Investment Opportunities in Northern Kenya**. I extend my sincere gratitude to **Interpeace** for organising this crucial dialogue.

Today, we gather not merely to discuss investment, but to deliberate on how investment can be a force for peace. Northern Kenya, a region with immense potential and resilience, is at the heart of this conversation. As we embark on this journey together, let us recognise that the nexus between peacebuilding and investment is not just a theoretical concept but a tangible opportunity for transformative change.

Peacebuilding is not just an abstract concept but a concrete necessity. This is clear especially in the north of our country, where echoes of past conflicts still linger. Peacebuilding is fundamental to creating a stable environment where economic and social progress can thrive.

Our common commitment to peace is not only a moral obligation but for this Government, it's an economic strategy – one that can unlock unprecedented opportunities for sustainable development.

The State Department for Devolution has consistently championed initiatives that foster peace and stability. We know that, without peace, there is no development. That is why we are committed to integrating peacebuilding into our development agenda. We do this by ensuring that every step towards economic growth is accompanied by conscious efforts to maintain and enhance stability.

Today, we are standing here together with Interpeace to underscore a vital aspect of the Government's strategy: peace-positive investment. By aligning investment opportunities with peacebuilding efforts, we create mutual benefits for both investors and local communities. Peace-positive investment reduces risks for investors and communities and can achieve both bankable and peace-positive outcomes. Our vision for Northern Kenya is one where investment goes hand in hand with initiatives that foster social cohesion, economic resilience and long-term stability.

Investing in Northern Kenya presents a dual opportunity. Firstly, there is significant potential for financial returns in sectors such as agriculture, renewable energy and infrastructure. These sectors are not only profitable but also contribute to the broader goal of socio-economic development.

Secondly, and equally important, investments in these sectors can contribute to overall social stability, and ultimately, peace. Investments that prioritise local engagement, support community-driven development and respect the social fabric can play a pivotal role in reinforcing peace and stability. It is this dual benefit—economic growth coupled with peace—that makes peace-aligned investment in Northern Kenya such a compelling investment case.

The Government of Kenya is committed to creating an enabling environment for investors. However, we recognise that there are some challenges, and a collective approach to address these would be welcome. We need common investment principles that avoid creating conflict and have the potential to build peace for a stable economy and society.

We also recognise the value of Interpeace's well-established and impactful peacebuilding approaches in Northern Kenya. It is clear that peacebuilding

considerations need to be better integrated into development finance and mainstreamed into investment approaches.

Ladies and gentlemen, in a bid to foster peace and development in Kenya, the State Department for Devolution and Interpeace are working on a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at enhancing our efforts in peacebuilding, sustainable development, and peace-positive investment throughout our nation.

This MoU will establish a collaborative framework that will guide our work within our respective mandates. By joining forces, we will address the complex dynamics of conflict, promote sustainable development, and integrate peacebuilding into our investment strategies. The Government is here to collaborate and to facilitate connections and to ensure that our shared vision for a thriving Northern Kenya becomes a reality.

The path to lasting peace and sustainable development is a collaborative endeavour. It requires the combined efforts of government, the private sector, and development and peacebuilding actors. Together, we can transform Northern Kenya into a beacon of peace-positive investment – a region where economic opportunity is built on sustainable peace.

In conclusion, I urge all of us here today to seize this moment. Let us build on the foundations of peace to unlock the full potential of Northern Kenya. The government, alongside our partners, is ready to support this vision and to work tirelessly towards realising it.

Thank you for your commitment, your partnership, and your dedication to a peaceful and prosperous Northern Kenya.

Thank you.