



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

**MINISTRY OF EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY, ARID AND
SEMI ARID LANDS AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**THE 7TH GREAT AFRICA CYCLING
SAFARI (GACS)**

**REMARKS BY
BEATRICE ASKUL MOE
CABINET SECRETARY**

22ND AUGUST 2024

Good morning.

It gives me great pleasure to join you at this stage of the cycling event. I would like to extend a warm welcome to you all, especially the cyclists for the Sister EAC Countries who have been in Kenya from Saturday 17th August, 2024.

Themed “**Furthering Campaigns to Promote Food Security, Peace and Climate Mitigation**” and with the objective of: combating climate change by establishing community forests in each EAC Partner State, raising awareness about food security, promoting enduring peace in the region and marketing the tourism industry in East Africa, the event aims to offer opportunity for you to articulate the EAC agenda, make your contribution to the Climate Change mitigation efforts and embrace the solidarity and unity that the EAC espouses.

This is most timely as we have just concluded the 2024 Olympic games which showcased our potential in sports and provided a very great marketing opportunity for our region. On the other hand, through this Great Africa Cycling Safari (GACS) a 55-day, 6,000-kilometers annual cycling activity you have successfully brought together cycling enthusiasts to promote cycling, EAC tourism and to highlight opportunities, issues and challenges faced by EAC resident. We are also very proud of this activity for it serves as a regional advocacy podium supporting the EAC integration process through awareness creation, cross-cultural interaction, environmentally responsible tourism, economic growth, Gender and human capital, food security, food safety, vibrant sporting culture and health in region.

Echoing the rationale of GACS, may I take this opportunity to express my gratitude and appreciation to all involved in the work. I am aware that you arrived in Kenya on 17th August, 2024 through, Namanga border post in Kajiado County and will cross over to Uganda on 27th August, 2024 via Suam border point in Trans Nzoia County after covering 1002 kms in 12 days.

I have been informed that during the 10 days tour in Kenya the team will be engaged in many community activities among them: -tree planting sessions in Timboroa forest, food security awareness survey on agritourism, community engagement and awareness, Nairobi River cleaning awareness and sightseeing, public lecture and press conference, School visits, establishing of integration clubs and mama cycling clubs; and Cycling challenge

In Kenya, we say **thank you** for the excellent effort done towards climate change interventions and promise you that we shall nurture the trees and protect all that has been done.

As you are aware the Government of Kenya has identified monetization of talent has one of the solutions towards youth empowerment and employment thus the region should consider making cycling more competitive and commercial.

Key achievements from the past 6 editions are: inclusion of

PWDs in the cycle tour thus enhancing inclusivity, acceleration of East African peoples' integration and peace, built food security through sensitizing communities on ways and means of achieving better food production, environmental and climate change control by educating different communities, especially school children, on tree planting, environmental health through establishment of tree nurseries and forests, spreading the dream of a free, peaceful and prosperous East Africa through accelerated transition into a united region where everyone belongs, feels valued and cared for.

Finally, to crown it all, I wish to inform you that this annual Cycling event has been recognized by the Sectoral Council awaiting ratification by the EAC Council of Ministers and will form part of the EAC calendar of activities.

I urge you to consider including the Republic of South Sudan and the Federal Republic of Somalia in the next leg for the complete cycling of the EAC Partner States. Also consider involving more women and Persons With Disabilities (PWDs). Thank you for the

concerted effort as you traverse the Great Rift Valley and the bread basket of Kenya in Trans Nzoia where you will stop to see our own very fine **Flora** and **Fauna**

Lastly, I wish to thank you for participating in this noble event and wish you well while on the Great African Cycling Safari Tour.

Thank you all.

GOD BLESS KENYA
GOD BLESS EAC
VIVA OUR CYCLISTS