

**REMARKS BY THE MINISTER FOR FINANCE, HON. AMOS M. KIMUNYA,
DURING THE OFFICIAL TAKEOVER OF LAND RENT COLLECTION BY
KENYA REVENUE AUTHORITY FROM THE MINISTRY OF LANDS**

**HELD ON 5TH JANUARY 2007, AT THE KRA CONVENTION CENTRE, TIMES
TOWER, NAIROBI**

**The Minister for Lands, Hon. Prof. Kivutha Kibwana,
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Lands,
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance,
The Commissioner-General, Kenya Revenue Authority,
The Commissioner of Lands,
KRA Commissioners,
Management and staff of Ministry of Lands and KRA.**

- 1. Ladies and Gentlemen,** let me start by thanking the Commissioner General for inviting me to, jointly with the Minister for Lands, preside over this occasion of transferring collection of land rent from the Ministry of Lands to the KRA. With this transfer, this means the KRA becomes the collector of land rent.
- 2. Ladies and Gentlemen,** in January 2005, I officiated over a similar function in my capacity as the then Minister for Lands, Which involved the transfer of collection of stamp duty to the KRA. This was in addition to the collection of adhesive stamps, which were transferred to the KRA back in 2000. I am informed that since the transfer of the two types of duty to the KRA, receipts of duty has improved appreciably.
- 3.** Therefore, transferring collection of land rent to the KRA is welcome and will no doubt yield better results in land rent collections.
- 4.** I am aware that many land rent payers have not paid what is rightfully due to the Government. The amount of land rent outstanding is nearly Kshs 4 billion. To collect these arrears in land rent requires quick action by the KRA. In this regard, I call upon the KRA to move quickly to develop procedures and processes that will strengthen the enforcement of land rent collection.
- 5.** Let me at this point underscore that the success of this reform initiative will depend on the working relationship between the KRA officials and those of the Ministry of Lands. Particularly critical is seamless exchange of information between the two institutions, which must be nurtured at all cost.
- 6. Ladies and Gentlemen,** the reforms we have been taking to improve our tax administration are intended to facilitate the **liberation of our economy from dependence on external assistance.** In this context, we are determined to further deepen our tax reform programme in order to ensure we truly achieve our **National 2030 Vision** transforming Kenya into a middle-income country.

7. I, therefore, urge all Kenyans to demonstrate their **pride of being Kenyans by paying their taxes**, including land rent. This way we are sure to build a strong and prosperous Kenya, a Kenya where no person should go hungry unless he/she so chooses.
8. **Ladies and Gentlemen**, with those few remarks, it is now my pleasure to officially launch the transfer of land rent collection from the Ministry of Lands to the Kenya Revenue Authority.

I thank you for your kind attention and wish you all a Happy and Prosperous 2007.

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