



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

**THE PRESIDENCY
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SERVICE, YOUTH AND GENDER AFFAIRS
OFFICE OF THE CABINET SECRETARY**

Date: 22nd September 2018

PRESS RELEASE

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT

We are delighted to learn that His Excellency the President Uhuru Muigai Kenyatta has today been unanimously endorsed as the Global Champion of the Young People's Agenda at the UN General Assembly under the Generation Unlimited initiative. The initiative is a UN-led multi-stakeholder initiative that aims to ensure all young people are in school, training, or in employment by 2030. The initiative will focus on skills for learning, employment and empowerment of young people.

The position brings pride to us all and serves to add impetus in our work as we implement His Excellency the President's policies on youth empowerment here at home.

Hongera Rais.

His Excellency the President has been instrumental in championing the youth agenda in Africa. Last year, the President mobilized support for the establishment of an Africa Youth Fund with an approved allocation of at least 1% of the Programme Budget of the African Union.

The launch of the UN Global Strategy on Youth marks the start of a new era for young people of the world. We are ready to support His Excellency in championing the five key areas specified by the strategy because, to quote His Excellency "We do not champion the cause of youth opportunity and hope as a favour, but rather as the necessary, undeniable, embrace of our collective future."

Kenya is signatory to the Africa Youth Charter and has made meaningful progress in implementing the provisions of the charter including the establishment of a National Youth Council and the development of a National Youth Policy. The President has demonstrated strong commitment to the empowerment of Kenya's youth. He has invested considerable resources of his administration in pro-active youth empowerment interventions including the policy to reserve 30% government procurement

opportunities for youth, provision of affordable loans, technical and vocational skills training, volunteer programs, government internships and apprenticeship programmes.

These efforts have had marked impact as evidenced by the inaugural Global Youth Development Index released in 2016 which found that Kenya had made the greatest strides in improving the conditions of young people over the past five years in sub-Saharan region

Once again, we congratulate His Excellency and wish him a successful tenure in his new role. This is yet another feather in the cap of His Excellency's exceptional track record of global, continental and regional leadership in a number of fields vital dedicated to the progress of humanity. On our part, we pledge unyielding commitment and diligence in actualizing his Policy objectives here at home, in Africa and globally.

PROF MARGARET KOBIA PhD MGH
CABINET SECRETARY MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SERVICE, YOUTH AND GENDER
AFFAIRS