REMARKS BY HON. UHURU KENYATTA, E.G.H., M.P., DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR FINANCE, DURING THE 2010 TAXPAYERS' AWARDS CEREMONY HELD AT THE KICC ON THURSDAY 21ST OCTOBER, 2010

H.E. Hon. Mwai Kibaki, C.G.H., M.P., President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Kenya,
Fellow Ministers in attendance,
Members of Parliament,
Permanent Secretaries,
Chairman and KRA Board of Directors
Members of the Diplomatic Corp,
Invited Guests,
Distinguished Taxpayers,
Ladies and Gentlemen

- 1. **Your Excellency,** my task this morning is indeed very ceremonial. It is to invite Your Excellency to address this 7th Annual Taxpayer Day and officially preside over the Taxpayer Award. However, and with your permission, Sir, allow me to say one or two things before I invite you to address us.
- 2. First, **Your Excellency**, is to register our sincere thanks to Your Excellency for finding time out of your busy schedule to join us, for the seventh consecutive time, on this important occasion. We at the Ministry of Finance and the entire Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) fraternity do not take **Your Excellency's** presence for granted. When we

once again extended this year's invitation, you readily accepted to join us for yet another Taxpayer Day.

- 3. This, **Your Excellency**, is a clear demonstration of the importance your Government attaches to mobilization of domestic resources as a source of sustainable financing of our development. Our ability to raise adequate resources domestically to fund our development programs is also a means of consolidating our dignity amongst the international community.
- 4. Secondly, **Your Excellency**, the Government fully recognizes KRA's effort to raise the much needed resources would be in vain if the Kenyan taxpayers failed in their civic duty to pay all taxes due. It is for this reason that I want to take this opportunity to pay tribute to our taxpayers, especially those who are represented here today who, through their patriotism, we have earned a sense of pride as a nation. We indeed value very much this fruitful partnership and urge that through KRA we should strive to make it even more cordial. We, nevertheless, recognize some of the challenges taxpayers continue to face, which have begun to address.
- 5. Thirdly, **Your Excellency**, the Government has taken deliberate steps to deepen tax reforms in order to reduce the cost of compliance, broaden tax base and increase revenue. In this regard, Kenya Revenue Authority has

instituted several measures to streamline administration systems and improve efficiency in tax collection and taxpayer services. In fact, the Authority has made it its overriding objective to promote ICT as a platform for service delivery.

- 6. Indeed, going forward, the Authority is committed to scaling up implementation of its Revenue Administration Reform and Modernization programme in order to further enhance service delivery and deepen the already cordial partnership between itself and the taxpayers. We also want to assure our taxpayers that their money will continue to be used for the benefit of all Kenyans.
- 7. Finally, **Your Excellency**, the distinguished taxpayers who are lined up here today to receive recognition awards and felicitations come from diverse sectors of our economy. Their diversity is a clear manifestation of the broad-based growth we have continued to achieve under your wise and able leadership.
- 8. With those few remarks, it is now my honour and humble duty to invite **Your Excellency** to present awards to the patriotic taxpayers and to address us.

Your	Excellency,	Sir.
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