

**SPEECH FOR THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR FINANCE, HON. UHURU KENYATTA DURING THE SIGNING CEREMONY FOR A CONCESSIONAL LOAN AGREEMENT FOR THE KENYATTA UNIVERSITY TEACHING AND REFERRAL HOSPITAL PROJECT**

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**H.E. Mr. Yuan Xingyong, Assistant President of the Export Import Bank of China, Hon. Prof. Hellen Sambili, Ag. Minister for Higher Education Science and Technology, Prof. Crispus Kiamba, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Higher Education Science and Technology,**

**Mr. Benson Wairegi, Chairman, Kenyatta University Council,**

**Prof. Olive Mugenda, Vice Chancellor, Kenyatta University,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

1. **Let me** take this opportunity to welcome you and your delegation to Kenya and to the Treasury.

2. **I wish** to thank you Your Excellency for finding time from your busy schedule to visit our country. I am informed that this is your first visit to Kenya, for which we welcome you warmly and wish you a fruitful and enjoyable stay in Kenya. I encourage you to take some time off your busy schedule and visit some of our tourist attractions.

3. **Your Excellency,** your visit to Kenya demonstrates the growing mutually beneficial partnership between China and Kenya in support of our development agenda. Let me on behalf of the people and Government of Kenya thank the people and the Government of the Peoples Republic of China for the support extended to Kenya. This support is founded on a long history of mutual trust and friendship, between the two countries.

4. **Ladies and Gentlemen,** the development cooperation between Kenya and China has grown from strength to strength, and to date, China is one of our major donors supporting our economic development with a cumulative official development assistance amounting **Ksh. 57.442 billion**. It is in this context that we see the visit by Your Excellency as yet another step towards deepening the bilateral relationship between our two countries.

5. **Your Excellency**, the support we receive from China targets key aspects of development cooperation in the economic, political as well as socio-cultural areas. Over the years, Kenya has benefited substantially from this development cooperation through financial and technical support by the Government of China. Through this support China has made notable contribution to our national development agenda, in terms of economic growth and in improving the welfare of our people. Today, Chinese funded projects are visible and are found in major sectors of our economy. Some notable ones are the Kayole Hospital, Eastern and Northern By Pass, Thika Superhighway, while others are under consideration.

6. **The** good news is that, we have today signed yet another concessional Loan Agreement for the Kenyatta University Teaching and Referral Hospital Project amounting to **Ksh. 9.85 billion**.

7. **In recent years**, Kenya has experienced an increase in demand for health services attributable to increase in morbidities from emerging and re-emerging diseases and also a growing population. The consequences are congestion in public health facilities and shortage of essential medical personnel. The current doctor/patient ratio in the country is one doctor to 17,000 Kenyans, which is far below the WHO recommended ratio of 1:6,000.

8. **There** is an even greater shortage of specialized medical personnel. In addition, the output of doctors from the two public universities which currently offer degrees in medicine stands at 200 per year, which is inadequate. Furthermore, there has been massive brain drain of highly qualified medical personnel from Kenya, thereby exacerbating the problem.

9. **Your Excellency**, the Kenyatta University Teaching and Referral Hospital Project once complete aims at addressing these challenges by establishing a teaching, research and referral hospital at the University's Kahawa Campus. This will involve the expansion and equipping of existing anatomy and basic science laboratories as well as the establishment of the pre-clinical and clinical teaching departments at the University. In

addition, the project will establish a specialized research and training departments, in oncology (cancer), neurosciences and alternative medicine that are not being addressed by any institution of higher learning in Kenya. Also due to its strategic location, the hospital will serve as a referral hospital center for Central, Eastern and North Eastern Provinces.

10. **Let me assure you** that the school and the hospital will be self sustaining. This will be done through fees paid by students, and charges levied for services rendered to the university staff, students and the surrounding communities. This will significantly contribute to repayment of the loan we have signed today.

11. **Your Excellency**, we consider our current and future collaboration with the Chinese Government and especially the Export Import Bank of China very beneficial, if we have to realize our economic development goals as contained in the Vision 2030. It is my hope that our official request for loan facilities for the Nairobi Southern Bypass Road, Kibwezi – Mutomo – Kitui – Mwingi – Tseikuru – Usueni Road, the Construction of a Standard Gauge Railway Line from Nairobi to Malaba and the Development of Lamu Port Projects are under consideration and we are hopeful that signing of the financing agreements will happen soon.

12. **Finally Your Excellency**, the Kenyan people made a significant historical step in August 2010 when the new Constitution was passed.

**THANK YOU**