REPUBLIC OF KENYA

MINISTRY OF INVESTMENT, TRADE AND INDUSTRY
OFFICE OF THE CABINET SECRETARY

SPEECH BY CABINET SECRETARY HON. LEE KINYANJUI, EGH DURING THE AMCHAM BUSINESS SUMMIT 2026 ON 10TH SEPTEMBER 2026 AT WINDSOR GOLF HOTEL & COUNTRY CLUB, NAIROBI

SALUTATIONS

- **Regional Ministers of neighbouring Countries,**
- **Cabinet Secretaries and Principal Secretaries present**
- **Regional & U.S. Government Officials;**
- **Captains of Industry from America and Kenya**
- **Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. Good morning, and a warm welcome to our second day of deliberations. I am pleased to be here once again in the company of so many friends and partners of Kenya, who have chosen to trade, to invest and to place their confidence in Kenya.
2. The relationship between Kenya and the United States spans more than 60 years and is grounded in shared democratic values, security cooperation that has kept our region safer and, increasingly, a commercial partnership that is deepening year on year.
3. My message this morning is an invitation to expand that position and invest in Kenya' new chapter. Let me begin with where we stand today, because the numbers tell an honest story.
4. Total trade between our two countries in 2025 was a total of US$3.4B in goods and services up by 7,2% in 2024. The balance of trade in

2025 reached an equilibrium. That is a real, functioning trade relationship.

5. But trade is only one measure. Consider the milestones of the last three years. In September 2023, President Ruto travelled to Silicon Valley to make Kenya's case directly to America's technology leaders. In April 2024, your own Secretary of Commerce led a delegation to Nairobi for the AmCham East Africa Business Summit and opened a Digital Transformation with Africa Pavilion.

6. The following month, President William Ruto undertook a State Visit to Washington, meeting the President, the Secretaries of State and Commerce, and holding a roundtable with America's leading technology companies at the White House. And in May 2024, Kenya became the first African country selected to receive funding under the CHIPS and Science Act, a recognition of the role we intend to play in diversifying global semiconductor supply chains, not a symbolic gesture.

7. Most recently, in December 2025, our two governments signed a global health partnership and concluded a one-billion-dollar debt-for-food swap. I mention this deliberately: our partnership with the United States is no longer confined to trade policy. It now spans technology, critical minerals, health security, and development finance.

8. Before I turn to where we are directing new investment, I want to speak plainly about something that underwrites all of it: peace and security.

9. Stability attracts capital flows, and the reason Kenya has become the region’s trusted commercial hub is inseparable from our role as the region's anchor of peace and security.

10. We recognize the strategic collaboration with the United States in building this significant part. Kenya has reciprocated this partnership beyond the continent such as the recent peach keeping intervention in Haiti. Few partnerships move on that many tracks at once.

Ladies and gentlemen,

11. Kenya has a competitive advantage that make our country a leading investment hub and some of the American companies are already operating here:
    - In technology and the digital economy: Google, Amazon Web Services, IBM and Microsoft all maintain substantial operations and development centres in Kenya.
    - Semiconductor Technologies Limited received a USTDA feasibility grant in 2024 to develop chip fabrication capacity here, a first step toward a genuine role in global legacy-chip supply chains.
    - In Health: American investment and partnership continue to strengthen our health systems, reinforced by the December 2025 global health agreement.
    - On matters Agriculture and agri-technology: U.S. firms are supplying irrigation systems, water management solutions and agricultural inputs that support our food security agenda.
    - In Manufacturing and apparel: American brands, Wrangler, Levi's, and others, are produced in Kenyan export processing zones.

Apparel alone constitutes roughly seventy percent of Kenya's total exports to the United States, almost entirely under AGOA preferences.

- Energy and infrastructure: growing American interest in our wind and geothermal capacity, and in transformative projects such as Nairobi Railway City.

12. We are inviting you to take the next step in a market where you are already invested, and where the returns on early positioning are becoming visible.
13. A genuine partnership requires that both sides show up with commitments, not just goodwill. Allow me to be specific about what each government has put on the table.
14. On Kenya's side: we have remained at the negotiating table and we remain optimistic on concluding a bilateral trade agreement with would premised on mutual gain.
15. On the American side: your government has extended the African Growth and Opportunity Act, through December 2028. This extension matters for Kenyan businesses particularly those in the apparel sector and the livelihoods their continue to support.
16. Beyond the sectors where you are already present, we have identified seven priority areas, which we are anchoring is this year's AmCham Business Summit: agriculture, the digital economy, energy and infrastructure, manufacturing, health, critical minerals, and the creative economy.
17. Earlier this year alone during the Kenya International Investment Conference, we announced USD2.9B across 20 investment deals spanning agriculture, manufacturing, healthcare, ICT and energy. Previous editions of the AmCham Summit generated more than USD2B in tracked investment commitments.

18. Our startup ecosystem raised over one billion dollars in venture capital in 2025 — the largest total on the continent, for the third consecutive year.

19. Kenya's structural position continues to work in your favour: the ports of Mombasa and Lamu as gateway to more than five hundred million consumers across Eastern Africa; membership in the East African Community, COMESA and the African Continental Free Trade Area; strong telecommunications and aviation connectivity, including direct flights between Nairobi and New York.

20. Over the past two years, we have made deliberate efforts to institute investment climate changes to improve how Kenya does business with investors.

    - We have institutionalised feedback: Presidential Roundtables and County Investment Readiness engagements now log every investor concern with a named owner and a deadline.
    - As recently as July of this year, the Kenya Revenue Authority sat down with Invest Kenya and the Kenya Private Sector Alliance specifically to address tax predictability and the continued rollout of VAT refunds.

21. The result of these efforts is a significant growth in investor interest in multiple sectors over the past two years and three consecutive years as Africa's leading destination for venture capital.

22. Our aspiration is to offer policy consistency and provide a predictable investment climate. We continuously self-assessing and recognize that we have some unfinished business such as licensing and VAT refund turnaround time, which we are actively addressing as we continue strengthening our capacity to address any challenges that arise from the growing investor base.

Ladies and gentlemen

23. I want to close this address by looking further ahead than any individual deal or quarterly figure, because I believe that is what serious, long-term investors actually want from a government.
24. Vision 2030 has delivered roughly two-thirds of its ambition. Rather than wait for its completion, President Ruto has opened public consultations — beginning this past August — on beyong vision 2030.
25. Unlike previous frameworks, it is being built through wide participation: counties, businesses, universities, young people and the diaspora, not government alone.
26. It positions Kenya to capture what we see clearly on this continent: a young and growing population, expanding consumer markets, renewable energy resources, strategic minerals, and the deepening integration of the African Continental Free Trade Area. It positions the country as a leading manufacturing hub through increased processing and value addition of our export products. This vision is not only for Kenyans, but investors as well.
27. I conclude by saying that Kenya is asking to be Africa's gateway its springboard — for American companies seeking sustainable growth and access to a rapidly expanding consumer base across our region and our continent.
28. The Government will work with you to turn your investment interest into successful enterprises.

Thank you, and I look forward to a sustained growth in our strategic trade and investment partnership.

Thank you