



**SPEECH BY REGINA A. OMBAM,  
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STATE DEPARTMENT FOR TRADE  
MINISTRY OF INVESTMENTS, TRADE AND  
INDUSTRY  
DURING THE LAUNCH OF THE WAREHOUSE  
RECEIPT SYSTEM COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC PLAN  
2023-2027 AND THE WAREHOUSE RECEIPT  
FINANCING MANUAL**

**14<sup>th</sup> JULY 2025**

## **Salutations;**

- **Felicity Biriri- Chairperson of the Warehouse Receipt System Council (WRSC)**
- **Council Members and Staff of the Warehouse Receipt System Council**
- **Presidential Economic Transformation Secretariat**
- **CEOs or Representatives and Partners present,**
- **Esteemed Stakeholders (Warehouse Operators, Farmer Representatives, Collateral Managers, Off-takers and Financial Institutions)**

## **Ladies and Gentlemen...**

It gives me great pleasure and honour to join you today at this important milestone in the development of Kenya's structured commodity trading ecosystem; the launch of the Warehouse Receipt System Council's Strategic Plan 2023–2027 and the Warehouse Receipt Financing Manual.

The Government of Kenya, through the Ministry of Investments, Trade and Industry, recognizes that agriculture remains the backbone of our economy, contributing significantly to food security, employment, rural development, and trade. Yet, for far too long, farmers have remained vulnerable to post-harvest losses, poor market access, exploitative middlemen, and limited access to affordable financing.

The Warehouse Receipt System presents a transformative solution to these challenges. By enabling producers to deposit their commodities with certified warehouse operators and receive a warehouse receipt that can be used as collateral for credit or as a trading instrument, WRS links production to finance, trade, and value addition. In essence, it makes commodities bankable and provides investment opportunities in quality warehouse infrastructure in the country for both cold and dry storage.

The Strategic Plan being launched today lays out a bold, clear, and actionable roadmap to scale up this system nationally. It aligns with key government priorities, including the Kenya Vision 2030, the National Trade Policy, the Agricultural Sector Transformation and Growth Strategy, and the aspirations of the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The newly developed Warehouse Receipt Financing Manual is equally significant. It provides clear operational guidelines for financial institutions and warehouse operators, de-risking agricultural lending and fostering trust among producers, lenders, and market participants. With this manual, we anticipate that more financial institutions will confidently extend credit to farmers using warehouse receipts as secure collateral.

Furthermore, the Council's commitment to digitizing the system through the e-WRS and Central Registry platform and ensuring integration with regional platforms under the AfCFTA such as the African Agriculture Commodity Exchange (A-ACX) is both timely and strategic. It positions Kenya to take full advantage of regional trade opportunities while ensuring **transparency, traceability, and efficiency.**

Importantly, WRSC will ensure that commodities stored in certified warehouses not only meet local but also international quality requirements to tap into export markets enabled by the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), the Kenya-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), and the Kenya – EU Economic Partnership Agreement.(EPA) This alignment will allow our farmers and traders to access broader, more lucrative markets, strengthening Kenya's position as a competitive agricultural exporter.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The journey ahead will demand continued collaboration. I wish to join the speakers before me to acknowledge the immense contribution by our partners in operationalizing WRS in the country including grower associations, millers, financial institutions, warehouse operators, and development partners (including but not limited to **International**

**Finance Corporation, Trademark Africa, AGRA, and FSD Kenya).**

Let us deepen these partnerships as we now move to operationalize the strategic plan and scale up the use of the WRS across Counties.

To our cooperatives, SMEs, warehouse operators, and financial institutions, you are the cornerstone of this system. I encourage you to embrace the warehouse receipt system not as a policy tool but as a practical solution to everyday challenges in trade and agriculture.

As the State Department for Trade, I reaffirm our commitment to providing the necessary policy support, regulatory alignment, and stakeholder coordination to ensure this system thrives. Let this launch mark a new chapter of structured trade, financial inclusion, and agricultural transformation for Kenya.

I also extend my sincere appreciation to all our stakeholders and Development Partners for their great support in the development of these two instruments.

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

**With those few remarks, it is now my distinct honour to officially launch the WRSC Strategic Plan 2023–2027 and the Warehouse Receipt Financing Manual.**

**Thank you and God Bless You All.**