

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

MINISTRY OF GENDER, THE ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE

**REMARKS BY HON. AISHA JUMWA KATANA, EGH, CABINET SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF GENDER, CULTURE, THE ARTS AND HERITAGE DURING THE MEETING WITH MANAGEMENT AND STAFF OF BOMAS OF KENYA (BOK)**

**Ms. Ummi Bashir, State Department of Culture, the Arts and Heritage,**

**Ms. Jane Chebaibai, Chairperson of the Board,**

**Esteemed Board Members,**

**Acting Chief Executive Officer,**

**Management Team, and dedicated staff of Bomas of Kenya,**

**Good afternoon.**

1. I am truly honored to be here today, privileged to gain insights into the endeavors of this corporation. As you all know, Bomas of Kenya is entrusted with the vital task of preserving, maintaining, and celebrating the rich diverse cultures of Kenyan. This is done through showcasing of traditional dances, cultural food cuisines, homesteads, artifacts, and cultural festivals, both locally and internationally. In doing so, Bomas plays a pivotal role in cultural preservation and promotion, significantly contributing to the revenue generation and achieving the government's agenda.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

1. I extend my sincere appreciation to the Board and management for their unwavering commitment, navigating challenges with resilience. I also commend the dedicated staff whose hard work and dedication are indispensable to the success of this corporation. As your CS, I pledge my full support to Bomas of Kenya, promising policy interventions and financial backing to ensure the fulfillment of its mandate.
2. It is worth noting that in August 2023, under the visionary leadership of His Excellency President Dr. William Ruto, the government, through its Bottom-Up Economy Transformation Agenda (Beta), approved the development of the Bomas International Convention Complex (BICC) project. This transformative initiative aims to elevate the corporation to international standards. It is my responsibility to oversee the realization of this monumental project within Bomas. Additionally, may I congratulate you on key achievements realized, notably; establishment of BICC, restructuring and upgrade of the cultural Centre, digitization of cultural products and services, and the establishment of a national festival culminating into Utamaduni Day and International Minority Rights Day among others.
3. I also take note of the myriad challenges that BOK is going through. Among them include facility upgrade through fast tracking of BICC, delinking Bomas of Kenya from KDC, release of the tittle of land from the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife and compensation from KURA on compulsory land acquired during Langata Road expansion among others. I wish to assure you that my office will follow up with those challenges whose intervention rests in my office.
4. Furthermore, I commend the management for their efforts in aligning with the government's digitization agenda, ensuring that all corporation services are seamlessly integrated into the e-citizen platform, in compliance with the presidential directive on digitization.
5. I urge the board, management, and staff to work cohesively towards the implementation of government-aligned activities and programs within the corporation.
6. In conclusion, I would like to express my gratitude once again for the warm reception extended to me by the Bomas fraternity. I wish you all the best as you continue to contribute to the growth and prosperity of this esteemed institution.

**Asanteni sana**