



**TALKING NOTES BY DR. CHRIS KIPTOO, CBS PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, NATIONAL TREASURY, AT THE LAUNCH OF THE PEER REVIEW REPORT ON 17<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2026, AT RADISSON BLU UPPER HILL, NAIROBI**

**Mr. Lawrence Kibet** - Director General, Public Investments and Portfolio Management;

**Mr. Charles W. Mahinda** - Board Chair, Competition Authority of Kenya;

**Members of the Board** of the Competition Authority of Kenya;

**Mr. David Kemei** – Director General, Competition Authority of Kenya;

**Ms. Rashmi Pillai** - Chief Executive Officer, FSD-Kenya;

**Mr. Antonio Gomes** - Deputy Director, OECD Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen

**Good morning!**

1. Today, we come together not to merely launch a report, but to celebrate a defining moment in Kenya's journey toward a fairer and more inclusive economy.
2. Kenya's decision to subject its competition law and policy framework to peer review by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) reflects a strong commitment to transparency, accountability and continuous reform.
3. Since the enactment of the Competition Act, Cap 504 in 2010, Kenya has built a modern, economy-wide competition regime implemented by the

Competition Authority of Kenya with a mandate covering anticompetitive conduct, merger control, market studies, advocacy, and consumer protection.

4. The review recognises the significant progress made, including Kenya's early leadership in Africa on competition policy and its active engagement in regional and continental frameworks, while also identifying clear opportunities to strengthen enforcement, institutional independence, transparency, and resources.
5. This peer review therefore marks not only an assessment of where Kenya stands today, but a constructive platform for dialogue and reform as the country continues to align its competition policy with international best practice in support of inclusive growth and consumer welfare.

6. Kenya's journey to this point has been bold. It began with early policy reflections, including the 2005 UNCTAD review that urged us to modernize our laws, establish an autonomous authority and strengthen advocacy. These reforms led to the enactment of the Competition Act and the establishment of the Competition Authority of Kenya in 2011.
7. Since then, the Authority has made outstanding progress:
  - Consumer complaints handled have increased from 6 cases in 2013 to 915 in 2025, demonstrating growing public awareness of rights under Article 46 of the Constitution and confidence in enforcement under the Competition Act.

- 14 market studies in key sectors have driven policy reforms. The USSD study led to a reduction in charges from Kshs. 10 to Ksh. 1, promoting mobile money uptake and strengthening financial inclusion.
- Over 483 restrictive trade practice cases have been investigated, resulting in firm action against cartels and abuse of dominance. Interventions in the cement sector saved consumers Kshs. 4.6 billion, while action in the paints sector delivered savings of Ksh. 900 million and enhanced competition.
- More than Kshs. 3.5 billion in delayed payments has been recovered for MSMEs affected by buyer power abuse. The Retail

Trade Code of Practice has significantly reduced such cases and strengthened sector stability.

- Regional engagement has reduced duplication in cross-border merger notifications and lowered transaction costs. The Authority has also supported adoption of competition regimes in six jurisdictions and contributed to advancing the AfCFTA Competition Protocol.
- An efficient merger control regime has supported foreign direct investment estimated at over Ksh. 300 billion.
- Staff numbers have grown from 32 to 74, with continued investment in skills to address evolving digital market

challenges. □ 99% of services are now digitized, reducing costs and turnaround time.

- Merger reviews average 45 days, with some concluded within 34 days, improving the ease of doing business.

These achievements show that competition is not just about markets. It is about people, fairness, opportunity, and national economic progress.

8. The OECD Peer Review recognizes this progress while encouraging us to go further. It urges us to strengthen institutional independence, enhance transparency, and deepen cooperation at both domestic and regional levels.

9. Strong institutions are built through continuous improvement, and we therefore welcome the OECD's recommendations. The Government remains fully committed to strengthening Kenya's competition framework.
10. As our economy evolves, powered by digital innovation, shifting consumer behavior and global interconnectedness, fair competition will be a key driver of productivity, investment and innovation.
11. As we reflect on this Peer Review, our focus must shift from achievement to implementation of the recommendations. First, we must intensify cooperation with sector regulators to promote cohesive decisions by developing protocols that will enhance the delivery of the Authority's mandate.

12. We must reinforce the capacity of the Authority to fulfill its mandate independently and effectively by committing to support the Authority to facilitate the acquisition of modern regulatory tools and engage human capital with the requisite skills.
13. Let me commend the Board, the Director - General and the entire team at the Competition Authority of Kenya for this bold step. I thank FSD-Kenya for facilitating the delivery of this process, the OECD Secretariat, the lead examiners and all partners who contributed to this process. By submitting itself to international peer scrutiny, the Authority has demonstrated its maturity, its confidence and its commitment to global best practice.

14.To this end, it is now my distinct honor and privilege to officially launch the  
OECD Peer Review Report of the Competition Authority of Kenya.

**Thank you, and may God bless you all.**