



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE
CHANGE AND FORESTRY**

**STATE DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT
AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

**REMARKS BY DR. ENG. FESTUS K. NG'ENO,
MIEK, CBS, PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, STATE
DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT AND
CLIMATE CHANGE DURING THE 4TH KEPRO
ANNUAL CIRCULAR PACKAGING
CONFERENCE (KACPC IV) 2026**

**HYATT REGENCY WESTLANDS
2ND OCTOBER 2026**

SALUTATIONS

- + The Chief Guest, H.E. Abdulswamad Shariff Nassir, Governor of Mombasa County
- + The Chairperson of KEPRO, Eng. Stephen Muli
- + The Board of Directors of KEPRO
- + The Chief Executive Officer of KEPRO
- + Representatives of the Private Sector and Development Partners
- + Distinguished Delegates
- + Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Morning!

1. It is a great pleasure to join you today at **the 4th KEPRO Annual Circular Packaging Conference**. On behalf of the State Department of Environment & Climate Change, I warmly congratulate **KEPRO** for convening this important forum.

2. This conference serves as an important bridge, bringing together government, industry players, recyclers, innovators, and development partners to advance sustainable packaging and champion the circular economy in Kenya. This year's theme, **"Sustainable Packaging for a Resilient Future: Innovation. Accountability. Impact,"** is incredibly timely and aligns perfectly with our national development priorities.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

3. To understand the scale of the challenge before us, we must look at the numbers. **Every Kenyan generates approximately 0.5 kg of waste daily. With a population of about 54 million, our nation produces nearly 10million tonnes of municipal waste every single day.**

4. Our data reveals that roughly **20%** of this waste stream consists of plastics predominantly from packaging while another **10%** is composed of paper and cartons. Combined, packaging material accounts for nearly **30%** of our domestic waste, **translating to over 2.5 million tonnes of packaging waste generated annually.**
5. These figures underscore why Kenya is at a critical crossroads. **We are actively shifting away from a linear "take-make-dispose" model toward a robust circular economy.** Our goal is clear: to foster resource efficiency, waste prevention, product reuse, high-rate recycling, and sustainable production and consumption patterns across the country.
6. To anchor this transition in law, we have built upon the foundational **Environmental Management and Co-ordination Act (EMCA) of 1999.** The government enacted the **Sustainable Waste Management Act (Cap 387C) in 2022,** followed by the rollout of the **Extended**

Producer Responsibility (EPR) Regulations in 2024.

- 7. Together, these legislative instruments establish a mandatory framework for shared responsibility. Producers are now legally required to take institutional and financial responsibility for the post-consumer stage of their products and packaging.**
- 8. We are also in the final stages of completing the National Circular Economy Strategy and Implementation Plan (CESIP) to guide this macro transition systematically.**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- 9. Our primary task now is to translate this policy and regulatory commitments into practical actions, smart investments, measurable results, and viable business opportunities.**

10. The Government fully recognizes the exemplary role played by **KEPRO and other Producer Responsibility Organizations**. You are instrumental in driving compliance, mobilizing private sector participation, strengthening collection and recycling ecosystems, and advocating for eco-design principles.

11. To accelerate this momentum, I wish to highlight three strategic priorities that must guide our collective actions moving forward:

 **First**, we must accelerate innovation in **sustainable packaging**. Industry players must aggressively invest in eco-design. This means creating packaging that minimizes material use, eliminates unnecessary layers, prioritizes reuse, and guarantees recyclability. We must also deliberately support local research, home-grown green innovations, and the commercial viability of secondary material markets.

 **Second,** we must institutionalize absolute accountability across the entire value chain. Extended Producer Responsibility must look beyond basic regulatory compliance. It must become an authentic driver of environmental restoration and economic value. This requires transparent reporting, credible and verifiable data systems, rigorous compliance monitoring, and distinct role definitions for producers, collectors, and recyclers alike.

 **Third,** we must deliver tangible, inclusive impact. Our collaborative frameworks must yield visible results: reduced environmental pollution, higher material recovery rates, the creation of green jobs, and the growth of robust recycling enterprises. Crucially, this impact must uplift the livelihoods of our waste pickers and workers, ensuring a just transition for the informal waste sector.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

12. As noted earlier, the State Department is fast tracking finalization of Kenya's Circular Economy Strategy and Implementation Plan (CESIP). This plan will serve as our blueprint to mainstream circularity across all key economic sectors, strengthen policy coherence, stimulate green investments, and unlock fresh economic frontiers. We are also designing a **National Circular Economy Programme (NACIP)** to operationalize the strategy.

13. The packaging sector stands at the very forefront of this transformation. Through proactive EPR systems, sustainable design choices, and targeted infrastructure investments, your sector has a unique opportunity to prove that environmental stewardship directly enhances business competitiveness, unlocks investment, and drives job creation.

14. I wish to affirm the government's commitment to collaborating with **KEPRO, Council of Governors, individual County Governments, industry associations, and financial institutions** to secure a highly conducive environment for circular economy investments.

15. We are fully aware that a single institution, producer, or tier of government acting in isolation cannot achieve a transition of this scale. I therefore call upon all commercial enterprises and producers to fully embrace their EPR obligations, innovate their packaging portfolios, and co-invest with county governments and recyclers to build modern material recovery facilities.

16. I equally urge our development partners and financial institutions to design tailored green financing mechanisms to scale circular startups and infrastructure projects.

17. As we engage in today's deliberations, let us focus our energy on practical, scalable solutions that yield measurable benefits for our environment, our economy, and our local communities.

18. As I conclude, ladies and gentlemen, I commend KEPRO for its steady leadership and unwavering commitment to sustainable industrial growth in Kenya. The State Department looks forward to an even deeper partnership as we execute our waste management reforms and accelerate Kenya's green transition.

19. Let this conference serve as an active launching pad for stronger cross-sector partnerships, bold innovations, and lasting environmental impact. **With these remarks, I wish you all fruitful deliberations and a highly successful conference.**

THANK YOU.