

SPEAKING NOTES FOR TREE PLANTING ENGAGEMENT IN LUCKY SUMMER

The Chief Guest, Forester Rose
Ward Officials,
Esteemed Partners,
All NCBA Staff Members,
Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen, Good Morning,

- I am truly delighted to be here today on behalf of our NCBA Group Managing Director, John Gachora and I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all of you for taking part in this remarkable endeavor to restore the biodiversity here. Your commitment and contribution will go a long way in preserving the delicate ecosystem of this region.
- At NCBA, we recognize the need for collective action, and our tree-planting initiative is not just about planting trees; it is also about fostering collaboration and building partnerships with local communities.
- I would like to take this opportunity to Thank, **The Youth Congress** for steering this initiative to green **Lucky Summer** and enhance sustainable development.
- Similarly, I would like to thank the youth and the people of Lucky Summer for their warm welcome.
- In November 2022, all eyes were on Egypt's coastal city of Sharm el-Sheikh where COP27, dubbed Africa's COP, took place. The theme of the conference was "Delivering for People and the Planet".
- The conference drew more than 40,000 participants, including heads of state, climate activists, mayors, civil society representatives, CEOs, ministers and negotiators. At stake were the hopes of people around the world, including over a billion people in Africa, a continent disproportionately besieged by the climate crisis.
- At the event, Kenya's President William Ruto spoke of the severe drought ravaging the country. Other Kenyans shared heart-breaking stories of the stress and suffering they were going through after four brutal seasons of no rain.
- Back at home, the President launched the National Tree Growing and Restoration Campaign, which aims to grow 15 billion trees for the restoration of 10.6 million hectares of forest cover by 2032.
- This year, The Government of Kenya and African Union will be co-hosting The Africa Climate Summit during The Africa Climate Week on 4th-6th September focusing on the

theme '**Driving Green Growth and Climate Finance Solutions for Africa and the World**'.

- The three-day Summit will bring together leaders and investors from Africa and beyond to share experiences and solutions for a sustainable, resilient Africa.
- The event aims to champion a positive, climate-compatible vision for Africa. Sessions will focus on adaptation and resilience, renewable energy and sustainable development, and financing for climate action.
- The Youth Congress is running projects geared towards **Green skills for Youth** with this tree planting event being one of the key initiatives as a precursor to the Africa Climate Summit.
- This is why it gives me great pleasure to be here today for this tree-planting event.
- As the **Third Largest Bank in Kenya and one of the fastest growing banks in Africa serving over 60million customers**, at the core of who we are and in our Purpose to Inspire Greatness is the Citizenship agenda.
- Citizenship is our social license to operate that gets us involved in the lives of our communities in order to ensure that what matters to them also matter to us. One of the key pillars under Citizenship is the Environment and Natural Resources.
- In 2018, Kenya embarked on a journey to attain 10% forest cover by 2022.
- At NCBA, we joined hands with other Kenyans through "**Change the Story**" campaign in support of this journey.
- We created a movement that awakened the consciousness of Kenyans to plant and conserve trees and together with different stakeholders, where we planted over 7 million trees across Kenya.
- NCBA's hallmark sustainability programme "Change the Story", has seen the establishment of a one million indigenous seedling nursery at Karura forest, which has contributed to the planting of over 350,000 trees across the country.
- NCBA's goal is to support the government's initiative to increase Kenya's forest cover to more than 30 percent by 2032.
- Trees are essential for life on earth and are a symbol of dignity. Indeed, 1.6 billion people worldwide depend on trees and forests for their livelihoods. Forests provide a habitat for a huge selection of plants and animals, many of which are either undiscovered or threatened by habitat loss.

- As places that will house 50 per cent of our population by 2050, the war against climate change will be fought on the city battlefield. Cities should rein in emissions from every sector including transportation, energy, industry and more. Forests and trees must be part of the strategy.
- This year, NCBA has directly planted over 100,000 trees in Kieni, Nyeri County and Bungoma County. To mark World Environment Day on 5th June, we participated in a planting exercise of 4,000 trees at Kibabii University in partnership with Ushiriki Wema where we also donated over 20,000 trees in the region to various institutions as part of our environmental conservation efforts.
- NCBA has made significant strides in supporting the growth and development of the motor industry. One notable achievement is the KES 2 billion funding initiative dedicated to promoting the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) in the country. This initiative not only highlights NCBA's commitment to sustainable solutions but also demonstrates its proactive approach in shaping the future of the motor industry. We play a pivotal role in accelerating the transition to cleaner and greener transportation options in Kenya.

Why is the tree planting exercise important in Kenya's journey?

- As a Bank, planting trees and matters environment affect us, because conserving and protecting the environment is the responsibility of us all.
- Climate change continues to significantly affect the environment and Kenya's economy as a whole.
- The agriculture sector's contribution to the country's GDP has declined due to climate change. This has resulted in low earnings for farmers and other Kenyans including NCBA customers.
- The rising temperatures lead to severe droughts, which causes low food production in the country.
- In addition to the primary causes of climate change, deforestation and forest degradation were identified as substantial sources of carbon emissions.
- A report by the Global Forest Watch found that Kenya lost 368 kilo hectares of tree cover in the past 20 years, equivalent to an 11 per cent decrease in tree cover since 2000 and 179 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions.
- NCBA's focus is to align with Kenya's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), as well as support similar moves by its subsidiaries across Africa.

The importance of Partnerships and Collaborations.

- Partnerships are the glue to the implementation of Sustainability goals and are essential to making them a reality. Partnerships provide insights that organizations and partners need to fine-tune their environmental efforts.
- At NCBA, we are committed to forging partnerships and supporting sustainable initiatives that contribute to the well-being of communities and the environment.
- We believe that our ongoing partnerships such as today with the Local Government and The Youth Congress will go a long way in curbing climate change and its effects.
- I would like to thank and appreciate everyone who showed up to take part in this momentous event, your presence is proof of your commitment to environmental preservation and the realization of a more sustainable and resilient Kenya.
- Thank you and may we continue striving for a greener future.
- Together **Let's Change The Story!**