



**REMARKS BY THE CABINET SECRETARY FOR SPORTS,
CULTURE AND THE ARTS, DR HASSAN WARIO ARERO (PhD)
DURING THE OFFICAL OPENING OF THE AFRICA GOLF
CHAMPIONSHIP IN LIMURU OCTOBER 11TH, 2015**

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Allow me to begin by welcoming our brothers and sisters who have been selected from the sixteen African Countries represented here for the Africa Amateur Golf Team Championship.

This biannual premier event which has witnessed growth in stature and significance brings together the crème de la crème of Africa's best amateur golfers. We are privileged to host a tournament of this magnitude on the Kenyan soil.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Kenya prides herself as a great sporting nation. This fact is testified by Kenya's recent sterling performance during this year's world Athletics championships in Beijing, China where Kenya turned tables against well endowed nations like USA, Jamaica, Britain, and of course the hosts China.

This is also a clear demonstration that with proper training and determination, Africa can rule the world in sports.

I do congratulate the Kenya Golf Union on taking up the challenge to host this tournament at the Limuru Golf and County club. It is only this year that Kenya successfully hosted the inaugural Africa Junior Girls and Tri- Nations Junior Championship and won both tournaments.

On a light note, it has been said in other avenues that football is a game played by gentlemen but watched by hooligans. On the other hand, rugby is played by chubby rhino charge individuals and watched by hooligans.

On contrast, golf is one of the few games played by gentlemen and watched by gentlemen.

However, the growth and expansion of Golf in the continent of Africa has not been without challenges. The mere cost of putting up a golf course and the equipment used is prohibitive and out of reach for the masses. In many places it is a club affair with a number of restrictions which in turn constrain its development.

To overcome this, African Governments should seriously consider putting up public golf courses if the continent is to make impact at World level. We must find ways and means of partnering between clubs and the general public for golf to be embraced by masses.

It will also be beneficial if golf was to be introduced to our young people at an early age. This would give them the necessary ladder needed for them to gain experience as they climb through the ranks.

Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the Government of Kenya, I want to assure you that Kenya is a safe country for not only hosting international championship, but for business and sports tourism.

I know that most of the buddies who play golf are also serious investors. I want to welcome all to partner with the Kenya Government in the development of sports infrastructure, film, fashion and the arts industry.

In conclusion, **Ladies and Gentlemen**, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our valuable sponsors, all officials and competitors for making this event happen.

I therefore wish you a most successful championship and a happy stay in Kenya. May the best team win.

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