



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR
ON WOMEN RIGHTS

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY
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RIGHTS,
REPUBLIC OF KENYA
DURING THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY
CELEBRATION 2024 WITH KENGEN’S PINK
ENERGY PROGRAM

08 MARCH 2024

5th Floor RBS Parking Silo

NAIROBI

Good morning!



Distinguished guests, Staff of KENGEN Company and most importantly, the incredible women and men gathered here today – **Happy International Women's Day 2024!**

1. A woman is like a teabag; you never know how strong it is until it's in hot water.
2. As a woman, I stand before you not just to celebrate this important day, but to shine a light on an initiative that truly embodies its spirit: **KENGEN's Pink Energy program.**
3. I am particularly proud to be part of this event hosted by KENGEN, a company that **recognizes the importance of empowering women** through this initiative.
4. The celebration we have today, is commemoration to reflect on the progress made, and the challenges that lie ahead in the realm of women's rights and empowerment in Kenya and beyond.
5. International Women's Day serves as a poignant reminder of the significant strides women have made throughout history. But it is also a call to action to address the persistent inequalities that still exist. The theme for this year's International Women's Day, **"Inspire Inclusion"** resonates deeply with the work we are doing here today.

6. We must ‘Inspire Inclusion’ that **opens up women's access to opportunities**. We must also ‘Inspire Inclusion’ that **encourages women’s voices**. We must ‘Inspire Inclusion’ that **expands women’s potential** in economic, socio-cultural and political spaces.
7. According to a report by the African Union Commission, “Women of Impact: Inspiring Stories of African Women Leaders”, 90% of African Women’s income goes back to their families compared to just 30 – 40% by men. This is a demonstration of the very reason why we need to leave no one behind.

Ladies and gentlemen! Let’s think about this now!

8. Energy poverty disproportionately affects women and girls. Lack of access to reliable electricity hinders women and girls education, entrepreneurship and overall well-being. It burdens them with daily unpaid care tasks like fetching water and firewood. This limits their time for income generation and personal development. This challenge is further compounded by gender inequalities, where women often have less decision-making power and access to resources related to innovative energy solutions.
9. But today, amidst these challenges, shines a beacon of hope – KENGEN’s Pink Energy program. Launched in 2016, the initiative recognizes the role of women in the company and the wider energy

sector, by creating change and empowerment. This initiative exemplifies the **power of innovation in advancing women's rights and empowerment**. Allow me to ask ,what is your ,my legacy in mentoring and making way and easier path for younger women coming after us and prepare them for future and ensure they become better than us .

10. Let me add, “Find something you are passionate about and keep tremendously interested in it” work hard work smart , never despair but aspire to succeed no matter the challenges .
11. The government, through the Kenya Off-Grid Solar Access Project, is committed to providing electricity and clean cooking solutions in remote, low-density and traditionally underserved areas. This is part of the government’s commitment to providing universal access to electricity and modern energy cooking services by 2030.
12. Already we can witness a policy shift to green energy. For example, last year the cabinet approved the LPG Growth Policy. Later this year, the Government will be rolling out distribution of free LPG cylinders to increase adoption of clean cooking energy that will benefit women more.
13. Through initiatives like the Pink Energy Program, we are not only empowering individual women but also catalyzing broader social and economic transformation. This desired transformation should

include reduced time spent on energy-related chores, economic growth, improved health, empowered individuals, and a safe environment for families and communities.

14. When women are given equal opportunities to thrive, they become agents of change in their communities, driving progress and prosperity for all. By breaking down barriers and biases, we unlock the full potential of our societies and pave the way for a more inclusive and equitable future.
15. Let the Pink Energy Program be a model for others. Let it inspire policymakers, businesses and communities to invest in women as key drivers of sustainable energy access and development.
16. We must work together: To scale up similar programs, Promote financial inclusion, Bridge the skills gap through empowerment initiatives.
17. Let us work together to dismantle the structures of oppression and discrimination that hold women and girls back. Let us build a world where every woman and girl can live up to her fullest potential. And the accruing benefits? You will agree with me, that they are immense!



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18. Let us recommit ourselves to the cause of gender equality where we leave no one behind. This is to ensure that every woman has the power to light up her own life and her community.

19. In closing, let us remember the words of the great **Malala Yousafzai**, a 2014 Nobel Peace Prize laureate at the age of seventeen.

She said, "**We cannot all succeed when half of us are held back.**"

20. It is up to each and every one of us to 'Inspire Inclusion', challenge the status quo, create a world where women's rights are human rights, and where every woman can shine brightly like the Pink Energy that powers our future.

21. Let me say this, "No one ever became a success without taking chances...."

22. Gender kengen , Inua Mapato

Thank You.