

Press Release

**Meeting of Hon'ble Chief Minister with Mr. Aden Mohammed,
Cabinet Secretary for Industrialization and Enterprise
Development of the Republic of Kenya**

A Delegation from the Republic of Kenya led by Mr. Aden Mohammed, Cabinet Secretary for Industrialization and Enterprise Development met the Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru O.Panneerselvam in the Secretariat today, 3rd February 2015. The Hon'ble Chief Minister recalled the long history of economic and cultural relationship between India and Kenya and the role of the Indian Community in Kenya towards strengthening of bilateral relations. India is the largest exporter to Kenya and Indian exports to Kenya include pharmaceuticals, steel, machinery and automobiles. Many of these automobiles are made in Tamil Nadu.

Hon'ble Chief Minister mentioned that Tamil Nadu is ranked second largest State economy among Indian States and that in order to catapult the State to numero uno position our respected Leader Puratchi Thalaivi AMMA had unveiled "Vision Tamil Nadu 2023". He added that this is the blueprint for the State's development agenda and it aims to place Tamil Nadu in the league of Upper Middle Income countries with a per capita income of US dollar 10,000 by 2023.

Hon'ble Chief Minister recalled that Tamil Nadu offers a number of competitive advantages for investors and highlighted that Tamil Nadu's biggest asset is its rich human resource endowment. The abundance of skilled human resource and harmonious and peaceful industrial relations make Tamil Nadu a preferred investment destination. The Hon'ble Chief Minister stated that as two developing nations Kenya and India have a lot to learn from each other.

The Cabinet Secretary (Industrialization and Economic Development) Mr Aden Mohammed thanked the Chief Minister and the State for the hospitality. He mentioned that they had spent 3 days in Coimbatore and visited many textile factories, engineering factories and

medical facilities and very impressed with what they saw. He believed that there were many opportunities for collaboration. He believed that Kenyans of Indian origin provided the glue between the two countries. He believed that as Kenya has a special trade arrangement with the United states and the European Union under which exports from Kenya were levied zero tariff, companies from India could consider establish manufacturing operations in Kenya to take advantage of zero-tariff exports into large markets.

The High Commissioner of Kenya to India mentioned that tourism was another major sector where collaboration was possible. As Chennai was also a very large film making centre, Kenya could also be considered as a film shooting venue given the beautiful natural attractions in the country.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister invited business delegations and investors from the Republic of Kenya to attend the Global Investors Meet proposed to be organized by the State Government on 23rd and 24th May 2015 in Chennai.

The Cabinet Secretary of the Republic of Kenya was accompanied by Mrs. Florence I. Weche, the High Commissioner for the Republic of Kenya in India, Mr. Oburu Oginga, MP, Mr. Joseph Limo, MP, Mr. Sakwa Munyasi, MP, Mr. Titus Ibui, Chairman of the Kenya Leather Development Council and Mr. Aden Abdullah, Chairman, Export Processing Zones, Thiru K. Gnanadesikan, I.A.S., Chief Secretary to Government, Tmt. Sheela Balakrishnan, I.A.S., (Retd.) Adviser to Government, Thiru K.Ramanujam, I.P.S.,(Retd.) Adviser to Government, Thiru C.V. Shankar, I.A.S., Additional Chief Secretary, Industries Department, Thiru K. Shanmugam, I.A.S., Principal Secretary to Government, Finance Department and Thiru S. Krishnan, I.A.S., Principal Secretary to Government, Planning, Development & Special Initiatives Department were present.

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Issued by: DIPR, Secretariat, Chennai-9.

Dated : 3.2.2015