

**High Commissioner's Remarks on ITEC Day
(15 September 2026)**

H.E Geoffrey Kiringa Ruku, Cabinet Secretary for Public Service, Human Capital Development and Special Programmes;

Dr. Jane Imbunya, Principal Secretary for Public Service and Human Capital Development;

Major General Peter Limo, Representative of Chief of Defence Forces,

Mr. Mohamed Amin, Director of Criminal Investigations;

Brigadier Hillary Kipkosgey, Director-General of the Kenya Space Agency;

Professor Nura Mohamed, Director-General of the Kenya School of Government;

Distinguished representatives of the Government of Kenya and the Kenya Defence Forces;

Dear ITEC alumni, ladies and gentlemen,

Good evening! Namaste! Jambo!

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to the annual celebrations of 'Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation' programme, popularly known world over as ITEC. We deeply appreciate the kind presence of Hon'ble Cabinet Secretary Geoffrey Ruku as well as the Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Public Service, Human Capital Development and Special Programmes, the nodal Ministry administering the ITEC programme on the Kenyan side. I am very happy to see the

presence of representative of CDF, and heads of Department of Criminal Investigations, Kenya Space Agency and Kenya School of Government, with whom we work very closely.

2. The presence of ITEC alumni this evening from various Ministries, county governments and other organizations showcases how this significant programme has touched the lives of so many people in so many different ways apart from professional training. The ITEC programme is truly a strong pillar of India–Kenya ties and human resource development occupies an important place within it.

3. I would like to take this opportunity to give a brief background of ITEC. This programme was launched on **15 September 1964**, exactly 62 years ago today. At that time, India was a young nation addressing considerable development challenges of its own. Yet, we believed that the expertise we were building could also benefit other developing countries pursuing similar aspirations. That belief remains the foundation of ITEC. Knowledge grows when it is shared. An investment in one professional can benefit an entire institution, and a stronger institution can improve the lives of thousands of citizens.

4. Our approach is guided by mutual respect, national ownership and the priorities of our partners. India brings its experience to the table, while learning from the experience of others. Many of the questions we face are shared: how to deliver services to large populations, expand economic opportunities, make technology accessible, and achieve more with limited resources. ITEC creates a space in which practitioners can work through these questions together.

5. Over the last six decades, the programme has trained **more than 200,000 officials from over 160 countries**, including

some of our developed partner countries, in civilian and defence fields. Its annual offerings include nearly **400 courses at more than 100 institutions across India**, with approximately **10,000 fully funded training opportunities**.

6. Africa has always occupied a special place in this partnership. Over the last decade alone, over **45,000 African participants** received ITEC training in India. Its distinguished alumni include Tanzania's President, Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, who attended a programme at the National Institute of Rural Development in Hyderabad and has spoken warmly about that experience. Here in Kenya, Attorney General Dorcas Oduor and many senior public servants are members of the ITEC family.

7. As most of you all would know, **these** courses are fully sponsored by the Government of India. The sponsorship covers course fees, return airfare, accommodation, and programme-related study visits. This comprehensive support makes participation accessible to professionals who might otherwise find overseas training difficult to undertake.

8. For us, this is a sustained investment in our partnership with Kenya and in the people who will shape its future. Kenya's participation has grown considerably. Over 3000 Kenyan professionals have benefited over the last 10 years, and our annual training offer now exceeds **400 slots**. Their work spans ministries, counties, public institutions, defence and other sectors.

9. One of the most encouraging developments is the growing emphasis on **customised programmes for Kenyan institutions**. In January 2025, Attorney General Dorcas Oduor led a delegation of **29 senior officials** to the National Centre for Good Governance for a programme on Leadership and National

Transformation. It brought Kenyan officials into direct discussion with senior Indian policymakers on governance reforms, digital innovation and public administration. Most recently, **25 senior civil servants** led by Secretary to the Cabinet Mercy Wanjau undertook the Smart Governance programme National Centre for Good Governance in Delhi held from **7 to 12 September 2026**. Professor Nura Mohamed, DG Kenya School of Government, present here, had also participated in this course. Such exchanges create valuable opportunities for sustained cooperation between institutions responsible for developing the public service.

10. In the recent past, we have also organized customized training programmes for multiple Kenyan authorities, including but not limited to :

- i. 20 officials from Kenya Revenue Authority undertook a customized course on taxation at the National Academy of Direct Taxes in January 2025
- ii. Forensic training for 30 participants from Directorate of Criminal Investigations and Directorate of Public Prosecution in May 2025
- iii. Remote-sensing and GIS for agriculture informatics for 20 officials from Kenya Space Agency in July 2024.

11. Ladies and gentlemen, we have gone beyond ITEC training in India to meet the requirements of our partner countries. **ITEC training can also take place now in beneficiary countries, including Kenya under the ITEC-Onsite programme under which** Indian trainers can travel to a partner country to deliver customized programmes for a group of professionals. Where an institution has a substantial number of officers requiring training in a particular field, this can be an effective way to reach

more participants and relate the training closely to their working environment. Similarly, technology has also enabled another option, which is the e-ITEC under which Indian institutions can deliver live online training. We did a number of e-ITEC trainings particularly during the Covid-19 pandemic with many of our partner countries. The **ITEC-Expert** modality also allows Indian experts to undertake capacity-building assignments in partner countries, in response to their requirements. Together, these options give us considerable flexibility in designing cooperation.

12. I would therefore encourage Ministries, county governments and training institutions to approach the High Commission with specific proposals. Tell us the skills you wish to develop, the officers who would benefit and the outcomes you hope to achieve. We can then explore suitable Indian partners and the most appropriate format.

13. This emphasis on multiplying knowledge also informs India's wider vision for Africa. At the **G20 Summit in Johannesburg in November 2025**, Prime Minister Narendra Modi proposed the **G20-Africa Skills Multiplier Initiative**, with the collective goal of training **one million trainers in Africa over ten years**. The idea is to build a pool of skilled trainers who can, in turn, equip many more young Africans with relevant capabilities.

14. Dear alumni, you have an essential role in this endeavour. I encourage you to share your learning with colleagues, mentor younger professionals and remain connected with the institutions and friends you encountered in India. We would also like to hear what happened after your return. Did a course help you improve a process, introduce a new practice or address a

difficult problem? Your experience can help us make future programmes more relevant and useful.

15. Over and above the training part, I am sure this training experience would have also created friendships that endure well beyond the duration of a course. I hope your memories of India include its warmth and hospitality, its diversity, and perhaps a favourite dish that you will find again this evening. We have an association called Bharatwallahs, essentially of people who have studied in India and some of whom are present here. There are similar cohorts – Nagpurwalas, Bhopalwalas, Jabalpurwala, Punewalas and so on. Personally, I would prefer all these walas and the ITEC alumni to come together to form a coherent organization but if you prefer to organize around your institutional identity, that is fine as well. However, the bottomline must be one – be conduits of a strong India-Kenya partnership in whatever manner you can contribute.

16. The High Commission looks forward to working with our Kenyan partner Ministries and organizations with the support of the Ministry of Public Service, Human Capital development and Special programmes under the able leadership of Hon'ble Cabinet Secretary to deepen institutional cooperation and bring these capacity-building opportunities to more and more Kenyans for a meaningful outcome.

17. I thank our distinguished guests, our partner institutions and every member of the ITEC family for their contribution. India remains committed to supporting Kenya's development priorities through the sharing of knowledge, skills and experience.

Happy ITEC Day!

Asante sana. Thank you.