

SPEECH BY SAITOTI TOROME, CBS, PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, STATE DEPARTMENT FOR PLANNING, DURING THE OPENING CEREMONY FOR THE 8TH KENYA MONITORING AND EVALUATION WEEK ON 20TH NOVEMBER, 2019, AT THE GRAND ROYAL SWISS HOTEL, KISUMU.

Hon. Nelson Gaichuhie, Chief Administrative Secretary, The National Treasury and Planning;

H.E. Prof Anyang' Nyongo, Governor of Kisumu County;

Mr. Abdi M Hassan, County Commissioner, Kisumu County

Hon. Dr Makali Mulu, Co-Chair Parliamentary Caucus on Evidence-informed Oversight and Decision making;

Members of Parliament Present

Members of the County Assemblies Present;

County Executive Members Present;

Chief Executive Officers;

Representatives of Development Partners;

International and Regional Delegates;

Members of the Academia;

Representatives from Private Sector & Civil Society Organizations';

Public Servants;

Members of the Media fraternity;

Invited Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

All Protocol Observed

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Let me start by appreciating you all for choosing to attend and participate in the 8th Kenya Monitoring and Evaluation Week. It is encouraging for us at the State Department for Planning to note that there is increasing interest in the adoption and practice of Monitoring and Evaluation within the public sector here in Kenya and globally. I am grateful to you all for accepting our invitation to attend this important conference.

This year's M&E Week marks the 8th year since the initiative was conceptualized and implementation commenced. Over the years, the Week has progressed and made the following achievements: delegates participation has expanded to regional and international levels giving the Week a recognition in the calendar of M&E global events; Increased development partners participation and support; attendance by highly experienced international M&E practitioners; Increased advocacy for adoption and practice of M&E as a management tool; Development of M&E technical capacity in the public sector; and promotion of use of M&E findings as evidence for decision making in both the executive and legislature at both National and devolved levels of governance.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The Kenya Vision 2030 is the long-term national development plan for this Country, and is implemented in five-year Medium Term Plans (MTPs). The priorities in the MTPs integrate the government of the day's development priorities, international development commitments that Kenya has ratified as well as the sectoral priorities in the five-year County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs).

We are currently implementing the MTP III (2018-2022) while the counties are implementing their second generation of CIDPs. Notably, the priorities in the MTP III which was launched in November 2018 incorporate the 'Big Four' Agenda, Sustainable Development Goals, Africa Agenda 2063 and sectoral priorities unique to each county in Kenya. The finer details of what each Ministry, Department or Agency (MDA) is expected to do is well articulated in the 25 sector plans and the 3 thematic working groups report. Furthermore, CIDPs have incorporated the Big Four Agenda, with some of the Agenda items like Universal Health Coverage already underway in at least four counties.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The MTPs and CIDPs are further cascaded into strategic plans and subsequent annual work plans by each Ministry,

County, Department and Agency that ensure relevant activities within programmes and projects will be implemented during planning period. At the national level, the National Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation System (NIMES) is used to track implementation of these plans and consequent results. At the County level, we have the County Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation System (CIMES).

To facilitate tracking of the implementation of Third Medium Term Plan, the “Big Four” agenda and County Integrated Development Plan 2018-2022, we have developed a National Handbook of Indicators and supported counties to develop a Handbook of County Reporting Indicators. These handbooks have been designed to increase accountability and transparency by providing an easy tracking mechanism of the key economic, socio and governance performance output and outcome indicators. The handbooks have included tracking of cross cutting issues like gender, people with disabilities, human rights and climate change.

The information received from tracking of the indicators is compiled into the Annual Progress Reports (APRs). The APRs form a basis for recommending specific corrective measures on the implementation of individual policies, programmes and projects, to the relevant agencies. The highlights of the first APR for MTP III will be shared during this conference.

Ladies and Gentlemen

In order to strengthen monitoring and evaluation, we continue building capacity of staff at the National and County level. At the county level, we have developed and shared guidelines aimed at providing a standard framework on establishment and implementation of County Integrated M&E systems. We do recognize and appreciate the continued support of the development partners in strengthening M&E capacity.

I am informed that the last two days have provided intensive training on technical aspects of M&E. I believe the knowledge gained will be helpful in your place of work especially discharging M&E function. The remaining part of the conference will be dedicated to the exchange of experiences in M&E practice, where case studies, panel discussions and knowledge cafés will be used to deliver content. This knowledge will deliver a cutting-edge experience on M&E in public sector. Key topics will be discussed including i) implementation of MTP, ii) population issues, iii) public investment management (PIM). I therefore, urge you to fully exploit the opportunity provided in this forum and actively participate in the various sessions.

Finally, Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to emphasize that the State Department for Planning remains committed to promoting the culture of M&E in this Country. We will continue to provide technical capacity to the devolved units in the areas of economic development planning and M&E, wherever we are called upon to do so. We also welcome more collaboration with existing and new development partners throughout our endeavors of promoting M&E in the public sector.

Ladies and Gentlemen

As I conclude, I take this opportunity to appreciate; the two levels of governments for their continued cooperation and collaboration, our development partners: UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, DANIDA, World Bank, and DfID for their technical and financial support; and officers from my State Department especially those from the Monitoring and Evaluation Department for their efforts towards hosting the 8th National M&E Week.

Ladies and Gentlemen

I wish you all a fruitful engagement during the 8th Kenya National Monitoring and Evaluation Week.

Thank you and God Bless Kenya

I now welcome our Chief Administrative Secretary, Hon. Nelson Gaichuhie, to officially open this conference on behalf our Cabinet Secretary.