

KEY NOTE ADDRESS BY DR. JOSEPH KINYUA, EGH, HEAD OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE, DURING THE CENTRAL PLANNING & PROJECT MONITORING UNITS (CPPMUs) FORUM HELD ON 23RD JULY, 2019 AT THE KICC

Dr. Julius Muia, Principal Secretary Planning,

Central Planning, Project and Monitoring Unit Officers,

Senior Government Officers Present,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to join you this morning in this consultative Forum for Heads of Central Planning & Project Monitoring Units (CPPMUs). I wish to congratulate the State Department for Planning for organizing this forum which should enable the participants to carry out frank situation analyses, share experiences and engage in open and insightful discussions with respect to the role and performance of CPPMUs in anchoring projects and programmes in Ministries and State Departments.

I also expect that your half-day session will help to identify critical performance imperatives that can lead to transformative delivery of government services through efficient and effective project and programme execution. Certainly, this will require a unified understanding of a state of the art standard approach to project conceptualization, project design, planning, budgeting, execution, monitoring and evaluation.

Let me reiterate that CPPMUs are still very important for effective delivery of services in the line Ministries and State Departments. They continue to facilitate appropriate planning, budgeting, implementation and monitoring of government programmes and projects in the Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs). They are also core in spearheading and coordinating most of the activities implemented in line Ministries and State Departments as well as provision of relevant data and rational allocation of resources. The role of the CPP&MUs is also critical in the harmonization and alignment of the national development agenda to the Ministerial and State

Department's goals, objectives and programmes.

As you are aware, the Kenya Vision 2030 is the long term development blueprint, to be implemented in 5-year successive Medium-Term Plans. The Third Medium-Term Plan for 2018-2022 does not only prioritize the Government's Big Four Agenda (Universal healthcare, Affordable housing, Manufacturing and Food security) but also aims at improving governance and accountability, deepening public sector reforms and strengthening the capacity of County Governments.

This Big Four Agenda aims to transform lives by creating jobs, improving living and health conditions and ensuring food and nutrition security for all Kenyans. In this regard, Government policy has shifted towards a more citizen centric approach to development, with a keen focus on the well-being of each and every Kenyan. This is reflected in the Government's four key strategic areas, under the Big Four Agenda; namely: Universal Healthcare, Manufacturing, Affordable Housing and Food Security.

The implementation of these strategic areas will require close monitoring and evaluation to inform policy and decision making. The State Department for Planning, through National Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation System (NIMES) is expected to track the implementation progress of public sector policies, programmes and projects contained in the Kenya Vision 2030, the Medium Term Plans (MTPs) and County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs).

Indeed CPPMUs are expected to play a critical role in assisting their respective state Agencies and Departments to translate in granular terms relevant ministerial projects and initiatives towards the Big 4 outcomes. This should particularly be emphasized during the development of annual work plans and the setting of ministerial performance contract targets, ensuring that the citizen centric focus is at the center of this interventions. This support should also include the review of any ministerial policies, programmes or intervention that are likely to delay or derail achievement of the Big 4 interventions. CPPMUs are also expected to ensure accurate data on project implementation status is captured and fed into the integrated M&E system and flag deviations. This latter function is particularly critical in supporting the Government's governance and anti-

corruption agenda given your role in Monitoring and reporting on project implementation. We anticipate that the Monitoring will also strengthen efficiency in utilization of scarce resources.

I am aware that the National Treasury and Planning has rolled out systems such as National Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation System (NIMES) at National level and County Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation System (CIMES) at County level. I am also aware that National Treasury and Planning is in the process of finalizing the national Monitoring and evaluation policy. The policy and systems are meant to track government projects in real time and their implementation status and provide an enabling framework for generating of Monitoring and Evaluation evidence to facilitate timely realization of the Countries development goals. Therefore, Monitoring and Evaluation should be geared towards supporting the tracking of the Big Four strategic areas, flagships project and other priority interventions of the Government.

The National Treasury and Planning has also developed draft Public Investment Management (PIM) guidelines that are intended to streamline the use of government resources on projects at the National and County Governments' level as part of the efforts for reforms in Public Finance Management. The various reforms in the public sectors' financial management are meant to spur economic growth and development.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the role of Economists in the Project Management cycle cannot be over-emphasized. Economic analysis of any project or programme is critical so as to help not only assess the sustainability of investment projects but also to inform the design and select projects that can contribute to a sustainable improvement in the welfare of project beneficiaries, and the country as a whole. It is a means to help bring about better allocation of resources that can lead to enhanced incomes for investment or consumption purposes. Therefore, Economist should assist in undertaking such analysis at the early stages of the project cycle to enable decision makers to make informed decisions about a particular investment given various alternatives and their corresponding costs.

Performance of Government is premised in of performance of individual sectors, whose performance on their part is determined by the

performance of ministries, departments and Agencies (MDAS) under them. In view of this, it's imperative that there are intra-sectoral and intra-sectoral consultation and collaborations to deliver programmes, projects and initiatives to ensure optimal utilization of public resources. I urge that the monitoring and Evaluation of Projects and Programmes similarly adopts a "whole of government approach" and benefits from coordinated and cooperative model that will deliver the outcomes of the Big 4, and the overall Medium Term Plan.

I hope you will have candid discussions on the important subject of achieving transformational outcomes in the delivery of CPPMUs. I expect to receive feedback from you and I assure that your views will be taken into account.

I now take this opportunity to declare this forum officially open.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU!