

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



**THE NATIONAL TREASURY AND PLANNING
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR PLANNING**

**REMARKS BY MR. SAITOTI TOROME, PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, STATE
DEPARTMENT FOR PLANNING, DURING THE VIRTUAL LAUNCH OF
NIPFN PROJECT AND PRODUCTS ON 19TH APRIL 2021.**

Chief Guest, CAS, The National Treasury & Planning

Principal Secretaries;

KNBS & KIPPRA Board Members;

Director General KNBS

Executive Director, KIPPRA

Senior Government Representatives

EU Head of Delegation, Kenya

Representative Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

Representatives of Development Partners

Representatives of Non-Government Organizations

All other Nutrition Partners

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me take this opportunity to welcome you all to this official launch of the e National Information Platform for Food Security and Nutrition (NIPFN) project and its initial products.

This project was conceived out of a noted challenge in the capability to collate, analyse and interpret several existing information and data on food security and nutrition. The project as designed will improve national capacity of collated data, more rigorous analysis and interpretation of the same, for better understanding of status and factors that influence nutrition outcome in the country. The latter will provide a better understanding of Kenya's nutrition and food security issues and outcomes to leaders, policy makers, investors and researchers

Specifically, this project is expected to address some of the current data and information gaps that limit monitoring of government development initiatives in food security and nutrition arena. This will complement the Government efforts in assessing the progress made towards achievement of international and national targets.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am aware that there are great expectations from various stakeholders of NIPFN to support the realization of some of the targets in the 3rd Medium Term Plan (MTP III), particularly on reducing malnutrition to 27 percent in 2022, at this time when the nation is seeking ways to foster growth and development. As the Government continues to implement the current

Constitution, which places a lot of emphasis on accountability, it calls for evidence-based policy, planning, decision-making, monitoring and evaluation at the national and at the county levels. This therefore reiterates the need to have comprehensive and quality data and information that informs the better nutrition outcomes.

Policies and programmes that have been implemented to bring about rapid transformation of food security and nutrition must be regularly monitored and evaluated. The outputs of NIPFN will provide Government with a benchmark for monitoring policies, programmes and services, which have been put in place to foster development for the betterment of nutrition outcomes for all Kenyans.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are launching these reports against the backdrop of emerging data and information demands for planning purposes. It is envisaged that the project will contribute to additional indicators relevant for policy-making, measurable goal setting and effective monitoring system. This requires working together with relevant stakeholders.

Since the inception of the project, a number of partners have been identified to work together with the project on various activities. These activities cover project coordination ; data and information sharing; policy question formulation; data analysis; report writing; dissemination and communication of findings. These activities are coordinated through three main multi-sectoral committees namely the National Steering Committee (NSC), the Policy

Advisory Committee (PAC) and the Project Management Committee (PMC), all drawing membership from the project partners.

The National Steering Committee, which is the apex body of the project, consists of an inter-sectoral committee that brings together heads of various sectors concerned with food and nutrition. The committee plays an oversight role in the project including recommending policy changes or interventions for food security and nutrition and facilitating their implementation;

The Project Management Committee (PMC) and Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) on the other hand are responsible for implementing project work plan; identifying and prioritizing policy questions for analysis and interpreting the findings, respectively. This is henceforth aimed at informing sector policies that could influence nutritional outcomes.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The key organizations involved in setting up the NIPFN are the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), as the lead applicant of the grant and the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA) as co-applicant. Both institutions are under the National Treasury and Planning whose key mandate is to coordinate national development planning. The mandate of the KNBS is to collect analyse and disseminate statistical data on behalf of the Government of Kenya. On the other hand, the mandate of KIPPRA is to conduct of policy research and analysis to provide public policy advice geared towards achievement of national development goals. The positioning of the project in the two agencies combined with its coordination by the Ministry responsible for policy formulation and coordination creates a suitable set up

to respond to the needs of the country. Furthermore, the outputs of the NIPFN project are critical at both the country and global level

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me extend my special thanks to the management of KNBS and KIPPRA together with project staff who have worked tirelessly to make this launch event a success.

Finally, I now invite the Honourable Chief Administrative Secretary to give the key note address and officially launch the NIPFN Project and Products.

Thank you