



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

STATEMENT BY MR. SAITOTI TOROME, CBS, PRINCIPAL SECRETARY STATE DEPARTMENT FOR PLANNING DURING THE OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY OF THE VIRTUAL 9TH KENYA NATIONAL MONITORING AND EVALUATION WEEK ON 17TH MAY, 2021

Hon. (Amb.) Ukur Yatani, Cabinet Secretary, National Treasury and Planning;

Hon. Erick Simuyu Wafukho, Chief Administrative Secretary, National Treasury and Planning;

Mr. Walidi Badawi, UNDP Resident Representative

Camille Lampart Nuamah, World Bank Representative;

Members of Academia;

Distinguished Resource Persons;

Government Officials;

Representatives from Private Sector & Civil Society Organizations;

Development Professionals;

Members of the Media fraternity;

Distinguished Guests;

All those following this conference virtually;

All protocols observed;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good morning

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to the 9th Virtual National Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) week whose theme is "***M&E within the Context of COVID-***

19 Pandemic: Perspectives, Practices, and Evidence". Your participation in this year's conference is highly appreciated given the prevailing difficult circumstances caused by the Covid 19 Pandemic. The National M&E week has gained popularity over the years as a platform that provides an opportunity for M&E practitioners to interact and share knowledge, experiences and good practices for advancing M&E as a profession and as a critical tool for management.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) is a powerful public management tool that can be used to improve the way governments and organizations achieve results. M&E

helps answer the So what questions that addresses accountability concerns of stakeholders, give government managers information on progress towards achieving stated targets and goals, and provide substantial evidence on what is working and what is not.

The State Department for Planning has continually encouraged the adoption of monitoring and evaluation at all levels to help policy and decision makers to identify challenges and opportunities, set effective and efficient priorities and communicate progress, ensure accountability and generate support for further investments.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Over the years, the National M&E Week forum has been attracting participants and representatives from Regional Countries, National Government, County Governments and private sector, Academia and Development Actors with a purpose of learning from each. The forum provides learning platforms and knowledge management hubs on matters concerning monitoring and evaluation fields. The forum also aims to increase the culture and practice of M&E in the country. Since 2012, Monitoring and Evaluation interest in the Country has greatly improved as witnessed by the adoption of M&E practice across public sector.

The event has not ignored the strengths and potential of academia and the Think –Tanks who are the major hubs of knowledge. It brings together major institutions of higher learning involved in training and imparting knowledge on M&E to play a critical role in boosting the culture of evaluations in the Country. Our local public and private Universities have actively been involved in mainstreaming the discipline of M&E and quite a number have developed M&E curriculum from which they are offering M&E courses at different levels.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

M & E is key at such a time when the Nation is at 14th year of the implementation period of the Kenya Vision 2030. Having been implemented since 2008, M&E of

the Vision through the various Medium Term Plans (MTPs) and The “Big Four” Agenda is essential in ensuring that implementation is on track and that the intended outcomes are achieved as envisaged in the blueprint as well as in the County Integrated Development Plans.

Distinguished Guests

We are living in auspicious times for M&E and in the midst of a crisis like no other. The COVID-19 pandemic has sent shockwaves through the global economy. Policymakers all over the world are looking for ways to contain the spread of the virus while limiting economic fallout. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) plays a critical role in strengthening accountability and increasing

transparency in areas of public spending and service delivery. As such M&E is fast becoming an indispensable tool for policy-making in the developing world. Knowing what programs work and what programs do not leads to an efficient and prudent use of public and donor funds, particularly by providing guidance to policymakers in their decision-making and in directing resources to more efficient development interventions.

Therefore, it is necessary to take cognizance of the various challenges that may hinder the timely achievement of the set targets. It is important to identify the various ways of mitigating this and also explore the development opportunities

arising from the presence of the pandemic. We therefore should leverage on M&E to generate evidence that will enhance development outcomes.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In these three days, we expect you to learn through sharing of experiences and good practices. The Conference has been organized in such a way as to accommodate as many different fields of M & E as regards COVID 19 as we can accommodate. I therefore urge you to take part in the discussions in topics and components that will interest you most so that we can make the best out of the three days that we will be here. I wish you well and encourage you to actively engage facilitators as well as participate throughout the sessions.

Finally, I would like to sincerely appreciate our development partners and stakeholders for their contributions in marking this year's M&E week. I wish all the participants a fruitful engagement during the conference. It's now my humble duty to invite our Chief Administrative Secretary, Hon. Erick Simiyu Wafukho to make his remarks.

Thank you and God bless you