

SPEECH BY SAITOTI TOROME, CBS, PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, STATE DEPARTMENT FOR PLANNING DURING THE VALIDATION WORKSHOP FOR THE SOCIAL BUDGETING AND SOCIAL INTELLIGENCE REPORTING GUIDELINES AND TOOLS HELD ON 29TH TO 30TH JUNE, 2021 AT VOYAGER BEACH HOTEL, NYALI, MOMBASA.

**Unicef Kenya Country Office Staff Members Present,
County Directors of Economic Planning Present;**

The Executive Director, Inter religious Council of Kenya;

Director Social and Governance;

Representative, Council of Governors

Representative, State Department for Devolution,

All Protocols observed

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good Morning

- It gives me great pleasure to join you in this validation workshop of Guidelines on Social Budgeting and Social Intelligence Reporting Guidelines. Let me take this early opportunity to commend the team that has come up with the Guidelines that are going to help us roll out the Social Budgeting initiative. I want to believe that the workshop has everyone a chance to interact and peer learning on topical and emerging issues related to social budgeting and relevant social economic issues.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- The Kenya Vision 2030, our long-term Government blueprint provides an all-inclusive road map for political, economic and social equity development. That said, the realization of socio-economic rights is envisaged in the Social Pillar of the Vision. The objective of social pillar shall be achieved through a participatory, transparent, equitable allocation of public resources and efficient delivery of services to meet human rights, especially for the vulnerable populations. This objective is in line with the Social

Budgeting Initiative objective, which aims at ensuring that every Kenyan enjoys socio-economic rights.

- Looking back before the COVID 19 Pandemic, Kenya was consistently achieving a real GDP growth average of 6% annually, and indeed we had started to gradually realize enormous potential for our country. The Government's commitment to political and socio-economic reforms will continue to stabilize the economy and

promote social cohesion and help Kenya to maintain its position as a regional economic powerhouse.

Ladies and Gentlemen

- The Social Budgeting roll out initiative is taking place at a time when the country is dealing with the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are operating under a totally different environment which calls for new ways of conducting Government business. It is then critical to ensure the guidelines and tools have been reviewed against our existing programmes and policies to ensure that they are not only consistent with our development agenda but also informed by emerging realities brought about by COVID-19 pandemic and related economic shocks.

- To ensure that the country recovers, we will have to prioritize policies, programs and projects which generate broad based inclusive economic growth, as well as foster job creation, reduce of poverty and inequality, take into account climate change impacts, and meet the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as the goals of African Union Agenda 2063.

Ladies and Gentlemen

- The Government has embarked on strengthening and improving the linkages between national level planning and county level planning, I am pleased to inform you that the State Department for Planning has established National Government Planning Offices to coordinate national planning functions at regional and county levels. Further, I am also informed that the Directors of Economic Planning under the County Government will act as the chairpersons and Secretaries to the County Social Budgeting

Observatories. This will provide a strong partnerships for Social Budgeting initiative in the country.

- The State Department for Planning remains committed to the principles and values of governance as outlined in Articles 10 and 232 of the Constitution of Kenya. This is consistence with the values that have been adopted by the social budgeting initiative

Ladies and Gentlemen

- As I conclude, I wish to express my appreciation to UNICEF for partnering with us and making this workshop a success. I also want to appreciate the Economic Planning Secretary, Director, Social & Governance Directorate and the entire team for working tirelessly to ensure that the workshop a success.
- Lastly, let me thank you all for finding time to attend this important workshop. I challenge you to hold candid discussions

and to provide feedback that will take Social Budgeting initiative to the next level.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU ALL