



**REPUBLIC OF KENYA  
THE NATIONAL TREASURY & PLANNING  
OFFICE OF THE CABINET SECRETARY**

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**Remarks by**  
**Hon. (Amb.) Ukur Yatani, EGH**  
Cabinet Secretary for the National Treasury & Planning

**Commemoration of World Population Day**

**Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2021.**

**Embakasi Sub-County, Nairobi.**

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- **My Fellow Cabinet Secretaries,**
- **Mr. Saitoti Torome, PS - State Department of Planning**
- **Hon. David Ngugi, Chair - NCPD**
- **Dr. Sheikh Mohamed, Director-General - NCPD,**
- **Dr. Ademola Olajide, Country Representative UNFPA,**
- **Implementing Partners,**
- **Invited Guests,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen.**

**Good morning!**

Thank you for inviting me to a part of this commemoration today, as you join all members of the United Nations to mark World Population Day.



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This is the second commemoration we will be marking in the midst of a pandemic, and having learnt important lessons on wearing masks, keeping social distance and sanitizing, we are able to mark the occasion in person this year.

The theme of this year's commemoration: **“Building Forward Better: Safeguarding Women and Girls’ Empowerment and Rights in the COVID-19 Era”** is in tandem with Government priorities.

It comes soon after the Fourth National Leaders’ Conference on Population and Development held in May 2021, under the theme: **Investing in Human Capital**, which culminated in a landmark communique summarizing what Kenya will do to harness its human capital.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen**

It is important that we safeguard our girls and young women. We have witness many being married off with others giving birth, and yet others engaged in some form of employment while of school-going age. This situation was exacerbated by the interruption in learning experienced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, with some 120, 000 primary school



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and 230, 000 secondary school pupils not reporting to school with the resumption in physical classes.

Parents, communities, local administrations and indeed all of us, need to play our roles to ensure that these young people go back to school. We must invoke the return to school policy put in place the Government, allowing them to go back to school irrespective of their reasons for dropping out.

As the Government seeks to implement the Demographic Dividend Roadmap so as to harness the potential of youth to proper Kenya the next level of socio-economic development, let us endeavour to invest in the education, training and skills development of our young people.

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

Similarly, empowering women politically, socially, economically, and healthwise is essential for the achievement of sustainable development. It will enable women to access information, make decisions, and implement effective actions for their interests and of those of their dependants.



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As primary caregivers and decision makers for their children, partners, elderly parents and relatives, they sit at centre of communal well-being and if empowered will have a great effect on the well-being of families and communities – in essence, populations.

Empowering women especially in the face of the challenges brought about by the pandemic, is critical to our socio-economic development. This empowerment extends to safeguarding women from all forms of sexual and gender-based violence which has increased during this pandemic period.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen**

The Government of Kenya has remained committed this agenda over several decades, by being a signatory to a number of international, regional and national agreements and policy instruments that promote women's empowerment such as:

- The Women's Convention of 1979,
- The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) of 1979,
- The Beijing Declaration of 1995,
- The Maputo Protocol of 2005



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The Africa Union Agenda 2063 and Constitution of Kenya 2010 also provide guidance and protections for the empowerment of women. Kenya will continue to champion and defend the rights of women and girls in both word and deed.

With those few remarks, therefore, it gives me great pleasure to officially mark the Kenyan commemoration of the World Population Day, here today, and to remind you all to keep safe by wearing your masks properly, washing your hands with soap or sanitizing and observing social distance – our survival as a world population depends on it.

**Thank You and May God Bless You All.**

**ENDS.**