

REMARKS BY KATHERINE MUOKI, THE ECONOMIC PLANNING SECRETARY, STATE DEPARTMENT FOR PLANNING DURING THE DIRECTORS OF PLANNING VIRTUAL MEETING ON 10TH AUGUST 2021

The Principal Secretary State Department for Planning,

The Principal Secretary National Treasury,

The Economic Planning Advisor;

Colleagues from the State Department for Planning, line Ministries and State Departments and the National County Planning Offices,

I am pleased to join you here for this meeting. I wish to take this opportunity to recognize all the Directors of Planning and Officers from the State Department for Planning, heads of the CPPMUS and Officers in the Ministries and the State Departments and the National Government County Planning Offices present this morning. Am delighted that, we now have presence at the County level.

Today's meeting is as a result of one of the resolutions made during annual CPPMU forum that we held in October last year in Mombasa. Today's meeting aims at promoting dialogue and feedback between the State Department for Planning, the Heads of CPPMUs and those heading the National Planning Counting Offices. The meeting presents an opportunity to take stock of the progress made in implementing the recommendations made in the last CPPMUs forum;

provide a platform for peer-to-peer learning; and, sharing of information.

Colleagues

As you are aware, the State Department for Planning through the Public Service Commission strengthened the economist function by recruiting and deploying over 200 Economists in January this year. Most of you have received the new Economists that were deployed to your Ministries or State Department and the newly established National Government County Planning Offices. I wish to take this opportunity to pass my congratulatory message to the new Economists through you and urge them to always undertake their duties with dedication and commitment.

We are yet to conduct an induction training for the newly recruited Economist. Nevertheless, I call upon all of you to integrate and capacity build them as we await the official induction at the earliest opportune time. Let us also deliberately mentor and nurture in the profession this young officers.

In order to enhance staffing levels and widen staff experience, transfers and redeployment of Economists are conducted frequently. I plead with you to cooperate with the State Department in effecting this process smoothly.

As a follow up to ensuring that all the Ministries and State Department are well versed with the functions of CPPMUs, the State Department has prepared a Circular to be issued to all the Principal

Secretaries emphasizing the role of CPPMUs and recommending the upgrading of the Units to Divisions. The Circular also directs the Accounting Officers to ensure that CPPMUs are provided with adequate resources under the CPPMU vote heads to enable them perform their duties effectively – we are pleased that while in the past the CPPMU vote heads were only in a few Ministries and State Departments it has now become a reality across most if not all Ministries and State Departments. However, I urge you to bid for adequate allocation of resources to the CPPMU vote through the MTEF Sector Working Groups.

Colleagues

As you are aware, the State Department for Planning collaborates with the National Treasury in coordinating the budget process. Guidelines for the preparation of the 2022/23 - 2024/25 Medium Term Budget have been issued. I wish to note that this year's process has been initiated earlier as compared to the previous years since we are approaching the election period. The launch of the budget process was on Thursday last week. I urge you to be at the forefront in prioritizing programmes and projects and ensuring that the Sector Budget Proposals are aligned to the Kenya Vision 2030 and the Medium-Term Plan.

Finally, I wish to inform you that the State Department for Planning has kicked started the process of developing the fourth MTP for the period 2022/23-2027/28. The road map is ready and preparation of the concept paper is ongoing. You will be expected to take lead in

your respective State Departments and Ministries to spearhead the process for a well informed and targeted MTP IV. Even as we provide overall guidance in the process, we will be looking upon you for the areas of focus, for the areas of emphasis, thematic areas based on emerging issues and importantly the theme of the MTP IV. Let me remind you that at you level – much is expected of you. You are regarded as the strategic thinkers, the think tank of this country, to provide strategic direction in matters National and Sectoral Planning – you are at the apex. The Country depends on us – we must therefore reposition ourselves and take this responsibility seriously. I therefore urge you to bring your thoughts and ideas to the table. I wish to reiterate that I have an open door policy, I welcome you to come over and engage on technical matters as well as matters that relate to the management and development of the Economists.

With these remarks, I look forward to interesting engagements in this meeting as per the programme. I am confident that the meeting resolutions and recommendations will go a long way to enhancing the economic planning function for transformational outcomes in delivery of services to Kenyans. I will now ask you all to introduce yourselves before I request the PS State Department for Planning to give his remarks and officially open this forum.

THANK YOU