

**OPENING REMARKS BY THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY,
THE NATIONAL TREASURY AND PLANNING, HON. ERIC SIMIYU
WAFUKHO, DURING THE ANNUAL CENTRAL PLANNING AND
PROJECTS MONITORING UNITS' FORUM HELD FROM 8TH – 13TH
NOVEMBER, 2021**

The Economic Planning Secretary;

The Economic Planning Advisor;

CEOs and Director Generals;

Directors of Planning present;

**Heads of Departments and Units from the State Department for
Planning;**

Staff from the CPPMUs;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

I am delighted to join you here today for the official opening of the Annual Central Planning and Projects Monitoring Units (CPPMUs) Forum. The Forum will offer a platform for deep interaction between the State Department for Planning and the MDAs; as well as provide room to interrogate the challenges that constrain successful implementation of the national development planning function.

This year's Forum aims at taking the dialogue and feedback between the State Department for Planning and the CPPMUs to a higher level. Indeed, the Forum presents an opportunity to take stock of the progress made in implementing the recommendations presented in the previous year's CPPMUs Forum; provide a platform for interaction and peer-to-peer learning;

and provide an opportunity to discuss various development and topical issues relevant to economists while discharging the day-to-day duties and current national planning initiatives. The expected outputs of this Forum will go a long way in enriching the recommendations of the Directors of Planning Meeting held in August 2021 and ultimately, enhancing the economic planning function.

I am, therefore, confident that the Forum will set the stage for vigorous deliberations that will culminate in sustainable approaches to effectively achieve the national planning function.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

CPPMUs are important planning units with the responsibility of advising Ministries, Departments and Agencies on pertinent developmental planning matters. In view of this crucial role, it is important to understand the challenges CPPMUs face and to put in measures that enhance the adequacy and effectiveness of CPPMUs in development planning.

The State Department for Planning is fully committed to enhancing efficiency for effective undertaking of the core functions of the CPPMUs. One way of assessing how well we are performing as a national planning fraternity is to hold frequent and structured interactions. I wish to register satisfaction that during the aforementioned Directors of Planning meeting a number of pertinent issues were discussed and now form the basis of most of the issues that will be discussed during this Forum.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you are aware, we are convening the meeting at a time when the Economic Survey 2021 has already been released. The Economic Survey is a source of critical statistics that form a basis for the country's economic planning process. The 2021 Survey highlighted areas that paint a clear picture of the impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic to the economy. Valuable statistics show how restrictions owing to containment measures associated with the Pandemic negatively affected tourism activities, caused an increase in debt burden, and presented negative ramifications on international trade.

On a positive note, however, the Survey revealed that the economy showed remarkable resilience at the height of the Pandemic with accelerated growth in agricultural production, construction activities and health services.

Equally important, the Survey also highlighted the outcomes of the revision and rebasing of the National Accounts. The revision now provides better estimates of the size of the economy and the rates of growth among other statistics that must now form the basis of future planning.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Planning plays a critical role in charting the course for the achievement of the country's development goals. As planners and public servants, we have been tasked with formulating, coordinating the implementation, and tracking

economic development plans, policies and strategies towards achieving the National Development Agenda.

To this end, I would like to take this opportunity to re-emphasize the critical role that CPPMUs play in driving the Country's development Agenda. CPPMUs facilitate appropriate planning, budgeting, implementation and monitoring of government programmes and projects in the MDAs. The CPPMUs also provide a linkage for harmonization and alignment of the national development agenda to the Ministerial goals, objectives and programmes. Further, CPPMUs will now be liaising with the National Government County Planning Officers in coordinating the National Government economic planning function, as well as, intergovernmental relations with Counties.

Ladies and Gentlemen

This Forum is timely since Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) have just concluded the preparation of various sector budget proposals of the MTEF Sector Working Groups. I, therefore, hope that the Forum will provide a stage for reflection of the resource bidding process during preparation of the 2022/2023 Medium-Term Budget and how the budgeting priorities resonate with the medium-term priorities.

The critical role of Economists in linking policies and plans to budgets cannot be overemphasized. Over the years, economists have contributed immensely to the development and implementation of national plans by providing adequate resources for government priorities. As we come to the end of the

Third MTP, I call for more enthusiasm and zeal even as we move forward in the preparation and implementation of the Fourth Medium Term Plan of the Kenya Vision 2030.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I sincerely hope that this Forum will allow us share valuable knowledge and experiences towards building back our economy to the desired growth trajectory. I wish to re-state that the State Department for Planning will continue to root for deeper interaction with the purpose of providing an opportunity for teamwork and peer learning as we advance the national planning agenda.

In conclusion, let me thank you all for honouring the invitation to this Forum. I hope that the deliberations will be fruitful as well as reenergize us for the noble tasks ahead.

With those remarks, **Ladies and Gentlemen,** I wish to officially declare the Annual CPPMUs Forum 2021 open.

THANK YOU.