

**CLOSING REMARKS BY MR. SAITOTI TOROME, CBS,  
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, STATE DEPARTMENT FOR  
PLANNING DURING THE ANNUAL CENTRAL PLANNING AND  
PROJECTS MONITORING UNITS' FORUM HELD FROM 8<sup>TH</sup>  
TO 13<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2021 – MOMBASA.**

---

**Mrs. Katherine Muoki, the Economic Planning Secretary**

**Mr. Joseph Mukui, the Economic Planning Advisor**

**Mr. Macdonald Obudho, the Director General – KNBS;**

**Mr. Yusuf Mbuno, the CEO – NG-CDF**

**Dr. Rose Ngugi, the Executive Director - KIPPRA;**

**Dr. Mohamed Sheikh, the Director General – NCPD**

**Dr. Vincent Nyagilo, Secretary – NESC**

**Directors of Planning from the State Department for  
Planning;**

**Heads of CPPMUs;**

**Economists from the CPPMUs;**

**Ladies and Gentlemen;**

## **Good Afternoon**

It gives me great pleasure to join you here today during the official Closing Ceremony of the Annual Central Planning and Project Monitoring Units' (CPPMUs) Forum. I take note that the Forum has brought together Economists from various departments within our Ministries, Departments and Agencies as well as key speakers from our SAGAs.

At the outset, let me register my satisfaction with the good attendance by the new economists in this Forum. It is worth to note that the capacity of CPPMUs has improved with the recent deployment of the new economist who are currently getting such opportunities to share their experiences in their MDAs. This is proof that the Heads of CPPMUs and Directors of Planning are keen to nurture and mentor the young economists as they start their career journey. To the new economists, I urge you to emulate the diligence and

commitment portrayed by your seniors and encourage you to bring afore new ideas and innovative approaches to the Economic Planning function.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen**

I wish to reiterate the importance that the State Department for Planning places on this annual Forum. That said, I take note that the Forum has been held at a time when the country, just like all other world economies, is seeking solutions that

will set the country on a trajectory of recovery from the negative effects COVID-19 Pandemic.

I am glad to note that this Forum has been successfully convened in person as opposed to virtual. This is an indication that we have made substantive gains in fighting the COVID-19 Pandemic. Indeed, we have come a long way as a Country by willingly adopting a sense of civic responsibility through

compliance with the laid down COVID-19 protocols and adherence to set COVID-19 containment measures.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am pleased that the deliberations of this Forum were highly technical, interactive and insightful through the active and effective participation of all present. I have no doubt that the presentations were highly informative and will potentially provoke further discussions on advancing the national

development agenda. In this regard, I am confident that the outcome of this Forum will result in better co-ordinated national development planning that will place a spot light on key Government commitments such as the “Big Four” Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals, Africa Agenda 2063 and Medium-Term Plans of the Vision 2030.

At this juncture, let me to thank the Heads of SAGAs for honouring our invitations to the Forum. This shows the high



regard in which they hold the Economic planning function. To this end, and as you have observed, their presentations on topical issues provoked meaningful reactions that escalated candid discussions and interactions on pertinent issues of economic planning.

I also wish to acknowledge the presentations made by the Directors of Economic Planning, and in particular, Mrs Evelyn Anupi and Mr. John Njoroge. The presentation on the

principles and foundations of the Competency Based Curriculum (CBC) was indeed an eye opener on how planning remains key in implementing new initiatives. I am sure most of you are now well informed on the objectives of CBC and the role of Economists in driving this agenda.

In his presentation, Mr. John Njoroge gave a refresher on the functions of the CPPMUs, and ably highlighted the challenges faced by CPPMUs. I want to assure you that my office will

internalize these challenges in an effort to addressing and resolving them.

Before I officially close this Forum, **Ladies and Gentlemen**, it is important that I point out some of the key highlights which emanated from the Forum. In this regard, I wish to take note that:

- i. CPPMUs play a critical role and must be strengthened to ensure effectiveness and efficiency;

- ii. There is need for continuous interaction and collaboration between the State Department for Planning, SAGAs and the CPPMUs;
- iii. Budgetary allocations to CPPMUs and the State Department for Planning should be increased to effectively and fully undertake the set functions;
- iv. There is need for collaboration, cooperation, and support from the other MDAs and Counties in the

operationalization of the National Government Planning Offices;

- v. Evidence is critical in the formulation, implementation and evaluations of plans and policies;
- vi. There is need to have critical interactive sessions to discuss topical research papers on Economic planning.
- vii. There is need to continuously ensure CPPMUs are sufficiently staffed,

- viii. Regular assessment of adequacy and effectiveness CPPMUs is a necessary exercise towards enhancing the functionality of CPPMUs;
- ix. It is necessary to provide continuous training opportunities to enable economists to acquire new skills, sharpen existing ones, improve execution of set functions; and enhance service delivery.

- x. It is advisable for all of us to become active participants in building the Economist Society of Kenya and the Economist Social welfare

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

From the discussions during this Forum, it is evident that the challenge on the functionality of CPPMUs still persists. It is noted that some technical departments in line Ministries and State Departments continue to undertake functions of

CPPMUs. Also, there lacks a clear reporting structure in some MDAs for Heads of CPPMUs to directly report to respective Principal Secretaries.

My office has taken note of the aforementioned anomalies and will endeavor to implement the recommendations from this Forum to ensure CPPMUs are adequately resourced and that their interests and roles are safeguarded. The goal is to create



an enabling environment for effective service delivery in the planning function.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen**

The key to sustained economic growth and development is in the hands of planners who must take up set functions with diligence and commitment. The issues discussed during this Forum are at the core of the planning function and it is my hope that when we convene again in the next year's Forum,

the recommendations made during this year's Forum will be reflected in functioning of the CPPMUs as well as in the positive impact on the national planning function.

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

As I conclude, let me express my sincere gratitude to the Director, Social and Governance and his team for working tirelessly to ensure the forum was a success.

With these remarks, it is now my joy to declare the 2021 CPPMUs Forum **Officially Closed.**

**God Bless You All and Safe Journey Mercies.**