

**CLOSING REMARKS BY MR. SAITOTI TOROME, CBS,
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, STATE DEPARTMENT FOR
PLANNING DURING THE CLOSING CEREMONY FOR THE
2021 NATIONAL YOUTH EMPLOYMENT CONFERENCE AT
THE KENYA SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT, NAIROBI ON
19TH NOVEMBER, 2021**

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Afternoon

- I. Am pleased to join you today during the closing ceremony of this important forum that over the last**

two days discussed pertinent issues of youth empowerment especially creating an enabling environment for positive engagement for a decent livelihood.

- II. The Constitution of Kenya provides an effective guide on development of targeted interventions towards youth empowerment including access to education and employment as well as opportunities to associate and**

protection from harmful cultural practices and exploitation.

III. The Youth population of 18-35 years, constitute approximately 75% of the Kenya population. They therefore constitute a huge catchment area for employment across sectors and therefore provide a solid opportunity for consolidating gains associated with the demographic dividends.

- IV. It is therefore imperative that we all heed the call to invest in young people’s health, education and overall wellbeing to allow exploration of the full potential inherent in the implicit demographic opportunities.**
- V. I have no doubt in my mind that the outcome of this conference will go a long way in providing a solid platform for consolidating priorities and opportunities with a view to preparing responsive and inclusive interventions for youth development. I note that the**

conference has also produced admirable and innovative approaches to job creation.

VI. I would like to take this opportunity to brief you on the process of developing the Fourth Medium Term Plan of the Vision 2030 that is ongoing and is the responsibility of the State Department for Planning.

VII. The Fourth Medium Term Plan 2023-2027 (MTP IV) of the Kenya Vision 2030 is the second-last medium term

plan of the Kenya Vision 2030 blue print. It will succeed the Third MTP 2018-2022 which incorporated the “Big Four” Agenda that prioritized food security and nutrition; universal health care; enhancing manufacturing and provision of affordable housing, whose main aim was to create jobs and enable citizens to meet their basic needs.

VIII. The Fourth MTP (2023-2027) will set the momentum for transition to the next long term development

agenda for the country. It will be guided by the Constitution of Kenya 2010, the Kenya Vision 2030 and lessons learnt in implementation of previous MTPs (MTPI, MTPII and MTPIII).

- IX. It will incorporate policies, programs, projects and institutional reforms to be undertaken during the period 2023-2027 as well as the priorities outlined in the Manifesto of the Political Party forming the**

Government after the next general election scheduled for August 2022.

- X. The process of the development of MTP IV has begun in earnest with the development of a draft concept note that is in the process of review and validation within Ministries, Departments and Agencies. The Concept note will guide the process of development of the MTP.**

- XI. Consultations for formation of MTP IV Committees and Sector Working Groups is underway and expected to be completed by end of next month (December, 2021) and will involve several sub-activities including;**
- a. MTP IV Stakeholders Forum,**
 - b. MTP IV National Steering Committee,**
 - c. MTP IV Technical Committee,**
 - d. MTP IV Sector Working Groups, and**
 - e. Discussion on Theme of MTP IV.**

XII. The preparation of the MTP IV comes against the backdrop of among other challenges, negative effects of Covid-19 pandemic that have adversely affected key economic activities and disrupted the social interactions within the country and globally. The MTP IV will therefore be expected to prioritize implementation of economic recovery strategies to reposition the economy on a steady and sustainable growth trajectory.

XIII. It will be prepared in line with the Constitution of Kenya 2010, that calls for a consultative process. Various segments of the population will be engaged at different stages during the MTP IV preparation process at both the National and County level forums, parliamentary committees and other forums which will culminate in dissemination of the MTP IV document to all counties scheduled for February to March 2023. These consultations will aim at ensuring inclusiveness and consensus building on identification

of policies, programs and projects for implementation over the medium term period.

XIV. MTP IV will illuminate on the macroeconomic performance and the achievements realized during the implementation of the Third MTP 2018-2022, in laying down the foundations and enablers for economic growth. It will also seek to enumerate progress made in realizing the aspirations of the vision 2030 towards transforming Kenya into a newly Industrializing

middle-income country providing a high quality of life to all its citizens by the year 2030 anchored on the Economic, Social and Political pillars of the Vision 2030.

- XV. Further, the MTP IV will seek to review challenges encountered, lessons learnt and emerging issues in the implementation process of the policies programs, projects, and institutional reforms envisaged in MTP III as well as assessing the risks and mitigation**

measures that must be taken on board to improve on efficiency and effectiveness of delivery of MTP IV aspirations.

XVI. Youth issues will continue to receive prominence in the MTPIV. It may be recalled that, during the International Conference for Population and Development (ICPD 25) held in Nairobi in November, 2021, Kenya made 17 commitments. One of the commitments (Commitment no.8) focusses on

harnessing the demographic dividend through investments in health and citizens wellbeing; education and skills training; employment creation and entrepreneurship; and rights, governance and empowerment of young people. The Government will therefore continue to formulate policies, implement projects, programmes and interventions to harness the potential of the youth, empower them and create opportunities

XVII. During the ongoing MTP IV preparatory process, that will be highly participatory and consultative the young leaders from across various formations will be among the key stakeholders to provide input through the various forums on programmes, projects, reforms and other interventions to inform prioritization over the next medium term.

XVIII. As I conclude my remarks, I wish to appreciate the goodwill exemplified by the following partners in

supporting this noble event - the National Youth Employment Conference: Executive Office of the President, Ministry of ICT, Innovation and Youth Affairs, National Youth Council, ILO Kenya, Ford Foundation, Hivos, Plan International, UNEP, Fairtrade Africa, One Campaign, County Governance Watch, Kenya Land Alliance and the host of this conference Kenya School of Government.

XIX. Finally, allow me to thank the Youth Agenda for seeing merit to organize this befitting event during such an opportune moment. It is now my pleasure and privilege to declare the 2021 National Youth Employment Conference officially closed.

THANK YOU