



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

THE KENYA NATIONAL M&E WEEK @10: CELEBRATING PROGRESS, CONSOLIDATING GAINS AND EXPLORING NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR M&E IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR

KISUMU-KENYA

DATE: 4th – 8th April, 2022.

KEY NOTE ADDRESS BY THE CABINET SECRETARY, THE NATIONAL TREASURY AND PLANNING, HON. (AMB) UKUR K. YATANI, EGH, DURING THE OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 10TH KENYA NATIONAL MONITORING AND EVALUATION WEEK

The Chief Administrative Secretary, The National Treasury and Planning;

The County Commissioner, Kisumu County;

The County Secretary, Kisumu County;

Members of Parliament Present;

Chair, County Assembly Forum and County Representatives;

Principal Secretary, State Department for Planning;

Economic Planning Secretary, State Department for Planning;

Regional Director of Planning, Nyanza;

Development Partners;

International and Regional Delegates;

Members of Academia;

Representatives from Private Sector and Civil Society Organizations;

Public Servants;

Members of the Media Fraternity;

Distinguished Resource Persons;

All those following this conference virtually;

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to join you here today to officiate the opening ceremony of the 10th Kenya National Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Week. On behalf of the Government and the people of Kenya and on my own behalf, I wish to warmly and formally welcome you all to this Conference and with particular reference to the

international and regional delegates. I am extremely delighted to have this opportunity to reflect with you on the theme "***The Kenya National M&E Week @10: Celebrating Progress, Consolidating Gains and Exploring New Opportunities for M&E in The Public Sector***".

The 10th M&E Conference marks yet another milestone moment to appreciate the strides we have made as a country in strengthening M&E capacities. The theme recognizes the need to reflect and take stock of progress made in strengthening M&E in the Country's Public Sector. This is after a decade of concerted effort in building effective Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Systems at National and County levels. Further, the theme presents us with the opportunity to acknowledge and appreciate the progress and achievements realized in institutionalizing M&E as well as the opportunity to advance the M&E function as a nation. The Government recognizes the importance of M&E and the critical role it plays in realization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Kenya Vision 2030, and Big 'Four' Agenda.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In today's global economic environment, organizations are seeking to become more efficient and effective in their operations for increased productivity and delivery of higher quality results.

In Kenya, citizens are demanding the highest possible value for public resources and all organizations especially Public-Sector institutions, are looking to significantly reduce costs, improve decision making, and find innovative ways to deliver services. The Government of Kenya has therefore, identified Monitoring and Evaluation as a key component of accelerating efficient delivery of development outcomes and improving service delivery to citizens.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The M&E function in the Public Sector has evolved and benefitted from the establishing of a more holistic and integrated approach. Over the past 10 years, the Government has continued strengthening the National Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation System (NIMES) and establishing the County Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation System (CIMES) in the counties. These systems provide a mechanism to generate evidence critical in informing the design of programmes and projects and to track their implementation at the national and county levels.

In addition, an electronic version of both systems; that is, the electronic National Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation System (e-NIMES) and electronic County Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation System (e-CIMES) were developed. Use of technology facilitates real-time data capture, processing, storage and report generation. These electronic systems provide a dashboard for easy access of information on

performance of programmes and projects, and promotes accountability and transparency to the public through the public dashboard.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Government of Kenya recognizes the importance of providing an enabling policy and institutional framework in generating and utilizing evidence for decision making. To this end, we have a National M&E Policy which addresses prevailing challenges in undertaking M&E in the Country's Public Sector.

Further, critical documents have been developed to guide M&E work. These include, CIMES Guidelines, Kenya Evaluation Guidelines, and Monitoring and Evaluation Norms and Standards for the Public Sector. I urge you to make use of these documents.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Knowledge sharing and stakeholder engagement are critical in advancing the M&E function and deepening the culture and practice of evidence generation and use. In this regard, The National Treasury and Planning convenes the Kenya National M&E Week on an annual basis as an occasion to strengthen M&E capacity; fostering accountability; and promoting evidence-based decision making and learning. Further, it provides us with the opportunity to identify unexplored opportunities towards establishing robust M&E systems.

The 2022 Kenya National M&E conference marks the 10th Anniversary of hosting the event. Notably, the Week is now recognized in the calendar of global M&E events. Over the years, we have used the platform to share knowledge, peer learn and establish networks that has strengthened M&E in the country. Thus, in this year's week, we call upon you to jointly celebrate with us the achieved milestones as we seek to understand how best we can advance the M&E agenda.

During this M&E Week, we seek to identify good practices and opportunities to be explored going forward. On this basis, the Conference provides an opportunity for national and international M&E practitioners to discuss developments as well as share experiences in M&E with the overall objective of strengthening institutionalization of M&E in the Public Sector for sustainable development outcomes.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you are all aware, the Government has been implementing the Kenya Vision 2030 through 5-year successive medium-term plans. The 10th M&E Week comes at a critical time when the development of the Fourth Medium Term Plan (MTP IV) has commenced.

The Fourth MTP will guide the development agenda for our Country between 2023 and 2027. It will focus on: Transforming our economy; Creating wealth and employment;

Reducing poverty; and Creating conducive environment for investment. Indeed, improving on these development priorities will ultimately transform our Country to an upper middle-income status as envisaged in the Kenya Vision 2030. To achieve this, it is imperative to have in place a robust and efficient M&E system that will track the progress of implementation of programmes and projects.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As I conclude, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to all our partners for making this Conference a success. I also wish to express my gratitude to all delegates for making time to participate in the Conference. I look forward to receiving the feedback and recommendations derived from this Conference. I assure you of the Government's commitment to allocating and mobilizing both human and capital resources to support the M&E function in the Country.

I urge all participants to actively engage in the deliberations and share views on and experiences in monitoring results and the use of evaluation as input to informed decision-making and policy reforms.

With these remarks, it is now my pleasure to declare the 10th National M&E Week officially open.

Thank You and God Bless You All!