

SPEECH BY MR. SAITOTI TOROME, CBS, PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, STATE DEPARTMENT FOR PLANNING DURING THE 5TH KIPPRA ANNUAL REGIONAL CONFERENCE HELD AT THE KENYA SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT ON 16TH JUNE 2022.

The Chief Administration Secretary, National Treasury and Planning, Hon. Erick Wafukho.

The Chairman KIPPRA, Dr. Benson Ateng'

The Executive Director, KIPPRA, Dr. Rose Ngugi

KIPPRA Board of Directors

Chief Executive Officers present

Senior Government Officials present

County Government Officials present

Students present

Members of the fourth estate present

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning,

1. I am delighted to participate in this 5th KIPPRA Annual Regional Conference themed “Foundations for a Sustainable Economic Transformation in Kenya”.
2. The conference is very timely, coming at a time when the government is developing its Fourth Medium Term Plan. This gives our stakeholders a platform to make their contribution to the development agenda.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

3. The State Department of Planning has the responsibility not only to provide leadership in preparation of the economic development plan, but also to coordinate the implementation and monitoring of progress. If you go to the website of the State Department for Planning, you will find various reports posted on the status in implementation of the medium-term plans.

4. For example, the achievements made so far in implementing the third medium term plan are documented in the Annual Progress Reports (APRs), Implementation Status of the “Big Four” Agenda

and various Monitoring and Evaluation Reports prepared by Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs).

5. The findings from the mid-term report for MTPIII are generating evidence that is informing the preparation of the fourth MTP.

Ladies and Gentlemen

6. You notice that the Kenya Vision 2030 framework has three pillars built on a foundation. This means that when the foundation is shaky it would be difficult to hold up strongly these Pillars, making

it difficult to realise the aspirations. During the Second Medium Term Plan, Ending emergencies of drought and the National values and ethics were added to the foundations as key drivers of the transformation agenda of the country.

7. The foundations of the Vision 2030 include the traditional role that the government plays to facilitate the activities of private sector including provision of infrastructure, stable economic policy environment and security. In addition, the foundations focus on necessary inputs to drive the development agenda including

labour, ownership by the citizenry and institutional structure. Adequately providing for these foundations helps to solidify the ground for sustainable socio-economic transformation.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Let me highlight some of the key achievements made across the various foundations of Kenya Vision 2030.

8. In infrastructure we have roads, rail networks, seaports, airports, pipeline and energy. Provision of adequate and appropriate

infrastructure serves to expand the capacity for economic activity by building an enabling business environment.

9. For energy, the total installed electricity generation capacity increased from 2,265 MW in 2017 to 2,984 MW as at June, 2021, with the total number of customers connected to electricity increasing from 6.8 million in 2017 to 8.2 million customers by August, 2021. To promote a 24-hour economy, 58,276 street light lanterns were installed across major cities and towns countrywide under the National Street Lighting Project. To enhance the existing

transmission and distribution network, 1,238 Km of transmission line, 2 new high voltage substations, 1,330.3 Km of medium voltage distribution lines and 41 distribution substations were also constructed.

10. In addition to the completion of the first phase of Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) from Nairobi to Mombasa, the construction of 120 km SGR phase 2A from Nairobi to Naivasha together with an Inland Container Depot in Naivasha was completed. Further, the Nairobi Commuter Rail Services was revitalized through

refurbishment of Nairobi Central Station, acquisition of 11 Diesel Multiple Engines and rehabilitation of 168.6 Km of track. The rehabilitation of Meter Gauge Rail corridors which include Thika-Nanyuki (180km), Nakuru-Kisumu (217km), Kisumu-Butere (69km) and Gilgil-Nyahururu (78km) lines were completed.

11. The second container terminal phase II at the port of Mombasa with additional capacity of 400,000 Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit is over 80 per cent complete. One of the first three berths in Lamu Port was operationalized in 2021 while the other two are 91 per

cent complete. Revamping of Kisumu Port (Phase I) which comprised of repair of docking facilities and roads; and rehabilitation of yard areas, railway tracks and the link-span, and berth was also completed.

12. For the Information Communication and Technology, the proportion of the population with internet connectivity increased from 73.5 per cent (33 million) in 2017 to 91.2 per cent (42 million) in 2020, with the licensing and rolling out of 4G broadband networks to homes by private operators. Mobile phone

subscriptions grew by 43.5 per cent from 42.8 million in 2017 to 61.4 million in 2020.

13. A total of 78 MDAs were connected to the Government Common Core Network (GCCN) Programme while 21 MDAs were connected to the Integrated Government Unified Communication System. To facilitate the e-government services, a total of 21,638 schools and 16 Level 4 and 5 hospitals were provided with Broadband Connectivity while 67 underserved/ unserved areas and sub-locations were provided with 2G basic Voice Infrastructure. In

addition, Data Protection and Privacy Act, 2019 was enacted and operationalized to regulate data processing.

14. In Land reforms, the national land management information system was rolled out in Nairobi and preparation of land value index completed in 14 counties.

15. In the labour market, a Job Opportunity Analysis was carried out to provide insights on the number of vacancies, skill requirements and location of jobs in different sectors. The development of the National Internship Policy saw the draft shared with stakeholders

for validation. In addition, the National Employment Authority and Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanism for labour and employment disputes were operationalized.

16. Regarding the National values and ethics, all MDAs are required to report as part of their performance contract activities across all the 17 National Values as well as the government commitments. These activities are reported in the Annual Presidential Report which is presented by the His Excellency the President in Parliament during the National Address.

17. On Ending Drought Emergencies, the Drought Early Warning System was modernised by adopting mobile phone technology for data collection, and transmission; use of remote sensing to produce the vegetation condition index across counties; production and dissemination of drought early warning bulletins across the 23 ASAL counties; and production of 46 short rains and long rains assessment reports by multi-stakeholder team.

Ladies and Gentlemen

18. As I conclude, I wish to encourage your full participation in this conference to enable KIPPRA, working together with other players in this field, to put together an informative policy document to guide the country in enhancing socio-economic development

19. I applaud KIPPRA and other like-minded institutions for developing such a timely conference in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic that hit our economy hard, and at a time we are developing the 4th Medium Term Plan.

20. I wish you fruitful deliberations during this conference.

God bless you all and stay safe.