

**REMARKS BY MR. JAMES MUHATI, PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, THE
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR ECONOMIC PLANNING, DURING THE
VISIT TO KIPPRA ON 13-12-2022**

Executive Director, KIPPRA, Dr. Rose Ngugi

Economic Planning Secretary, Mrs. Katherine Muoki

Director of Administration, Mr. Makori

**Head Macro Division in the State Department for Economic
Planning, Mr. Zachary Mwangi**

Staff of KIPPRA,

Good afternoon,

1. I am pleased to be here today. During the tour of the offices I was happy to meet a number of staff including the Young Professionals.
2. This is not the first time I am interacting with KIPPRA. During my tenure at Huduma Kenya Secretariat we had a conversation with the Executive Director on how to use the Huduma centres infrastructure to strengthen outreach. I wish the Institute well as it concludes on this matter.
3. KIPPRA plays a significant role in strengthening the public policy process by building human and institutional capacities that contribute to the formulation of medium and long-term strategic perspectives for economic and social development in Kenya.
4. With the diverse scope of stakeholders in the public policy process, it is necessary to reach out widely to ensure no one is left behind in contributing to the policy process. I believe the Huduma Centres infrastructure is a good alternative to enhancing outreach.
5. I note from the KIPPRA Act No. 15 of 2006 that the Institute has a list of 12 functions it undertakes in fulfilling its core mandate. Let me

summarize them into three, that is, developing capacity in public policy making; undertaking objective policy research and analysis; and engagement and networking.

Capacity Building

6. I take note that the Young Professionals Program has benefited several staff from ministries including our Ministry. I have met with the current cohort and have noted a significant number of them are from the Ministries, Departments and Agencies. This programme is therefore important in equipping staff with important knowledge and skills especially at the beginning of their careers in public service.
7. The ongoing discussions between the State Department for Economic Planning and KIPPRA on developing a tailor made capacity building training programme for economists under the Central Planning and Project Monitoring Unit (CPPMUs) are very important. I look forward to the conclusion of the same.
8. The State Department for Economic Planning appreciates KIPPRA for giving it an opportunity to participate in the KIPPRA Mentorship Programme for Universities platform. The engagement with the university community helps us to sensitize on the government economic planning process and the feedback we get is crucial in improving our engagement with the public as we undertake economic planning.

Policy Research and Analysis

9. From your briefing this afternoon, it is apparent that KIPPRA is doing a lot in generating evidence that is a key input to informing policy decisions.

10. The upcoming launch of Kenya Economic Report 2022 next week is very timely as we finalize the preparation of the Fourth Medium Term Plan, the third generation County Integrated Development Plans, and advise the new government in its development agenda.
11. With 8 years to the end of implementing the Vision 2030, discussions on development aspirations beyond Vision 2030 will begin and the role of KIPPRA in generating evidence and providing technical assistance will be very critical. I urge the Institute to start analysis and research on the future development agenda of the Country.

Engagement and networking with government

12. KIPPRA as the economic advisor to the Government is involved in various engagements. Some members of staff are appointed to task forces, working groups and committees. The Institute also get requests from Ministries, Departments and Agencies to provide technical assistance and advisory services including in preparation of policy documents. This means supporting the Institute to strengthen its structures including having adequate staffing is a priority. The discussion on how best we can ensure this will be held with the management of KIPPRA beyond this meeting. I however wish you well with the ongoing recruitments that will help to strengthen the institutional structures.
13. I am informed that the Institute is in the process of transitioning staff to permanent and pensionable terms and the Trust Deeds and Rules have been approved by the Board. I urge the Institute to move quickly on this matter with then confines of the law and existing regulations and seek any support required from the State Department to ensure the process moves smoothly.

14. On staff welfare, I agree, taking care of staff welfare is a motivation to them in ensuring delivery of the core mandate of the Institute. As the new government turns around the economy from the effects of multiple shocks, am sure better days lie ahead and you should not give up in making another request for consideration for seed money to start the mortgage and car loan facility for staff.
15. I take note that the finalization of the Cabinet Memo in regard to securing land for the KIPPRA offices is ongoing with support of the Office of the Economic Planning Secretary. It is important that due diligence is done in regard to the proposed land. During my discussion with the National Council for Population and Development last week it was brought to my attention that they too are seeking land for their offices. I am informed that KNBS is in the same predicament. It would be prudent for the three institutions to team on this matter and consider having the three offices under one roof.
16. For the Amendment of KIPPRA Act, the issue of the object and purpose of the Institute should be discussed widely including with key stakeholders. On the size of the board, this should be guided by Mwongozo and through consultation with the State Corporations Advisory Committee. Let us work together to bring this to a conclusion.
17. As I conclude, let me once again thank you for the warm welcome.

Asanteni Sana