

**OPENING REMARKS BY MR. JAMES MUHATI, PRINCIPAL SECRETARY,
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR ECONOMIC PLANNING DURING THE INAUGURAL
MEETING FOR THE NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE (NSC) AND
WORKSHOP FOR THE NATIONAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (NTC) ON
KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT, 4TH SEPTEMBER, 2023 IN SAWELA LODGE,
NAIVASHA.**

Members of the National Steering Committee;

Members of the National Technical Committee;

Directors of Planning Present;

Representatives from various Government Agencies;

Development Partners;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning.

On behalf of the National Treasury and Economic Planning, I take this opportunity to welcome you today to the inaugural meeting of the National Steering Committee and the workshop of the National Technical Committee that will be held this week. It is important to note that this is the first engagement with the National Steering Committee since the approval of the Knowledge Management Policy by the Cabinet in May 2022.

The National Development Technical Implementation Committee (NDTIC) Circular dated 1st September 2019 mandated the State Department for Economic Planning to formally assume responsibility for developing the Knowledge Management Policy and framework for Kenya.

Knowledge Management is the efficient handling of information and resources within an organization. It is the process of acquiring, storing, sharing and transferring of expertise accumulated by people, processes and systems in order to enhance service delivery. Knowledge Management may also be looked at as the process of

capturing, storing and sharing the knowledge and experience of employees to increase the workforce's overall knowledge, improve productivity and retain critical information.

Ladies and Gentlemen globally there has been a shift towards knowledge-based economies driven by technology, with lots of information generated and shared through the internet via the world wide web. Knowledge is increasingly being recognized as a factor of production in its own right, distinct from labour.

In Africa, the African Union (AU) and the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) have sought to address Africa's challenges towards renewal and regeneration through utilization of local expertise. The Africa's Agenda 2063 requires Africa to invest in skills specifically in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) to drive Africa's development Agenda.

The origin of Knowledge Management in Africa (KMA) draws inspiration from the desire to harness and share Africa's rich knowledge for the benefit of Africans. The Knowledge Management in Africa was launched in 2003 under the leadership of the development Bank of South Africa (DBSA) and in collaboration with the NEPAD with the main objective of facilitating and harnessing of knowledge especially indigenous knowledge assets to improve development outcomes in Africa.

Ladies and Gentlemen, since inception, the Knowledge Management in Africa has held three biennial conferences for knowledge dissemination and exchange. The first conference was held in Johannesburg in 2005 and emphasized the need for creation of indigenous knowledge solutions for the development agenda in Africa. The second biennial conference was held in 2007 and was hosted by the Government of Kenya. The conference resolved that Kenya spearheads the process of institutionalizing Knowledge Management in Eastern Africa. The third biennial conference was held in May 2009 in Senegal which articulated the Dakar Declaration that called for the creation of National Chapters.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Following the Dakar Recommendation, Knowledge Management in Africa - Kenya Chapter was formed in 2009 and operationalized under

the leadership of the Ministry responsible for Economic Planning. The role of the Knowledge Management in Africa - Kenya Chapter is to institutionalize knowledge management in the public sector.

The KMA-Kenya Chapter has since developed its First and Second Strategic Plan; carried out capacity development of knowledge management champions from various Ministries, Departments, Agencies and Counties (MDACs); developed Knowledge Management Policy for Kenya; Carried out baseline survey on Knowledge Management awareness levels in MDACs and identified members to constitute the National Steering Committee and the National Technical Committee.

The above notwithstanding, to fully institutionalize Knowledge Management in Kenya, there is need to: constitute the Devolution Knowledge Management inter-agency committee; continue creating awareness on Knowledge Management; prepare a Knowledge Management resources mobilization strategy; carry out annual Knowledge Management audit in the public sector and reinstate Knowledge Management in the public sector Performance Management Guidelines for incorporation in the Performance Contracts.

Ladies and Gentlemen, this workshop has in attendance members of the National Steering Committee (NSC) which comprises of relevant Principal Secretaries of selected Ministries/State Departments relevant to Knowledge Management initiatives; Academia and research institutions; Council of Governors, Kenya Private Sector Alliance and Development Partners.

The role of the National Steering Committee is provision of overall policy advisory on Knowledge Management and mobilization of resources to support knowledge management initiatives. The Principal Secretaries and heads of institutions have also nominated officers who are members of the National Technical Committee (NTC) whose role will be deliberated upon in the subsequent presentations.

The workshop aims to: appraise the National Steering Committee and the National Technical Committee on the Knowledge Management Policy 2022 and its urgent need for implementation; share findings and recommendations of the baseline survey on Knowledge Management awareness and practices in the public sector; and share best practices on Knowledge Management and determine the next course of action for the Knowledge Management initiatives.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the expected outputs of the workshop are: Inaugurating the National Steering Committee and the National Technical Committee on Knowledge Management; Developing Knowledge Management Workplan for the financial year 2023/24 for the committees; Adopting a 5-year plan for the implementation of knowledge Management; Validating Knowledge Management norms and standards and capacity building the members on Knowledge Management as an emerging area of interest.

With these few remarks, I take this opportunity to declare this workshop officially open and look forward to fruitful discussions to advance Knowledge Management practices in the public sector in Kenya.

Asante Sana