

**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**



**STATEMENT BY THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, STATE  
DEPARTMENT FOR ECONOMIC PLANNING DURING THE  
LAUNCH OF THE STATE OF WORLD AND KENYA  
POPULATION REPORT OF 2023**

**MR. JAMES MUHATI  
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY  
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR ECONOMIC PLANNING  
THE NATIONAL TREASURY AND PLANNING**

**Distinguished guests**

**Ladies and gentlemen**

**All protocol observed**

**Good morning!**

It is a great honor and privilege for me to join you today to launch the annual State of Kenya and State of World Population reports 2023.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to UNFPA for supporting this event, as well as for the support of the implementation of the National Population Programmes since 1974.

In addition, I wish to thank the National Council for Population and Development for organizing this colorful event that has brought us together to share global and national contemporary population issues and trends which will inform our development agenda up to the year 2030 and beyond.

The theme of the State of World Population Report – 2023 is “***8 Billion Lives, Infinite Possibilities: The case for rights and choices.***”

The theme was coined at a time when the world Population had reached 8 billion people. This theme was domesticated and the theme of the State of Kenya Population Report is, “***Population Anxiety.***”

These two reports provide highlights of the current and emerging population issues that requires policy and programme action at global, regional, national and sub-national levels in order to accelerate achievements of our development aspirations.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

1. **On Population size, growth and structure**, Kenya has made a tremendous progress in reducing her rapid population growth that was identified by Sessional Paper Number 10 of 1965 on African Socialism and its Application to Planning in Kenya as an impediment for the realization of national development aspirations.
2. Since 2009, Kenya registered improvement in demographic indicators with population size increasing with almost one million people per year from 37.7 million in 2009 to 47.6 million in 2019.

3. The inter-censal population growth rate declined from 2.9 per cent per annum between 1989 and 2009 to 2.3 percent per annum between 2009 and 2019. At this population growth rate, Kenyas' population is projected to reach 57.8 million by the year 2030.
4. The current Population size in Kenya is largely driven by fertility level which has registered a decline since 1989 from an average seven (7) children to three (3) children per woman.
5. At this rate of fertility decline, Kenya is on course in achieving a replacement level fertility of 2.1 children per woman which is associated with improved quality of life of the people and faster economic growth envisaged by the Draft Sessional Paper Number I of 2023 on National Population Policy for Sustainable Development.

## **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

6. **The current population dynamics** characterized by the changes in fertility, mortality and migration has caused changes in the population structure in Kenya.
7. The proportion of children below age 15 years declined from 43 per cent in 2009 to 39 percent of the total population in 2019.
8. Youth (18-34 years) in Kenya constitute about 29 percent of the total population. The population of the youth grew from 3,201,192 in 1989 to 13,177,600 in 2019 and is projected to increase to 18,966,737 by 2035. This youth bulge presents the country with great economic and social opportunities, but also enormous challenges that are causing anxiety.
9. The proportion of the population in the working ages (15-64 years) increased from 53 in 2009 to 57 in 2019 percent while the proportion of the population of the elderly

aged 60 and above years increased from 5 to 5.8 per cent representing an increase from 1,943,715 in 2009 to 2,740,040 2019 people of the total population.

10. The older persons are the fastest growing population segment in the country as a result of the improvement in the life expectancy that has increased among men from 58 years in 2009 to 61 years in 2019 and for women from 62 years in 2009 to 67 years in 2019.
11. This segment of the population (older persons) requires social support in terms of cash transfer and medical care in order to protect them from shocks, reduce the use of negative coping strategies that undermine longer-term livelihood sustainability, and allow to live longer.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

12. **On education and training,** Kenya has made tremendous progress in the promotion of transition from education to employment of our young people which constitute a fundamental step in laying a foundation for future earnings.
13. The completion rate for basic education was recorded at 85.6 per cent in 2022 while the total enrollment in both public and private universities increased from 568,653 in FY 2019/20 to 620,480 in FY 2021/22 representing a 9% growth during the period. The number of trainees enrolled in Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) and Special Needs Education (SNE) institutions increased from 2,414 in FY 2019/20 to 3,805 in FY 2021/22.
14. The Constitution of Kenya (2010) obligates the government to take measures, including affirmative action programmes, to ensure that the youth access relevant education and training. The country has various policy responses, including making



skills training and entrepreneurship development one of the priority areas in the National Youth and Development Policy (2019).

15. Kenya's investment in health, education, economic and governance sectors offers an excellent opportunity for the country to harness the potential of young people in order to accelerate socio-economic development and wellbeing of our citizenry in the next few decades.
16. The realization of the demographic dividend in Kenya as envisaged in the Kenya Demographic Dividend Road Map 2020-2030 will depend on how fast we shall create jobs to employ our youth and turn the youth bulge into a blessing.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen**

17. **On Morbidity and Mortality**, Kenya is committed to strengthening her health systems in order to respond to health related complications that affect our citizens.

18. Between 2020 and November 2022, Kenya recorded 340,431 positive cases of COVID-19 and 5,680 deaths; In 2021 of the 3,138 children aged 0-14 who died of AIDS-related illness, 60 per cent were children below five years of age.
19. Kenya Mortality and Cause of Death Report 2021 shows that the leading cancer-related deaths were esophagus cancer at 16 per cent, cervix cancer at 10 per cent, breast cancer at 10 per cent and liver cancer at 9 per cent.
20. National Safety and Transport Authority (NTSA) data shows that the number people involved in accidents has increased from 11,215 in 2017 to 21,760 people in 2022.
21. Although mortality has been on the decline, the country has recorded increasing deaths resulting from Non-communicable diseases, accidents and injuries.

## Ladies and Gentlemen

22. **On Migration and urbanization** matters, there has been increasing concerns at global and national level due to the opportunities and challenges it presents to individuals, their families and countries in general.
23. Although Kenya has been experiencing negligible international migration, there is a sizeable population of refugees which together with internal migration, fertility and mortality have served as key drivers of population change. Migration, fertility and mortality have influenced the population structure, size and composition in Kenya.
24. Rapid increase in our urban population has been witnessed since independence and this has largely been driven by natural increase (i.e. the difference between births and deaths) within urban populations, and the rapid rural-to-urban migration.

25. Kenya is urbanizing very rapidly with percentage of urban population to the total population having increased from 5.3 per cent in 1948 to 31.2 per cent representing 14.8 million people in 2019. In addition, the number of urban centers increased from 47 in 1969 to 372 in 2019.
26. Our four cities (Nairobi, Kisumu, Mombasa and Nakuru) and urban centers are struggling to provide infrastructure and an enabling environment for innovation, due to rapid urbanization. This has led to the emergence of informal settlements where one million people were enumerated during the 2019 Population and Housing Census. The population living in informal settlements experience many challenges including abject poverty and inadequate access to basic social services, lack of stable livelihoods and high unemployment rates, majority are youths.
27. Migration is regarded as a stressful process as it involves the loss of social support from the community and family members. This process is associated with stress, loss

and social marginalization often leading to anxiety and depression. It causes disruption of family life and therefore loss of social support, expectations by their relatives to send remittances and acculturation quite often leads to anxiety among the in-migrants as they adapt to the new social environment and lifestyle.

28. Population pressure in densely settled areas has resulted in in-migration in less densely populated areas where people from different communities have bought land from the local inhabitants. This poses a risk of ethnic tensions and conflicts in these areas.

29. Rapid rural-urban migration currently witnessed in Kenya has led to an increasing number of people who are homeless and living in squalor, high crime rate, mushrooming of informal settlements, overcrowding, poor housing conditions, poor sanitation, poverty, child malnutrition and other social ills in urban areas.

## **Ladies and Gentlemen**

**30. On Gender Based Violence (GBV)** which involves any act of violence that results in physical, sexual, economic, or psychological harm or suffering to women, girls, men, and boys, as well as threats of such acts, coercion, or the arbitrary deprivation of liberty, Kenya has been on the forefront in addressing this problem which affects both men and women without regard to their social, economic, cultural and political backgrounds.

31. In Kenya, Gender Based Violence (GBV) occurs in all population sub-groups. Data from the 2022 KDHS indicates that 34 per cent of women in the country have experienced physical violence since the age of 15 years while 13 per cent have experienced an episode of sexual violence.

## **Ladies and Gentlemen**

32. **On climate change and its effects**, there has been an increasing concerns regarding the climate change and its effects in recent years at global, regional and national levels.
33. The world has experienced a long-term shift in global temperatures and weather patterns mainly driven by human activities and other causes.
34. Evidence shows that increasing human activities is responsible for an increase in global warming with global surface temperatures reaching 1.10C above the average recorded in the pre-industrial period of between 1850 and 1900.
35. The increasing temperatures, droughts and floods due to climate change poses a risk to human health and have negatively affected the Kenya's economy which is highly dependent on climate-sensitive sectors such as agriculture, water, energy, tourism and wildlife.

36. In addition, the increasing intensity and magnitude of weather-related disasters exacerbates conflicts over natural resources, such as land and water hence threatening our national security.
37. Consequently, the government of Kenya in recognition of the threats posed by climate change has put in place appropriate measures to address these risks. Some of these measures include the development of and implementation of the National Climate Change Response Strategy (NCCRS) in 2010, National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP 2013-2017) in 2013 and a revised one in 2018 to cover 2018-2022. It also enacted the Climate Change Act (No. 11 of 2016) and the Kenya National Adaptation Plan (KNAP, 2018-2030) to guide the mainstreaming of adaptation and mitigation actions into sector functions of the National and County Governments.
38. Kenya was privileged to host African Climate Summit in Nairobi, Kenya from 4<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> November 2023. In this summit, proposals were made on new financing architecture



responsive to Africa's needs including debt restructuring and relief and the development of a new Global Climate Finance Charter through the United Nations General Assembly and the COP processes by 2025.

39. The ongoing negotiations is likely to enhance our mitigation and adaptation measures to climate change and its effects in order to spur national development and improvement of quality of life of our citizens.

### **Ladies and gentlemen**

In conclusion, I wish to call upon all relevant Government agencies in collaboration with stakeholders to acquaint themselves with the population anxieties contained in this report and design appropriate interventions to address them in order to accelerate the achievements of our development aspirations.

**THANK YOU.**

**I NOW OFFICIALLY LAUNCH THE 2023 KENYA AND WORLD STATE OF  
POPULATION REPORTS.**