

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY MR JAMES MUHATI, CBS, PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, THE STATE DEPARTMENT FOR ECONOMIC PLANNING, DURING THE LAUNCH OF THE KIPPRA STRATEGIC PLAN AND KIPPRA YOUNG PROFESSIONALS PROGRAMME GRADUATION CEREMONY ON 21<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2023**

**Prof. Benson Ateng', MBS, Chair of KIPPRA Board of Directors,**

**KIPPRA Board Members Present,**

**Dr Rose Ngugi, OGW, Executive Director, KIPPRA**

**National and County Government Officials present**

**Young Professionals Graduands**

**Invited Guests**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

**Good Morning**

**1.** I am delighted to join you today during this auspicious occasion of the launch of the Strategic Plan for the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis for the period 2023 to 2027. I wish to congratulate KIPPRA for the successful completion of the Plan that is being launched today.

**2.** I am also pleased to join you today to celebrate an incredible milestone for the Young Professionals who have spent one year at the Institute undergoing capacity building in the public policy making processes. This underscores the contribution of the Institute in enhancing human capacity for evidence-informed public policy making.

**3. Let me start by focusing my attention on the Strategic Plan**

4. Strategic planning is used as a tool for improving efficiency and effectiveness in service delivery. It ensures that public sector institutions define their strategic directions and make informed and appropriate decisions regarding resource allocation.
5. Specifically, Strategic Plans assist organizations to align strategies, activities and budgets with the national development priorities as articulated by the national long-term plans and regional/international treaties and obligations. Thus, in the current dispensation, strategic plans should be linked to the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) budget process and aligned to the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) and the Fourth Medium Term Plan (MTP IV) 2023 – 2027.
6. In this regard, it is important to note that the strategic plans will act as very important tools for monitoring the implementation of the Fourth Medium Term Plan, and form the basis for setting targets for the annual work plans, performance contracts as well as staff performance appraisal.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

7. The National Treasury and Economic Planning, through the State Department for Economic Planning, issued the Revised Guidelines for Preparation of the 5<sup>th</sup> Generation Strategic Plans. The Guidelines have been developed against the backdrop of the need to align the public sector organizations to the transformative national development aspirations as espoused in the BETA and the Fourth Medium Term Plan. Over and above this need, the Guidelines are meant to ensure

uniformity in the preparation of the Strategic Plans across public sector institutions.

- 8.** I am pleased to note that the strategic plan for KIPPRA is aligned to the Revised Guidelines. This is a step in the right direction in ensuring that the Institute's programmes, projects and strategic interventions are well thought out and prioritized to support the Government development agenda and the policy processes.
- 9.** It is also notable that KIPPRA's Strategic Plan has focused its attention on strengthening the process of generating objective and timely evidence for better policy decisions. It is a fact that without the right tools it may be difficult to effectively generate timely policy advice. More importantly, it is crucial to note the effort being made to enhance engagement with relevant stakeholders in various aspects of evidence generation.
- 10.** As we launch the KIPPRA's strategic plan, I am confident that with the strategic direction the Institute is taking, the government will immensely benefit in the next five years with the evidence generated to support policy making and in monitoring the implementation of the development agenda.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

- 11.** Ensuring economic growth benefits all in the society requires continuous investment and protection of human capital. Human capital development therefore is critical for socio-economic development. Statistics shows that Kenya has the highest human capital index in mainland Sub-Saharan Africa. However, more needs to be done to

ensure those entering the labour market have the skills that the market is looking for. A skilled labour force is a key priority to enhancing production and accelerating socio-economic transformation.

**12.** In view of this, it is interesting to note that a key area of focus in KIPPRA's Strategic Plan is capacity building. As we look around this room, which is adorned with a bright future for young people, some of you have graduated from the KIPPRA's Young Professionals Programme which dates as far back as 2003. I am encouraged that as a country we are on the right path in building human capital to strengthen the policy making process. Those who have graduated before have managed to navigate through the career ranks with more confidence and are now participating effectively in making strategic decisions and policies for this country.

**13.** It is important to appreciate that the KIPPRA's Strategic Plan being launched today seeks to expand uptake of the capacity building programmes including the Young Professionals Programme by introducing some flexibility that helps the stakeholders to participate effectively without diluting the programme.

**14.** A total of 333 young people have passed through the YP programme since the inception. I am happy therefore to be part of the graduation ceremony today where 23 YPs are graduating of which, over 60% are from government with 39% being from the national government and 22% being from the county government. I urge you to make good use of the skills acquired in the programme when you return to your respective stations.

## **I say Hongera! to the graduands.**

**15.** I wish to also let you know that KIPPRA has initiated a collaborative long-term plan of capacity building officers under the Central Planning and Project Monitoring Departments in the Ministries and State Departments. This will be key in strengthening the National Planning process and ensuring effective monitoring, evaluation and reporting of development plans.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen**

**16.** As I conclude, I want to appreciate the invaluable collaboration between the State Department for Economic Planning and KIPPRA as well as the other Ministries, Departments, Agencies and County Governments. I urge KIPPRA to continue engaging with all stakeholders and living up to its motto of "Thinking Policy Together".

**17.** I wish to once again congratulate the KIPPRA on the successful completion and launch of its strategic plan whose implementation will contribute immensely towards attainment of the Government's aspirations in the Fourth Medium Term Plan and also for successfully capacity building over 23 YPs that we are graduating today.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**18.** I am now honored and pleased to officially launch the KIPPRA Strategic Plan (2023/24-2027/28) and officiate the graduation of KIPPRA Young Professionals (Cohort for FY 2022/2023).

God bless you all. Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.