



**REPUBLIC OF KENYA
THE NATIONAL TREASURY AND ECONOMIC PLANNING
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR ECONOMIC PLANNING**

STATEMENT BY

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THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY,
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DURING

**THE LAUNCH OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR POPULATION
AND DEVELOPMENT (NCPD) STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-2027**

ON

**27TH MARCH 2024
AT THE KENYA SCHOOL OF MONETARY STUDIES**

NCPD Board members

The Director General NCPD, Dr. Sheikh Mohamed

Representatives from the Ministries, Departments Agencies and Counties

Development Partners

Implementing Partners

Members of the 4th Estate

Distinguished 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 National Council for Population and Development (NCPD) for the period 2023 to 2027. I wish to congratulate NCPD for the successful completion of the Plan that is being launched here today.
- 2.** The mandate of NCPD as stipulated by the Legal Notice No. 120 of 2004, is to promote and coordinate population and development programmes in Kenya. Further, the Legal Notice recognizes NCPD as the focal agency for providing leadership and guidance in population and development issues in the Country. Allow me, therefore, to express my appreciation to the NCPD for providing leadership in Population Policy Management in Kenya since its inception.

Ladies and Gentlemen

- 3.** Population dynamics play a crucial role in shaping development policies and programmes that a country puts in place to improve its citizen's wellbeing and quality of life. Kenya has over the years developed population policies and programmes that have assisted in steering the national population agenda.

- 4.** The above notwithstanding, Kenya still grapples with global, regional and national population and development challenges. These include: disparities in fertility, morbidity and mortality rates; ageing and increasing youthful population; migration; rapid urbanization; non-communicable diseases; high poverty levels; and mental health, drugs and substance abuse.

- 5.** Specifically, according to the African Union Commission, there are over 400 million young people aged between 15-35 years in Africa. Kenya alone is projected to have a population of 63.9 million, in 2030, of these, 22.3 million (35%) will be youths aged 15-34 years.

- 6.** The Africa Development Bank projects that about 10-12 million youths enter the job market but only a quarter are absorbed in the workplace in Africa. Lack of employment opportunities have pushed the young people to poverty and desperation. Over 80 million youths in Sub-Saharan Africa, Kenya included, live in poverty.

7. Distinctively, youth are an untapped resource and clearly, the demographic changes in Kenya presents an opportunity to accelerate the socioeconomic transformation of the country through harnessing the demographic dividend.

Ladies and Gentlemen

8. A clear understanding of the current trends of population indicators is therefore necessary for short-, medium- and long-term planning of development activities and allocation of resources.

9. The recently launched Fourth Medium Term Plan (MTP IV) 2023 – 2027 is the Government’s development plan for the next five years. The MTP IV implements the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) that is geared towards economic turn-around and inclusive growth.

10. BETA objectives include: bringing down the cost of living; eradicating hunger; creating jobs; expanding the tax base; improving foreign exchange balances and inclusive growth.

11. Under Population and Development, the MTP IV prioritizes establishment of a **Centre of Excellence for Population and Development** to be hosted at NCPD. The centre will serve as a leading population management hub in Africa to deliver excellence in capacity building, cutting-edge research, knowledge acquisition and management, innovation and best practices on population and development for improvement of quality of life.

12. The MTP IV also seeks to implement the **25th International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD25) Commitments** which are aimed at enhancing evidence-based decision making on population and development. Further, the Government is keen on investing in people through provision of quality and affordable health care and education, as well as provision of adequate jobs and skills to develop the country's human capital in an inclusive and sustainable manner.

13. It is expected that implementing the above will lead to a reduction in the annual population growth from 2.15% in 2022 to 2.07% in 2028. Dependency Ratio is expected to reduce from 75 in every 100 in 2022 to 70 in every 100 in 2028. Further, total fertility rate is projected to reduce from 3.31 children per woman to 3.08 within the plan period while life expectancy is expected to improve from 68.3 years to 69.3 years.

Ladies and Gentlemen

14. The National Council for Population and Development Strategic Plan 2023-2027 will play a pivotal role in actualizing priorities identified under MTP IV.

15. The NCPD Strategic Plan will form the basis for setting targets for the annual work plans, performance contracts as well as staff performance appraisal. The Plan is an important instrument for monitoring, evaluating

and reporting of the implementation of population related programmes and projects in the MTP IV.

16. Furthermore, NCPD Strategic Plan will be used as a tool for: improving efficiency and effectiveness in population management; defining the strategic direction for the Council; and assist in making informed and appropriate decisions regarding resource allocation and utilization. The Plan will fundamentally assist align the Council's strategies and activities to the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) budget process and MTP IV which is aligned to BETA.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

17. The National Treasury and Economic Planning, through the State Department for Economic Planning, issued Revised Guidelines for Preparation of the 5th Generation Strategic Plans. The Guidelines were 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 then Draft MTP IV. Over and above this need, the Guidelines were meant to ensure uniformity in the preparation of the Strategic Plans across public sector institutions.

18. I am pleased to note that the Strategic Plan for NCPD is aligned to the Revised Guidelines. This is a step in the right direction in ensuring that the Council programmes, projects and strategic interventions are well

thought-out and prioritized to support the Government's development agenda and the policy processes.

19. The NCPD Strategic Plan has identified four areas of focus which include: **Population policy and programme implementation** whose goal is to enhance integration of population issues in development plans at all levels; **Population Research and Analysis** aimed at enhancing research capabilities and knowledge in population and development; **Population Advocacy and Public Education** whose objective is to raise awareness and advocate for population related issues; and **Institutional Strengthening** that focuses on enhancing the Council's institutional capabilities and efficiency.

20. By implementing the NCPD Strategic Plan, whose mission is ***To provide Leadership in Population Policy Management for improved well-being of all Kenyans***, the Council will move towards achieving its vision of ***'A well-managed population for a prosperous Kenya'***.

Ladies and Gentlemen

21. As I conclude, I would like to recognize the efforts of Ministries, Departments, Agencies and Counties (MDACs), Development Partners, and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) for the continued support accorded to the Council. Moving forward, the Council will seek to strengthen linkages and collaborations, built over the years, with all partners and stakeholders.

22. Finally, Ladies and Gentlemen, it's my humble honor to officially launch the NCPD Strategic Plan for implementation for the next five years.

Thank You, Asante Sana

God Bless You All