



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

TALKING NOTES

FOR

**DR. BONFACE B. MAKOKHA
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR ECONOMIC PLANNING**

DURING

**THE 8TH KIPPRA ANNUAL REGIONAL CONFERENCE
HELD AT
KENYA SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT, NAIROBI, COUNTY**

ON

21ST – 23RD MAY 2025

Colleague Principal Secretaries present

Prof. Paul Wachana, Chairperson, KIPPRA Board

KIPPRA Board Members

Dr. Eldah Onsomu, Ag. Executive Director, KIPPRA

Prof. Nura Mohamed, Director General, Kenya School of Government

National Government Officials present

County Government Officials present

Invited Guests

All protocols observed!

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Morning

- 1) It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to the 8th KIPPRA Annual Regional Conference themed ***Shaping Pathways to future jobs: unlocking opportunities for the youth in Kenya.***

2) I am indeed pleased and honoured to be amidst this gathering of: policy makers; top academicians and researchers; representatives from private sector, multilateral organizations, development partners, and think tanks, who are gathered here.

3) The theme of the 8th KIPPRA Annual Regional Conference is indeed timely and resonates well with the aspirations of the Government of Kenya, articulating efforts towards empowering youth through education, developing employable skills and creation of job opportunities.

Ladies and gentlemen

4) We are living in unprecedented time of high youth population in Africa. According to African Union statistics there are over 400 million young people aged between 15-35 years. Kenya alone boasts of a youthful mass constituting 13.8 million (29%) of the population as per the 2019 census. Further, it is noted that at least one million young people enter into the Kenyan labour market every year without any skillset or defined profession.

5) Kenya's demographic youth bulge therefore, is a tremendous asset and has the potential to drive the economy if the youth are embodied with the right skill sets and have access to gainful employment opportunities.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

6) The Fourth Medium Term Plan (MTP IV) of the Kenya Vision 2030, which is aligned to the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) strategically envisions that the youth bulge can be harnessed

by moving beyond the traditional employment models, to cultivating an innovative and entrepreneurial workforce through embracing the digital superhighways and the creative economy.

- 7) Towards understanding the innovative ways of engaging the youth, the conference will focus on the following sub-themes: human capital development; digital transformation and infrastructure; creative economy, talent and innovation; gender, equity and inclusion; and trade and industrialization.
- 8) This conference therefore accords the perfect opportunity for stakeholders to come up with deliberate action areas that will address the needs of the current youth, who are an important segment in the populace. Thus, the pathways identified will, to a great extent, lay foundation for the country to harness demographic dividend in order to accelerate economic growth and development.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- 9) As I conclude, I wish to acknowledge the diligent role played by KIPPRA, in organizing the Annual Regional Conferences that provide a platform for stakeholders to discuss important public policy matters. I also extend my gratitude to all other stakeholders who have made this event successful.
- 10) It is now my pleasure to welcome the **Principal Secretary, the State Department for Youth Affairs** to give his remarks.

Thank you and May God Bless Kenya