



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

REMARKS BY

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DURING THE TREE PLANTING EXERCISE AND AWARDING OF
CERTIFICATES TO KIPPRA CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINEES

IN

BUNGOMA COUNTY
17TH MAY 2025

**The Deputy Governor, Representing H.E. Rt. Hon Kenneth Makelo
Lusaka, EGH; Governor, Bungoma County;**

Prof. Paul Wachana, KIPPRA Board Chairperson;

**Mr William Makhanu Nasong'o, County Secretary and Head of
Public Service, Bungoma County;**

The Deputy County Commissioner;

**Mr. Timothy Gakuu, Ag. Secretary, Economic Planning and
KIPPRA Board Member;**

Dr Eldah Onsomu, The Ag. Executive Director, KIPPRA;

**Representatives of the National and County Government
Present;**

**Western Region and County Conservation Officers – Kenya
Forest Services;**

**State Department for Economic Planning and KIPPRA staff
present;**

Learners present;

The Wananchi and Community Members;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good Morning

- 1) It is a great honour and privilege to be here with you today on this auspicious occasion of Tree planting in **Panantega Forest Station, Chepyuk Division, Kopsiro Sub County, Bungoma County.**
- 2) I am equally delighted to officiate over the awarding of certificates to Bungoma County Officers who recently completed a week-long capacity building course, rolled out by the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA).
- 3) These two events underpin Kenya's development agenda as articulated under the ***Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA)*** and are in line with Bungoma County's Vision of "***A Hub of Diversity and Social-Economic Development***".

Ladies and Gentlemen:

- 4) BETA, whose main objective is to improve the livelihood and welfare of Kenyans, is geared towards achieving economic turn around and inclusive growth through citizen-centred development.
- 5) BETA aims to: **Bring down the cost of living**, on which, so far, inflation has gradually declined from **9.6%** in **October 2022** to **4.1%** in **April 2025**; **Eradicate hunger**, on which, to date, price of **1Kg of loose maize grain** has decreased from **KSh. 77.69** in the year **2023** to **KSh. 62.70** in the year **2024**; **Create jobs** particularly for the youth, which has seen a total of **782,300** new jobs created in the economy in the **year 2024**; and **improve foreign exchange balances** that has seen the Kenya Shilling now

trading at around **KSh. 129/USD** compared to **KSh. 140/USD in 2023.**

Ladies and Gentlemen:

- 6) Within this context, the national government is also alive to the fact that climate change is a threat to Socio-Economic Development. The significance of tree planting thus, cannot be overstated. Forests are essential to survival: they absorb carbon dioxide, provide oxygen, and regulate the climate.
- 7) This tree-planting exercise therefore, is very important and is in line with **the National Tree Growing and Restoration campaign** which was launched by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Kenya, Hon. (Dr.) William Ruto, as part of planting and restoring tree cover to 10.6 million hectares of environmentally degraded areas.
- 8) The campaign which is also known as Mission **15B#Jaza Miti** will see the country grow **15 billion tree seedlings** moving the nation's forest cover to 30% by 2032. This campaign is a call to action for all Kenyans to embrace tree planting as a crucial part of the fight against climate change. To-date, the State Department for Economic Planning has planted approximately **314,000 trees** on various designated sites.
- 9) In furthering the national tree planting agenda, this morning we are honored to join the great people of Bungoma in planting and nurturing **2,000 seedlings**. The State Department for Economic Planning, together with KIPPRA, highly appreciates the County

Government of Bungoma, Kenya Forest Services and other stakeholders for facilitating this endeavour.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

- 10) Human capital development is a vital component for socio-economic progress and prosperity. I thank KIPPRA for undertaking the capacity building programme on '***Public Policy Making Process***'; and '***Governance Structures in Devolved System of Government***'.
- 11) It is imperative to note that designing of a policy and good understanding of governance structures, especially the linkages between the national and county governments, is fundamental to realising successful economic development.
- 12) I wish to challenge the fifty (50) officers who enrolled and completed the programme to put into practice the knowledge acquired for the benefits of this great County and Kenya at large. I call upon each and everyone of you to be good ambassadors of KIPPRA capacity building programmes, and even more importantly best practices in public policy making processes.
- 13) The State Department for Economic Planning will continue supporting KIPPRA in effectively playing its role as a think tank towards shaping policy-making and implementation.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

- 14) As I conclude, I would like to thank all of you for your presence today during these two important events. Let us take individual and collective initiatives towards the *National Tree Growing and*

Restoration Campaigns, and best practices in matters of public policy making and implementation.

Thank You All and God Bless Kenya