



**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

Hon. Salim Mvurya, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Youth Affairs, Creative Economy and Sports

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 and County Government Officials present

Invited Guests

All protocols observed

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Morning

1) I am honoured and privileged to join you today at the 8th KIPPRA Annual Regional Conference, themed ***"Shaping Pathways for***

Future Jobs: Unlocking Opportunities for the Youth.” This platform underscores our collective resolve to empower Kenya’s greatest demographic asset - our youth.

2) On behalf of the State Department for Economic Planning and on behalf of **Hon. FCPA John Mbadi, the Cabinet Secretary for the National Treasury and Economic Planning**, I wish to sincerely thank the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA), in collaboration with the Kenya School of Government, for organizing this timely forum. It is crucial that we, as policymakers, planners, researchers, development partners, and representatives of the youth, deliberate meaningfully on securing our young people's future.

3) The Fourth Medium Term Plan (MTP IV) and the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) offer a unified national platform for delivering economic growth, equity, and transformation. Central to this agenda is the Kenyan youth, who comprise over **75%** of our population. As such, the MTP IV is deliberate in positioning Kenyan youth not just as beneficiaries but as co-creators, implementers, and evaluators of development outcomes.

Ladies and Gentlemen

4) The economic survey 2025 indicates that Kenya’s economy expanded by 4.7% in 2024, outpacing the Sub-Saharan Africa’s average of 3.8%, yet trailing our EAC peers who are at 5.4%. **While strong growth was recorded in financial services, ICT, and agriculture,**

sectors such as construction and quarrying—largely driven by youth labour—experienced contraction. This underscores the urgency to re-engineer the country planning to align with employment-intensive sectors and create responsive strategies for youth inclusion.

- 5) Within the State Department for Economic Planning, robust measures have been instituted to track youth-targeted outcomes across MTP IV. These include: disaggregating indicators by age and gender within the National Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation System (e-NIMES), developing county-based dashboards to geo-map youth project beneficiaries; and engaging in participatory planning mechanisms that embrace youth voices at the constituency and ward level.
- 6) Youth employability is being mainstreamed in the policy planning architecture through deliberate linkages with TVETs, Jitume digital labs, MSME incubation hubs, and labour market forecasting. These linkages inform budgetary and investment decisions across the public sector so as to avoid mismatch between skills produced and market demand.

Ladies and Gentlemen

- 7) Together with KIPPRA, the State Department for Economic Planning intends to roll out impact assessment and tracer studies to track the effectiveness of programmes such as the Youth Enterprise Fund, Ajira Digital Program, Hustler Fund, and Green Jobs initiatives. The objective is to ensure that youth engagements are visible, measurable, and results-oriented.

- 8) Furthermore, the State Department for Economic Planning is finalizing frameworks to institutionalize youth involvement in data collection, project monitoring, and social intelligence reporting. These frameworks will empower young people to document their development narratives and become agents of planning and accountability at the local level.
- 9) Let me also announce that we are setting up a national geo-referenced project database that will tag every BETA/MTP IV investment to a specific location. This will enhance transparency and enable young citizens to follow up on projects in their areas—including housing units, TVET centres, fibre optic connectivity, MSME hubs, and climate smart projects.

Ladies and Gentlemen

- 10) The opportunity that Kenya's youthful population possess cannot be underestimated. Our job is to convert that opportunity into productive human capital through smart planning, financing, and multi-sectoral collaboration.
- 11) To our young people: **you are not on the margins of our national and sectoral plans. You are at the very centre of Kenya's next decade of transformation.** As we mark the final lap of Vision 2030 and look to the Kenya Post 2030 Vision, your commitment, energy, innovation, and enterprise will shape the direction this country takes.

- 12) I assure you that the State Department for Economic Planning stands ready to facilitate your full integration in developing national & sectoral plans, designing policies, undertaking implementation and providing feedback. We are working closely with the counties, other national government Departments and agencies, development partners and the private sector to make MTP IV work for you.
- 13) As we engage in these rich discussions today, I urge all stakeholders to remain **committed, innovative, and inclusive**. Let us shift the narrative from youth unemployment to youth-led development.
- 14) With those remarks, I wish you all fruitful deliberations and reaffirm our full support from the State Department for Economic Planning.
- 15) It is now my pleasure to welcome our chief guest, the Cabinet Secretary for Youth Affairs, Creative Economy, and Sports, **Hon. Salim Mvurya** to deliver his keynote address.

Thank you and May God Bless Kenya