



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

THE NATIONAL TREASURY

STATE DEPARTMENT FOR ECONOMIC PLANNING

**REMARKS BY BONFACE MAKOKHA, THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY,
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR ECONOMIC PLANNING DURING THE
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM FOR DEVELOPMENT EVALUATION
TRAINING (IPDET) HELD AT MERCURE HOTEL, NAIROBI ON 3RD
NOVEMBER 2025**

Dr. Taku Chirau Acting Director CLEAR-AA

Dr. Candice Morkel Head of Program: IPDET

**Facilitators: Dr Steven Masvaure, Mr Siyabonga Sibiya, Ms Matodzi
Amisi, Ms Talitha Hlaka**

Director-General, Economic Planning

Secretaries, Economic Planning,

Directors of Planning,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning

It is a distinct honour to welcome the International Program for Development Evaluation Training (IPDET) and the Centre for Learning on Evaluation and Results – Anglophone Africa (CLEAR-AA) to Nairobi. On behalf of the Government of Kenya, the National Treasury, and the State Department for Economic Planning, I convey our warmest greetings and heartfelt appreciation for choosing Kenya to host this important global learning event.

To all participants joining us from across the world—**Karibuni Kenya!**
We are not merely providing a venue; we are opening a partnership in

knowledge. Kenya stands ready to walk this journey with you—learning, sharing, and co-creating solutions that advance evidence-driven development for our people.

A Shared Commitment to Evidence and Impact

This inaugural IPDET training in Kenya is not just another convening; it is a landmark in our collective pursuit of stronger Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) systems. It affirms our shared conviction that credible data, rigorous evaluation, and learning are indispensable to achieving sustainable and equitable development.

We deeply appreciate our long-standing collaboration with **CLEAR-AA**, whose support through our Monitoring and Evaluation Directorate has been pivotal in promoting a culture of results, accountability, and evidence use across Africa. Your work continues to inspire a generation of evaluators and policymakers who understand that what gets measured gets improved.

Kenya's Journey in Institutionalizing Evaluation

Kenya has made deliberate strides in embedding M&E within public policy and planning. We have developed a **National M&E Policy**, the **Kenya Evaluation Guidelines**, and the **National Evaluation Plan**, while operationalizing the **National Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation System (NIMES)** and its county counterpart, **CIMES**.

These frameworks ensure that M&E is not a bureaucratic exercise but a governance imperative—anchoring accountability, transparency, and value for money in the delivery of public services. They enable us to ask not only *"Was the project implemented?"* but *"Did it change lives?"*

Why This Training Matters

That IPDET is being held in Kenya for the first time is a profound testament to the continent's growing evaluation capacity. This training symbolizes a bridge between global expertise and local innovation—an opportunity to strengthen Africa's voice in shaping the evaluation discourse.

We are equally grateful for IPDET's generous decision to **sponsor two officers** from the State Department for Economic Planning. This gesture not only deepens our institutional capacity but also demonstrates genuine partnership in action.

Evaluation at the Heart of the Development Agenda

This engagement comes at a strategic moment for Kenya. We are in the midst of implementing the **Fourth Medium-Term Plan (MTP IV, 2023–2027)**—the final plan under Vision 2030—anchored on the **Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA)**.

This Plan seeks to accelerate economic turnaround and inclusive growth through five pillars: **Agriculture, MSMEs, Housing, Healthcare, and the Digital and Creative Economy**.

Our results so far are encouraging:

- **Inflation** has fallen from 9% to **3.8% (June 2025)**.
- The **price of maize flour** has dropped from KSh 250 to under KSh 165—driven by bold investments in agriculture.
- The **Affordable Housing Programme** has created over **330,000 direct jobs** while delivering dignified homes.
- The **Hustler Fund** has disbursed **KSh 74 billion** to over **26.5 million borrowers**, expanding access to affordable credit.
- More than **452,000 youth** have secured foreign employment opportunities.

- The **Social Health Authority** now covers **25.8 million members**, supported by **100,000 community health promoters** across the country.

These outcomes are tangible evidence that structured evaluation, data-informed planning, and evidence-based decision-making drive transformation.

To support this process, the State Department has developed a **National Reporting Indicator Handbook** to standardize monitoring of MTP IV implementation. We are also revising the **Kenya Evaluation Guidelines** and **National Evaluation Plan** to ensure they remain robust and responsive to emerging needs. The knowledge and skills gained through IPDET will directly inform these reforms.

Evaluating Vision 2030 and Local Development

As we approach the conclusion of **Vision 2030**, we are embarking on a comprehensive evaluation to assess progress, outcomes, and impact—identifying what worked, what did not, and what must change as we craft **Kenya Vision 2063**.

Parallel to this, we shall evaluate the **National Government Constituencies Development Fund (NG-CDF)**, which remains central to grassroots development in education, health, and infrastructure. These evaluations will draw heavily from the methodologies and insights shared in this training—ensuring that our planning is rooted in evidence and our policies aligned with citizens’ realities.

Building a Sustainable Evaluation Ecosystem

Our aspiration is clear: **to make Kenya a continental hub for evaluation excellence.**

We envision transforming this IPDET collaboration into a **tripartite**

partnership—bringing on board the **Kenya School of Government (KSG)** as a local co-host. This model will strengthen institutional ownership, ensure continuity, and embed evaluation training within the public service framework.

Kenya is not a passive beneficiary of global expertise; we bring to the table our own innovations—such as the **e-NIMES** and **e-CIMES** digital platforms that have revolutionized data management, performance reporting, and citizen accountability.

Closing Reflections

In closing, allow me to express profound gratitude to **IPDET** and **CLEAR-AA** for their visionary leadership and enduring partnership. Together, we are shaping a new era of development evaluation—one defined by collaboration, evidence, and measurable impact.

As you engage in these sessions, may you also take a moment to enjoy the beauty of our country. Just minutes away from this venue lies the **Nairobi National Park**, where skyscrapers meet savannah—an emblem of harmony between progress and preservation. That, in essence, is what development should be: **inclusive, balanced, and sustainable**.

I wish you fruitful deliberations, an enriching IPDET experience, and a memorable stay in Kenya.

With these remarks, it is now my pleasure to **declare the first IPDET training in Africa officially open**.

Thank you. Asanteni sana.