



## REPUBLIC OF KENYA

### THE NATIONAL TREASURY AND ECONOMIC PLANING

**SPEECH BY THE CABINET SECRETARY FOR THE NATIONAL TREASURY AND  
ECONOMIC PLANNING – FCPA. HON. JOHN MBADI, EGH  
DURING THE LAUNCH OF THE PHASE III OF THE MAKING EVERY WOMAN  
AND GIRL COUNT ON 25<sup>TH</sup> – 26<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2026 FROM 9:00AM TO 1:00PM**

The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services, Hon. Hannah Wendot;

The Governor of West Pokot County – H. E. Simon Kachapin Kitalei, CBS, EGH,  
The Principal Secretary, State Department for Economic Planning, Mr. Bonface B. Makokha;

The Principal Secretary, State Department for Gender Affairs and Affirmative Action -  
Ms. Anne Wang'ombe;

Colleagues in Government;

The Director Generals and Chief Executive Officers of State Corporations;

Our esteemed Development Partners from UN Women;

Our longstanding Development Partners from the Government of Sweden;

Regional Partners;

Representatives of Academic Institutions;

The Civil Society;

Members of the Fourth Estate;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

### **Good morning!**

I am deeply honoured to join you as we mark the official launch of **Phase III (2026-2029) of the Making Every Woman and Girl Count (MEWGC) Programme**, a transformative initiative nurtured by UN Women that has reshaped the landscape of gender statistics, not only in Kenya but across the continent.

Let me to begin by appreciating the **UN Women leadership**, represented here by **Sarah Hendriks, Director of the Policy, Programme and Intergovernmental Division (PPID)** and **Ms. Antonia N’gabala-Sodonon**, the Country Representative to Kenya, for your steadfast stewardship of this global Programme.

I also extend our profound gratitude to the **Government of Sweden**, represented by **Maria Ottoson, Head of the International Development Cooperation**, whose generous financial commitment continue to enable Kenya to strengthen gender-responsive data ecosystems. To all our development partners, government officials, civil society, and academia, thank you for your commitment and partnership.

Today’s event is a milestone in Kenya’s journey toward a development paradigm anchored in evidence, equity, and inclusion. Our gathering reflects a shared commitment to strengthening the gender data ecosystem, a foundation without which no nation can plan sustainably, allocate resources equitably, or deliver development outcomes that reach all its people.

Over the past decade, the Making Every Woman and Girl Count Programme has emerged as one of the most ambitious global efforts to radically improve how gender data is produced, disseminated, and used to inform national development priorities.

This Programme’s objective aligns seamlessly with Kenya’s own national aspirations to create a society where women and girls are visible in every statistic, represented in every policy, and empowered in every sector of our economy. In addition, at the heart of the MEWGC Programme is the understanding that **gender data is not peripheral to development** because it is a core driver of planning, budgeting, investment, and accountability.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Kenya’s leadership in gender statistics is well recognized across Africa. In 2018, Kenya was selected as one of the **MEWGC Programme pathfinder countries**, a distinction granted to nations that demonstrate strong political commitment, institutional readiness, and technical capacity to advance gender data systems.

As we embark on Phase III, allow me to reaffirm the central role played by my Ministry – **The National Treasury and Economic Planning** - in supporting this initiative. Our mandate established under the Constitution of Kenya and the Public Finance Management (PFM) Act of 2012 entrusts the Ministry with: **a)** Managing public finances and ensuring macroeconomic stability; **b)** Formulating fiscal and economic policies; **c)**

Overseeing national development planning frameworks; **d)** Managing public debt and safeguarding the integrity of the financial system; and **e)** coordinating the national statistical system to ensure that planning is grounded in credible, timely, and disaggregated data.

The mandate positions the National Treasury and Economic Planning at the heart of Kenya's long-term socio-economic development agenda. As you may all be aware, effective planning and budgeting require accurate data and evidence, and gender-disaggregated data are essential in ensuring that our national development plans and policies reflect the realities, contributions, and needs of all Kenyans.

Thus, the MEWGC Programme initiative strengthens the very foundation upon which our national planning and budgeting functions depend. It enables us to fulfill our mandate responsibly and to ensure that public resources are allocated in a manner that promotes fairness, inclusion, and long-term prosperity.

### **Distinguished Guests,**

As we continue with today's proceedings, it is important that we turn our attention to the achievements realized under **Phases I and II of the Making Every Woman and Girl Count (MEWGC) Programme**. These achievements form the solid foundation upon which Phase III is being launched. They also demonstrate the value of sustained investment in gender statistics and the catalytic impact that data can have on national development outcomes.

The MEWGC Programme has, over the past eight years, significantly transformed Kenya's gender data landscape through strengthened institutional capacity, improved coordination across the National Statistical System (NSS), and enhanced technical capabilities within state and non-state institutions.

This transformation has been achieved through targeted support to institutions such as the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), the State Department for Gender Affairs and Affirmative Action, academia (University of Nairobi), civil society, and multi-sectoral agencies. The coordinated implementation model has ensured harmonization of gender data efforts, reduction in duplication of efforts, and improved alignment with both national priorities and global commitments.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The strategic vision for Kenya's long-term socio-economic transformation is embodied in **Kenya Vision 2030**, which seeks to establish a globally competitive, prosperous, and equitable nation. Vision 2030 recognizes that no country can attain high levels of

human development, productivity, and innovation without fully harnessing the contributions of women and girls across all sectors. To unlock this potential, sound gender statistics are indispensable.

### **Distinguished Guests,**

The MEWGC Programme's emphasis on enhancing gender data availability and its utilization aligns with Vision 2030's calls for: **a)** Strengthening national statistical systems; **b)** Promoting evidence-informed public policy; **c)** Improving governance and public administration; **d)** Advancing social and economic equity; **and e)** ensuring that development benefits are equitably distributed in a more inclusive and sustainable manner. Additionally, it is important to note that the Fourth Medium Term Plan (MTP IV) **2023–2027** operationalizes the Kenya Vision 2030 over the period 2023–2027 and underscores economic transformation, human capital development, social inclusion, and institutional strengthening. Central to these priorities is the government's commitment to **evidence-based policy formulation** and **results-driven planning and budgeting**.

Therefore, it is my expectation that in the next four years within the context of gender equality priorities of the Government of Kenya, the MEWGC Programme continues to directly support the implementation of MTP-IV through:

- a) Supporting the production of high-quality gender-disaggregated data** necessary for designing and evaluating interventions in key sectors such as finance, education, health, agriculture, labour, social protection, public administration and governance among other sectors;
- b) Collaborating with The National Treasury to Institutionalize Gender-Responsive Budgeting (GRB)** to ensure that public resources are allocated equitably, effectively, and in ways that promote gender equality. Consequently, as per the Public Finance Management (PFM) Act of 2012, the National Treasury is responsible for formulating and implementing budget policies that promote prudent financial management and inclusive development. Hence, gender-responsive budgeting enriches this mandate by ensuring that every budget cycle reflects the needs, roles, and contributions of both women and men in Kenya's fiscal reform agenda;
- c) Strengthening National and County Planning:** Kenya's devolved system of governance places counties at the forefront of service delivery, sub-national development, and grassroots economic transformation. For

devolution to succeed, counties require reliable, disaggregated, and timely statistical data to guide planning, resource allocation, and monitoring; and

**d) Strengthening Partnerships and Collaborations:** Achieving the ambitions of Phase III will require strong collaboration across multisectoral stakeholders. Together, these partnerships produce a collaborative data ecosystem that empowers Kenya to not only produce gender data but also to apply it effectively and sustainably.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I call upon every stakeholder represented here from the ministries, state corporations, county governments, development partners, civil society organizations, academic institutions, private sector leaders, and our regional and international allies to reaffirm your commitment to making gender data a strategic priority through:

**a) Prioritizing use of gender data in all planning and budgeting processes.** Gender data is not optional. It is foundational to service delivery, national planning, public finance management, and legislative reform. Every sector such as health, education, agriculture, finance, governance, environment, and security should integrate gender-disaggregated indicators in its planning and reporting frameworks. Such integration is essential for achieving the goals outlined in Kenya Vision 2030 and the Fourth Medium Term Plan (2023–2027).

**b) Strengthening Institutional Capacity at National and County Levels.** We urge all counties to embed gender data within County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs), Annual Development Plans (ADPs); budget implementation frameworks and local interventions targeting women's economic empowerment, health, and education etc.

**c) Sustain Partnerships and Foster Collaboration.** Gender equality requires a multi-sectoral effort. Government institutions should continue working hand-in-hand with development partners such as UN Women to maintain momentum and ensure lasting progress.

Let this phase be defined not only by gender data production, but by the **use** of gender data to advance rights, strengthen accountability, and improve the lives of women and girls across Kenya.

## **Distinguished Guests,**

As we officially launch Phase III of the Programme today, it is vital that we turn our focus to the path that lies ahead. This event marks a new beginning that calls for renewed commitment, strengthened collaboration, and unwavering dedication to gender-responsive planning and development.

Therefore, the National Treasury and Economic Planning affirms its commitment to ensuring that gender statistics remain a pillar of Kenya's development planning and public finance management systems through:

**a) Institutionalizing Gender-Responsive Budgeting (GRB):** The National Treasury will continue to strengthen GRB frameworks to ensure that every Ministry, Department, Agency, and County integrates gender considerations into their planning and budget submissions. The gender data collected through the MEWGC Programme will be central to monitoring gender allocations and evaluating their outcomes.

**b) Embedding Gender Statistics in National Planning Instruments:** The National Treasury will ensure that gender-disaggregated data informs the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF), MTP IV implementation, and annual budget processes. Gender statistics will remain a core component of national planning, performance management and monitoring.

## **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As I conclude, today's launch is a testament that Kenya's economic transformation hinges not only on big infrastructure, macroeconomic stability, and investment flows but also depends on how well we **count, value, and invest in women and girls.**

Hence, as we embark on Phase III, let us remember that **gender data is more than just numbers and indicators because it is the voice of every woman and girl** whose experiences, aspirations, and challenges must be visible in our policies, budgets, and development strategies.

**Thank you.  
God bless you all.  
God bless the Republic of Kenya.**