

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



**THE PRESIDENCY
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SERVICE, YOUTH AND GENDER AFFAIRS**

**SPEECH BY SICILY K. KARIUKI (MRS), EGH, CABINET SECRETARY FOR
PUBLIC SERVICE, YOUTH AND GENDER AFFAIRS, DURING THE AT THE
NATIONAL MTP 3 CONSULTATIVE FORUM HELD ON FRIDAY, 14TH JULY,
2017.**

**Mwanamaka A. Mabruki, Principal Secretary, State Department of
Gender Affairs,**

Eminent Women Present,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning.

It is a great pleasure for me to be with you here this morning to officially open this Medium Term Plan (MTP) III Gender Chapter consultative forum. I wish to thank you all for honouring our invitation as one of our key stakeholders to participate in this process through which we hope to ratify the draft document which will define the gender agenda of our country for the next five years. Your

participation in this forum whose membership comprises of state and non-state actors definitely provides an opportunity for a more informed engagement.

This MTP III national consultative forum presents an opportunity for us as stakeholders to understand how the gender agenda will be implemented in practice and outlines the programs and policies that have been proposed for implementation during this period in order to enable Kenya to make greater strides towards achieving the Vision 2030 which is Kenya's long-term development blueprint for the economic transformation of this country.

The Vision 2030 is implemented through a series of 5-year medium-term plans (MTP) at the national level and through the County Integrated Development Plans (CIDP). Kenya has successfully implemented the first MTP (2008-2012) and the second MTP (2012-2017) which was completed at the end of the last financial year. The County Governments have finalized implementing their first County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs).

You will note that the MTP III is quite unique from the previous ones and this is because it has taken into consideration the aspirations of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and African Union Agenda 2063 and incorporated them in the plans. Also incorporated are several flagship projects, programs and institutional reforms that will bring transformation in the gender agenda in the country. There is a proposal to review and enact some policies as well as amend and legislate laws in the various sub sectors which we believe shall

have a far reaching impact on the welfare of our citizens, especially those in our sector.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Kenyan youth and the women constitute 36% and 52% of the country's population respectively. Together they form the largest national resource in terms of the human capital and hence, their energy, potential and aspirations ought to be harnessed to contribute positively to nation building. However, according to the World Bank and Vision 2030 report of January 2014, 61% of the youth in the country is unemployed, a situation that is regrettable since the youth are a formidable tool for negotiation and they present an opportunity for faster economic growth if they are productively engaged.

The MTP III plans therefore take into consideration the youth and other vulnerable groups to engage them in all planning and transformative processes that involve them. It is envisioned that there shall be the establishment of the Preference and Reservations Secretariat to empower Youth, Women and Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) through the procurement process under the Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO). This is aimed at increasing the number of registered, pre-qualified and certified enterprises to over 200, 000 during the plan period. This will definitely go a long way in assisting people in this category to advance and build their enterprises to compete favourably with established ones.

Further, Youth Development Councils shall be established as centers of excellence in every county to house fully equipped libraries, an ICT hub and a Social hall to provide integrated services to the youth.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

There are also plans in the MTP III to construct a National Youth Service (NYS) School of Oil and Gas to provide the oil and gas industry with requisite skilled personnel besides restructuring the

Women Enterprise Fund (WEF) business model to enhance service delivery and increased financial inclusivity.

To ensure that all these are implemented within an established policy and legal framework, there is a proposal for the development of a Youth and Gender mainstreaming policies and a sessional paper on Kenya National Association of Youth Centers.

Since the National Youth Service was enacted in 1964, the Act that established it has never been reviewed. During the next five years, we plan to review the Act so that it can be able to respond to the realities of modern times and provide integrated services to the youth so that they can better serve our nation.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

As you are aware, my Ministry has been coordinating the disbursement of Affirmative Action Funds and we shall also continue with the same while targeting more beneficiaries in the next five years. These funds have proved pivotal to the beneficiaries as start-up capital for businesses and expansion of the same.

Prevention and response to Gender Based Violence, gender mainstreaming in the public finance management, peace and security will also be a key focus for our sector in the five-year period.

As you are all aware, My Ministry signed a four year GOK-UN joint programme against gender based violence. A Joint Programme on Gender Based Violence Secretariat to fight gender based violence in all spheres shall be established. The joint programme is anchored on five pillars which are; Prevention, Protection, Programming, Prosecution and Partnership.

Further in line with the Constitution of Kenya 2010 particularly Chapter Four on the Bill of Rights, Article 43, we have proposed social protection interventions focusing on the improvement of children in need of care and support, community mobilization, registration and development, social welfare and provision of

vocational skills and including the vulnerable groups in the socio-economic development of our nation.

Ladies and gentlemen:

As I conclude my remarks, I call on all of us to interrogate the draft chapter report and refine it. This is our document and we must all take pride in the achievements as I believe we are committed towards a better and prosperous nation.

I therefore, declare this forum officially open and request your active participation and engagement as stakeholders.

Thank You.

May God Bless you