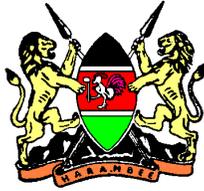


REPUBLIC OF KENYA



THE PRESIDENCY

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SERVICE, YOUTH AND GENDER AFFAIRS

STATE DEPARTMENT OF GENDER AFFAIRS

**WELCOME REMARKS BY MS. MWANAMAKA A. MABUKI, CBS,
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY FOR GENDER AFFAIRS DURING THE INTER-
GOVERNMENTAL CONSULTATIVE FORUM ON 6TH -7TH JUNE, 2017 AT
ENASHIPAI RESORT AND SPA, NAIVASHA**

**THE CABINET SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC SERVICE, YOUTH AND GENDER
AFFAIRS, SICILY K. KARIUKI, (MRS.), E.G.H,**

YOUR EXCELLENCIES, COUNTY GOVERNORS PRESENT,

UN WOMEN COUNTRY DIRECTOR, MS. ZEBIB KAVUMA,

**CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE ON GENDER, YOUTH, EDUCATION, SPORT,
CULTURE AND SOCIAL SERVICES, H.E. (PROF.) PAUL CHEPKWONY,**

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS, MS.
JACQUELINE MOGENI,**

**CHAIRPERSON COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR GENDER CAUCUS,
HON. (REV.) MAGDALENE NDUTA,**

COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

COUNTY DIRECTORS OF GENDER PRESENT

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS PRESENT,

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I am indeed humbled to welcome you all this morning to this special Intergovernmental Forum to discuss modalities of strengthening our multi-level governing relationships in the area of gender affairs. I appreciate your presence here for these two days as we will deliberate and consult on various intergovernmental-relational issues that affect all of us and our country at large.

We all realize that we have one common mandate, and that is to deliver excellent services to the public that will transform their lives.

As you may well be aware, the State Department of Gender Affairs' key mandate is to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in the country. It is therefore prudent for me at this point to share with you the Ministry's functions and initiatives. They are the:

- i. Coordination of gender mainstreaming into national development;
- ii. Formulation, review and management of gender related policies;
- iii. Negotiations, domestication and reporting on gender related international and regional treaties and conventions;
- iv. Promotion of equitable socio economic development between women and men;
- v. Implementation of **Uwezo Fund**;

- vi. Implementation of **Women Enterprise Fund**;
- vii. Implementation of National Government Affirmative Action Fund; (**NGAAF**)
- viii. Monitoring of **30%** Access to Government Procurement Opportunities, (**AGPO**) for women, youth and persons with disabilities;
- ix. Coordination and maintenance of sex disaggregated data;
- x. Establishment and implementation of gender information management system;
- xi. Coordination of activities on **Anti- Female Genital Mutilation**, and
- xii. Coordination of programmes for the reduction of **Gender Based Violence, (GBV)**.

On the Socioeconomic empowerment interventions, the Ministry of Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs through the State Department of Gender Affairs has contributed to community development and empowerment through disbursement of funds through our 4 **Sagas and the AGPO Initiative**. This is explained as follows:

1. Women Enterprise Fund (WEF)

This Fund was established in 2007 and is a 100% government funded revolving women-targeted credit fund offered at 0% interest rate. The main objective of the fund is to;

- ✓ provide affordable loans to women;
- ✓ build women's enterprenueral capacity;
- ✓ help them to grow linkages with large enterprises; and,
- ✓ facilitate the marketing of their products and services for both young and senior women entrepreneurs.

- ✓ Between 2013 to 2017 approximately Kshs. **6,688,710,000.00** has been disbursed to the beneficiaries.

2. The Uwezo Fund was launched in **2013** with the objective of;

- ✓ expanding access to finances by youth and women businesses and enterprises while similarly promoting and sustaining a savings culture.
- ✓ As at **January** 2017, a total of **Kshs 4,015,800,000.00** has already been disbursed.

3. The National Government Affirmative Action Funds (NGAAF) is yet another deliberate government initiative with an active presence in all counties.

- ✓ It aims at cushioning the vulnerable population groups from economic distress.
- ✓ The fund provides bursaries for students from needy families and financial support to women, youth and Persons with Disabilities (PWDs).
- ✓ Since inception in 2015 **Kshs. 4,154,649,964.00** has been disbursed under this programme.

4. Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO)

- This is a **30% Affirmative Action** policy initiative on public procurement targeting the Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities.
- Its main aim was to bring on board the majority of the target groups who have been excluded from accessing economic opportunities.

- This initiative is much celebrated around the world and has been replicated in all our counties.
- Success stories need to be documented and reported.
- So far under this programme, over **Kshs. 42 billion** worth of tenders have been awarded to the beneficiaries.

Our distinguished guests, as we sit here for these two days to deliberate on issues of inter-governmental relations, we urge all County Government colleagues, to take keen interest in these socio-economic empowerment programmes alongside your own homegrown socio-economic empowerment initiatives to empower our fellow Kenyans of low socio-economic and political strata.

Another important area that we should enhance our collaborative efforts is the prevention of and response to Gender Based Violence (GBV).

- ✓ GBV in all its forms is happening in all our counties, with varying degree of prevalence and impact.
- ✓ It is a well-documented reality that GBV does not only disempower women and girls, but also impoverishes families.
- ✓ In an effort to address the vice, the Ministry launched the National Policy for Prevention and Response to Gender Based Violence.
- ✓ A multi-sectoral approach to handling GBV that is centred on five key pillars of **prevention, protection, protection, programming** and **partnerships** has been developed. All these pillars are interlinked.

- ✓ I wish to call upon my counterparts at the counties to also join hands so that together we fight to reduce GBV in our country.
- ✓ The State Department of Gender Affairs is also in the process of establishing **Gender-Based Violence Recovery Centres (GBVRCs)** in some of your health institutions and **safe houses** for GBV survivors to relieve them of immediate distress.
- ✓ In addition, I wish to announce that the GBV **free toll helpline No. 1195** is now functional and is very useful in the referral of GBV cases.

Indeed, I wish to restate that we value and recognize you as our principal partners in all these efforts because we all have a stake in the lives of our fellow Kenyan men and women.

Together we can appreciate our stakeholders and partners who have ensured that this process goes on and that our joint efforts can yield much better results.

Once again, I wish to welcome you all to this Intergovernmental Consultative Forum. I am optimistic that this forum is not the only one that we shall have to discuss the above outlined issues, but that there will be many more will come.

With these remarks, I wish you constructive discussions, and now have the pleasure to welcome the **UN Women Country Director, Madam Zebib Kavuma**, to make her remarks.

Thank you, and God Bless Kenya