

**CLOSING REMARKS BY DR. JULIUS MUIA, EBS, PRINCIPAL  
SECRETARY STATE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING**

**DURING THE KIPPRA ANNUAL REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON  
BUILDING RESILIENCE TO MITIGATE THE IMPACT OF DROUGHT  
AND FLOODS, HELD AT HILTON HOTEL, NAIROBI – 5<sup>TH</sup>-7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE  
2018**

**Distinguished Guests**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

In the past three days you gathered here to deliberate on ways to avoid and minimize the negative impacts of climate hazards on the economy and livelihoods in our region. Deliberations have mainly focused on droughts and floods, two of Kenya's most devastating hazards.

Although Kenya has a long history of climate extremes, changes in their frequency and severity, and associated impacts have made them a priority in the policy discourse at national and county government level.

**Ladies and gentlemen**

It is now evident that climate-induced hazards are a key threat to Kenya's path towards the realization of the Kenya Vision 2030, the SDGs and the Big Four Agenda. Already, estimates show that droughts are associated with economic losses of up to 2.8% of GDP. There are also huge social

and environmental losses, meaning that disasters can no longer be ignored.

Because droughts have a slow onset, they can be easily detected and monitored. As a result, they should not become an emergency. Floods, though relatively rare, are characterized by heavy losses of properties and even lives as recently witnessed with the collapse of the Solai Dam.

### **Ladies and gentlemen**

The government has responded to enhancing management of such disasters by establishing an enabling policy and institutional frameworks, including the National Disaster Risk Management Policy 2017 and the National Drought Emergency Fund, with an initial capitalization of Ksh 2 billion.

Effective implementation of the policy will require all stakeholders to play their roles, including the national and county government as well as the communities, who bear the brunt of the disasters.

In delivering the policy, it will also require an effective M&E framework to track progress in the implementation of this policy.

I am glad to note that the conference has come up with concrete actions to address disasters. I challenge all stakeholders to play their role in ensuring that disasters do not remain an emergency.

I also challenge KIPPRA to undertake deeper research in these areas to inform policy and programme design.

Finally, on behalf of the CS, National Treasury and Planning, I thank all the participants for their contributions.

Asanteni Sana.