



**Republic of Kenya**

**THE NATIONAL TREASURY AND ECONOMIC PLANNING  
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR ECONOMIC PLANNING**

**REMARKS BY**

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**DURING THE 2024 WORLD POPULATION DAY AT PANAFRIC**

**HOTEL, NAIROBI**

**31<sup>ST</sup> JULY 2024**

## **THEME**

**The World Population Day 2024 theme is *"Embracing the Power of Inclusive Data Towards a Resilient and Equitable Future for All"*.**

**SPEECH FOR MR. JAMES MUHATI, CBS, PRINCIPAL SECRETARY,  
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR ECONOMIC PLANNING, DURING THE  
2024 WORLD POPULATION DAY AT PANAFRIC HOTEL, NAIROBI**

Salutations

Dr. Julius Karangi, Chair NCPD Board;

Dr. Mohamed Sheikh, Director NCPD;

Ms. Shaheen Nilofer, Country Director UNICEF;

Mr. Paul Makwinja International Operations Manager UNFPA;

Senior Government Representatives;

Development Partners;

Civil Society Organizations;

Invited Guests.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. Good morning. I am honored to join you today as we mark World Population Day 2024. The World Population Day seeks to focus attention on the urgency and significance of population issues. The commemoration of this day was established by the Governing Council of the United Nations Assembly in 1989.

2. In December, 1990, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution to celebrate World Population Day on 11<sup>th</sup> July annually. The 1<sup>st</sup> World Population Day was celebrated in Kenya on 11<sup>th</sup> July 1990 and Ninety (90) countries participated.
3. This year's World Population Day emphasizes on creation of awareness of population and development issues to strengthen the capacity to utilize and communicate population data and evidence/research findings to policymakers, development partners and Programme implementers at all levels of government.
4. The specific objectives of the 2024 World Population Day are:
  - i. Raise awareness on available evidence on adolescents and young people's achievements, challenges and opportunities for scale up;
  - ii. Strengthen and support multisectoral collaboration to address issues affecting adolescents and young people's development as envisaged in the Kenya Demographic Dividend Roadmap for 2020-2030; and
  - iii. To disseminate the Kenya Population Policy for Sustainable Development, which guides the population programs in the country.
5. The objective of World Population Day 2024 resonates well with the Sessional Paper No. 1 of 2023 on Kenya Population Policy for Sustainable Development whose goal is to attain a high quality of life

for the population of Kenya that is secure, healthy, broadly educated, trained and empowered for sustainable development.

6. The Sessional Paper has six thematic areas namely:

- i. Population size, growth and age structure;
- ii. Fertility;
- iii. Morbidity and mortality;
- iv. Mobility, migration, and urbanization;
- v. Population, human settlement, environment and disasters; and
- vi. Data, research and innovation.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen**

7. The thematic area on data, research and innovation is aligned with the World Population Day 2024 theme which is ***"Embracing the Power of Inclusive Data Towards a Resilient and Equitable Future for All"***. The theme reflects the outcome of global, regional and national evaluations on progress and achievements attained in the implementation of:

- i. The 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action (PoA);
- ii. The 2013 Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development (AADPD); and
- iii. The 2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), among other commitments.

8. In Kenya the global theme has been domesticated as "***Embracing data for decision-making: Using Evidence to Invest in adolescents and young people***".
9. Kenya collects, analyses and disseminates data on population and development to inform policy and programming. Examples of the primary data sets available include: the Kenya Population and Housing Censuses; Kenya Demographic and Health Survey; Quarterly Labour Force Surveys; Kenya Integrated Household and Budget Surveys and Economic Surveys.
10. Further, the Country has a wealth of administrative data such as births and deaths, health and education statistics that are collected while providing services and which inform decision-making.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen**

11. In the 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census report the population stood at 47.56 million. It is important to note that 35.7 million, which represents **75 %** of the population were persons aged below 35 years. A mere **25%** of the population represented persons above 35 years.
12. However, by 2030 it is projected that the population below the age of 35 years will be 40.4 million translating to **69.8%** of the total population. The proportion of the population above 35 years will be **30.2%**.

13. This therefore calls for better planning for all segments of the population taking cognizance of the changes in demographic profile.

14. The above notwithstanding, as we commemorate World Population Day 2024, it is important to use data for evidence-based policies and programme development for adolescents and young people. The adolescents and young people that are aged between 10-24 years were enumerated at **16.1 million** in 2019 (KPHC) and are projected to grow to **17.7 million** by 2030.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen**

15. This group of people faces myriad challenges which include:

- a. Teenage pregnancy was reported at **15 %** as per the 2022 Kenya Demographic and Health Survey;
- b. Low awareness of HIV with **4 out of 10 girls** and **3 out of 10 boys** aged between 15-19 having ever tested for HIV. As per the HIV estimates of 2023, there were **1215 AIDS-related** deaths among adolescents aged 10-19 years;
- c. The prevalence of Gender-based violence with more adolescent boys experiencing physical violence (**26.1%**) compared to girls (**16 %**), while more adolescent girls (**3.7%**) experiencing sexual violence compared to boys (**1.8 %**) (KDHS 2022).
- d. Lifetime use of drugs and substance abuse among adolescents and young people aged between 15-24 was **13.1 %** and lifetime use of tobacco was **7.3%**. (NACADA 2022)

- e. Persistent unemployment which stood at **25.5%** for persons between age 15-24 years (Quarter 4 2022 Labourforce report).

## **Ladies and Gentlemen**

16. It is worth noting that the Fourth Medium Term Plan (MTP IV) 2023-2027 policy framework prioritizes investment in health, education, employment and governance structures to optimize benefits for the youthful demographic structure.
17. As stipulated in the MTP IV, the government has put in place the following measures to address challenges faced by adolescents, young people and youth:
  - i. Ending the triple threat of teenage pregnancy, new HIV infections and gender-based violence through multi-stakeholder engagements and having a commitment plan to guide the implementation;
  - ii. Implementing 100 per cent transition for basic education and provision of capitation for Technical and Vocational Education and Training;
  - iii. Development and implementation of the National Guidelines on Alcohol and Drug Use Prevention;
  - iv. Creation of employment through implementing
    - *Talanta Hela* programme to promote talents and revitalize the creative economy,

- Kenya Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship Accelerator Programme to scale up micro and small enterprises,
  - Access to Government Procurement Opportunity (AGPO) to facilitate economic empowerment and enterprise development among youth, women and people living with disability.
- v. Establishment of various funds to facilitate access to affordable credit e.g. Youth Enterprise Fund, Uwezo Fund and Hustler Fund, Women Fund etc;
  - vi. Setting up 200 digital hubs in TVETs and Technical Training Institutes (TTIs) across the country to increase internet access for job creation;

## **Ladies and Gentlemen**

18. The government is committed to providing timely, credible, reliable, verifiable, comprehensive, well-disaggregated and geo-referenced data for programming. In addition, the government is in the process of embracing digital innovations such as cloud computing and big data to avail data in real-time on population.

19. As I conclude, it should be noted that data alone cannot tell the whole population story. Data mostly reduces people to simple statistics, reinforcing stereotypes, biases and stigma. Let us therefore look beyond the numbers as we develop various programmes to address adolescents and young people's challenges.



20. Finally, I wish to appreciate NCPD for taking the lead and providing guidance in the implementation of the population programmes, KNBS for providing the necessary data, UNFPA, UNICEF, World Bank, for the continued financial support, other government agencies and Civil Society Organizations for implementing population programmes.

21. Let's live with the theme of embracing data for decision-making throughout the year.

**Asanteni Sana**

**God bless you all**