



**REPUBLIC OF KENYA
THE NATIONAL TREASURY AND ECONOMIC PLANNING
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR ECONOMIC PLANNING**

**SPEECH BY THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, MR. JAMES MUHATI, CBS
PRESENTED DURING THE CLOSING EVENT OF THE "TOGETHER" PROJECT
HELD ON 23RD JANUARY, 2025 AT THE KENYATTA UNIVERSITY CONFERENCE
CENTRE**

The Vice Chancellor of Kenyatta University, Prof. Waceke Wanjohi;
The Italian Ambassador to Kenya, H.E Robert Natali;
The Vice Rector of University of Pavia Italy, Prof. Antonella Forlino;
The President of the Committee for the Development of People's Lives (CISP), Dr. Maura Viezzoli;
Representative of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) Rome, Elisa Masi;
Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Morning

- 1) I take this opportunity to appreciate the Vice Chancellor, Kenyatta University together with various project partners for inviting me to this auspicious occasion.
- 2) Indeed, I am delighted to participate in this seminar of the **"Together" Project - *'cooperating for human development: a research and higher education project in Kenya'***.
- 3) The project, which has been implemented for the past three years, aimed at enhancing skills of government officials, development operators and university students in the fields of human development, sustainable development as well as project planning, implementation and management.
- 4) The objectives of the project align well with Kenya's socio-economic transformative agenda of sustainable development that is people

centered as espoused by the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA). BETA is geared towards realizing an economic turnaround through identification of policy priorities that are expected to result in the greatest impact on the economy and achieve inclusive growth.

Ladies and Gentlemen

- 5) I commend the leadership of Kenyatta University for engaging the State Department for Economic Planning in course identification and curriculum design, thus ensuring courses offered by the university address the State Department's training needs and skill gaps.

- 6) Through this collaboration, a total of ten (10) public officers drawn from the State Departments for Economic Planning and ASALs; and fifty-two (52) students from civil society organizations received full scholarships to pursue Master of Economics (Cooperation and Human Development) degree programme at Kenyatta University.

- 7) Further, a total of eighty-nine (89) public officers were fully sponsored to undertake short courses for two weeks in: Project Design, Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation; Social Accounting Matrix, Computable General Equilibrium Modelling and Macro Econometric Modelling Using Eviews; and Human Development Concepts, Measurements and Policies.

8) This timely intervention has gone a long way in equipping public officers with the requisite skills and tools for effective, efficient and impactful planning, policy formulation and implementation. While other advanced economies have leveraged other factors of production to drive economic growth, Kenya's human capital development coupled with appropriate technology adoption is advocated to be the panacea for the achievement of the country's long term development aspirations.

Ladies and Gentlemen

9) Government underscores the critical role that research plays in planning and policy formulation. The research findings on the three fundamental themes of debt, maternal health and Covid-19 will provide evidence to government thereby facilitating the design of interventions to address challenges in these sectors.

10) Government will continue to support research initiatives as well as provide an enabling environment to enhance public-private collaborations in the fields of project management, human development, project monitoring and evaluation.

11) In conclusion, I wish to convey my sincere gratitude to all the project implementors for their contribution to the project's success. Special appreciation goes to the Italian Government for the financial support provided through the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), and all other partners.

12) Last but not least, I would like to congratulate all the course participants for the successful completion of the various programmes. I believe that the knowledge, skills and attitude acquired will propel your professional growth and contribute to the transformation of this country and beyond.

Thank You and God Bless You