



## REPUBLIC OF KENYA

### **STATEMENT BY IRUNGU NYAKERA, PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, STATE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND STATISTICS, MINISTRY DEVOLUTION AND PLANNING, DURING THE MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM (HLPF) HELD ON 17<sup>TH</sup> – 20<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2017, UN HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK, USA**

**Mr. President,**

Kenya's development planning process is consultative and involves all stakeholders. This is in line with the constitution. The Kenya Vision 2030, our country long term development blueprint, mirrors the Agenda 2030. Kenya Vision 2030 is being implemented through five-year medium term plans. Currently third Medium-Term Plan (2018-2022) is being prepared. Budgetary allocation is based on priorities outlined in the plans.

The government of Kenya has produced a roadmap to guide the implementation of SDGs. In order to ensure that the SDGs are prioritized for effective implementation, each of the 17 SDGs has been mapped with the Vision and the plans. Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) will therefore include SDGs in their policy, planning, programming and budgeting. They will also be required to report on their relevant SDGs indicators.

**Mr. President,**

Reporting on implementation of SDGs will require quality, reliable and timely data which is disaggregated appropriately. Kenya is building the capacity of the Bureau of Statistics to enable it support effective reporting on the implementation of SDGs. For initial national monitoring, a total of 128 SDG indicators out of the 230 from Global Indicator

Framework have been identified. More indicators will be incorporated once there is consensus on the methodology particularly for the measurement of Tier III indicators.

In order to ensure that no one is left behind, the country has developed an elaborate programme to reach all its citizens and address their needs. Kenya continues to implement targeted economic empowerment programmes to segments of the population especially the youth, women and persons living with disabilities. The vulnerable persons are also supported through cash transfers.

IEC materials have been produced and disseminated and sensitization forums different stakeholders held. The Coalition of Civil Society on SDGs in collaboration with the Government has also been undertaking community outreach programmes on the Agenda. Social media platforms are being used to disseminate SDGs messages to the members of the public especially the youth who are techno savvy.

To ensure universal access to comprehensive health care, the National Hospital Insurance Fund has been reformed. The reforms include the introduction of free maternal health care in all public health facilities. Two initiatives that have contributed to reduction in maternal deaths are KIROR and the Beyond Zero Campaign. The *Kiror* are homes near health facilities in remote arid and semi arid areas where expectant mothers are accommodated and taken care of to ensure that they do not travel long distances before reaching medical facilities to deliver. Through the *Beyond Zero Campaign*, mobile clinics have been delivered to all the 47 county referral hospitals in the country.

To address disparities among regions, our country adopted a devolved system of Government which has decentralized both services and resources to the sub-national levels. An Equalisation Fund has also been established to support those regions that were previously marginalized to bring them to par with the rest of the country.

**Mr. President,**

Advances in ICT have not only revolutionized the way of doing business but also improved efficiency in delivery of services. Mobile phones and mobile money (MPESA) has radically changed provision of health care especially in informal settlements and poor rural populations. **M-TIBA** is a "mobile health wallet" that allows people to save, borrow and share money for health care at very low cost through an MTIBA nationwide network. Development partners and insurers can use M-TIBA to offer healthcare through vouchers and other modes of payments.

Growth of the ICT Sector has greatly expanded financial inclusion in Kenya. This year, financial inclusion stands at 75.3 % compared to 66.9 % in 2013. Kenyans are now able to make financial transactions from all parts of the country and save and borrow money for small scale investments using their mobile phones.

Kenya recognizes the critical role of infrastructure, industrialization and innovation in the achievement of its long-term development goals. In May 2017, Kenya launched its first phase of the Standard Gauge Railway covering 500 kilometers from the port of Mombasa to the City of Nairobi. This has reduced the time of travel from 10 to about 4 hours while cost of rail transport for both passengers and cargo freight between the two cities is now 40% cheaper than road transport. Plans are underway to extend the railway to the border with Uganda.

To increase regional connectivity, the Lamu Port South Sudan Ethiopia Transport (LAPPSET) is under implementation and will open up Northern Kenya and provide reliable transport to Ethiopia, South Sudan and Uganda. These developments will spur economic activities along this hitherto unconnected region.

**Mr. President,**

Kenya is a youthful country with about 67 per cent of the population below 35 years. In order to harness its demographic dividend, Kenya has put in place programmes to empower the youth to enable them participate effectively in productive economic

activities. These include increased and sustained investments in health and education particularly for women, the girl-child, the youth and other vulnerable groups. The Youth Enterprise Funds, thirty percent access to government Procurement (AGPO) and Women Enterprises Funds are but a few examples of government's initiatives towards empowering this segment of the population.

The Government of Kenya recognizes the role played by Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in job creation. MSMEs employ about 14.9 million Kenyans and contribute 28.8 % to the GDP. This sector will continue to get Government support. Already the government is putting in place a credit guarantee scheme to facilitate financial access to MSMEs.

Finally, public services have been brought closer to the people through one-stop shops known as Huduma Centers. These centres offer 66 different types of government services and have greatly reduced the cost and time taken in delivery of services to citizens. I am happy to report that these centres have also won awards and accolades.

**I THANK YOU**