



**REPUBLIC OF KENYA
THE NATIONAL TREASURY AND PLANNING**

KEY NOTE ADDRESS BY HON. (AMB.) UKUR YATANI, AG. CABINET SECRETARY, THE NATIONAL TREASURY AND PLANNING, DURING THE OPENING CEREMONY FOR THE 8TH MONITORING AND EVALUATION WEEK ON 20th NOVEMBER, 2019, AT THE GRAND ROYAL SWISS HOTEL, KISUMU.

H.E Prof Anyang' Nyongo, The Governor of Kisumu County;

Mr. Abdi M Hassan, County Commissioner, Kisumu County

Hon. Dr. Makali Mulu, Co-Chair Parliamentary Caucus on Evidence-informed Oversight and Decision making;

Members of Parliament Present

Members of the County Assemblies Present;

Principal Secretary, Planning

County Executive Members Present;

Chief Executive Officers;

Representatives of Development Partners;

International and Regional Delegates;

Members of the Academia;

Representatives from Private Sector & Civil Society Organizations;

Public Servants;

Members of the Media fraternity;

Invited Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

All Protocol Observed

It is my great pleasure to preside over the official opening of the 8th Kenya Monitoring and Evaluation Week. I sincerely thank you all for finding time from your busy schedules to participate in this year's Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Week. Specifically I acknowledge the presence of the international delegates from United States of America, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Ghana, Uganda and Tanzania. We are indeed greatly honoured to have you here with us and hope that this Week will be of great benefit to you and your country.

The M&E Week is an annual event held on the 45th Week of every year in line with the draft M&E Policy, since 2012, with an aim of promoting the culture and practice of M&E in the country. The theme of 8th Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Week is "***Use of Evidence: The Role of Evaluations in Governance and Accountability in Implementation of the Big Four Agenda***". The theme was chosen taking cognizance of the role of good governance and effective monitoring and evaluation in successful implementation of the Third Medium Term Plan 2018-2022 of Kenya Vision 2030, the "Big Four" agenda, the Second generation County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) and the Sustainable Development Goals. The theme is also in line with the Kenya Constitution provisions on governance and accountability in the public sector.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Monitoring and evaluation, amplifies the concepts of transparency, accountability and improvement, which resonate with the tenets of good governance. With the advent of globalization, M&E has gained prominence due to the increased demand for good governance in society, and more specifically the focus on the operations and achievements of governments. This

demonstrates and justifies the need for enhanced result-based monitoring and evaluation of policies, programmes, and projects within our institutions as the demand for greater accountability and results increases.

This conference provides a platform for sharing experiences, emerging practices, and new knowledge so as to entrench the culture of M&E. This is crucial considering that the practice of M&E is increasingly being adopted in the public sector to enhance performance towards achieving the aspirations of Sustainable Development Goals, African Agenda 2063, Kenya Vision 2030, the Big Four and County Integrated Development Plans. As Quentin L. Cook once said, *“Even worthwhile endeavors need evaluation in order to determine if they have become distractions from the best goals”*.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Kenya has made significant strides in tracking the implementation of her development plans through Monitoring and Evaluation and other performance management tools. As a Country, we have made progress in institutionalizing M&E through the establishment of the National Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation System (NIMES) and County Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Systems (CIMES) to track progress on implementation of development agenda at the national and county levels respectively. We are also at an advanced stage of preparing a M&E Policy and M&E Bill that will provide the policy and legal framework for operationalization of an robust M&E system at both levels.

Through NIMES, the National Treasury and Planning through the State Department for Planning prepares Annual Progress Reports and conduct Mid Term and End Term Reviews on implementation of the prevailing Government agenda. These reports provide crucial evidence for decision making and keeping development on track. It is my hope that the next annual progress

reports will be generated by the new e-NIMES that my ministry is finalizing its acquisition.

This year's theme "**Use of Evidence: The Role of Evaluations in Governance and Accountability in implementation of the Big Four Agenda**" resonates with the focus of Government in the current medium term plan. It is my hope that the conference will provide invaluable knowledge on how best evidence generated from evaluations can assist to realize the country's aspirations on the Big Four at the National and County Level.

In recent times policy-makers, legislators and other leaders are all yearning for credible and high quality evidence on which to base their decisions about policies, programs, and projects. In the absence of which, most leaders rely on untested views often inspired by ideological standpoints, prejudices, or speculations. Milton Friedman warned that "*one of the great mistakes is to judge policies and programs by their intentions rather than their results.*" Kenya must therefore insist on results more than on processes and intentions.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Entrenching the Monitoring and Evaluation practice will enable implementing institutions to demonstrate results of various interventions thus enhancing accountability to its stakeholders. In addition, evaluations will foster good governance by assessing whether the institutions tasked to implement the "Big Four" agenda are discharging their mandate effectively, providing value for money and addressing the Country's development priorities.

In order to enhance accountability, the National Treasury has developed Public Investment Management Guidelines to facilitate national and county government entities to strengthen project selection, appraisal, budgeting,

monitoring, evaluation and reporting. These guidelines will ensure transparent financial management and standard financial reporting as provided in the constitution. With respect to evaluations, the guidelines require final evaluation and ex-post evaluations (within 5 years after project) are undertaken upon on completion or termination of a programme or project.

Ladies and Gentlemen

This conference provides a platform for policy makers and development practitioners to share experiences, show-case new knowledge and good practices in the field of Monitoring and Evaluation. More importantly, I am confident that this conference will elicit great discussions and come up with recommendations on how to use evaluation to promote governance and accountability in implementation of Government development agenda. In addition it will provide a forum for all of us to share both local and international M&E experiences as well as enhancing networking.

I appreciate the two days pre-conference training on M&E that have been conducted and have confidence those who participated have gained knowledge and skills that will be helpful in your various capacities.

As you are aware, there are various topical panel discussions lined up in the next three days of this forum. I strongly believe that these discussions will generate valuable strategies aimed at promoting evidence based policy making as well as cultivating an M&E culture. In addition, the discussions will explore various ways in which we can build synergies within government and with the private sector, Development partners and other stakeholders in monitoring and evaluating implementation of policies, programmes and projects in Third MTP.

My Ministry in the past few weeks has released the basic report on the enumerated population and held the International conference on population & Development 25. These two events are expected to lead us to more evidence based planning, monitoring and evaluation.

Ladies and Gentlemen

As I conclude, I take this opportunity to appreciate our development partners: UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, DfID and World Bank as well as their respective funders for their technical, financial and logistical support towards the hosting of the M&E Week. I also sincerely thank the Monitoring and Evaluation Directorate for their efforts towards making this event a success.

To all our international and regional guests, I urge you to take time to enjoy the vistas and hospitality of our country especially in this Lakeside City as part of the memories you will take back to your home countries. Once again, Karibuni Kenya.

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is now my duty and pleasure to declare this 8th Kenya National M&E Week officially opened.

Thank You and God Bless you all

