

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY MR. SAITOTI TOROME, CBS,
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, STATE DEPARTMENT FOR
PLANNING, THE NATIONAL TREASURY AND PLANNING,
DURING THE OFFICIAL HANDING OVER OF WATER TANK TO
HOMABAY POPULATION HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT (PHE)
COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS IN HOMABAY COUNTY
2ND FEBRUARY 2021.**

**H.E. GOVERNOR
COUNTY COMMISSIONER
REPRESENTATIVE OF UNFPA
DEPUTY COUNTY COMMISSIONER**

**ASSISTANT COUNTY COMMISSIONER
CHIEFS AND ASSISTANT CHIEFS
MEMBERS OF BWOGI MAK BWOGI CBO**

Good Morning

- It gives me great pleasure to join you today to witness the Population Health and Environment (PHE) activities that you are implementing at the community level with the aim of improving the wellbeing of households in your area. As the Chairman of the National PHE Policy Steering Committee, this is a good opportunity for me to see the outcome of the policy decisions that we have made with regard to implementation of

PHEintegrated approaches in community development planning in Kenya.

Ladies and Gentlemen

- PHE integrated approaches in development planning helps communities to improve their environment while at the same time promoting their health and livelihoods. Conservation and protection of our natural resources including the environment in which we live and derive our livelihoods is very critical in the promotion of good health and wellbeing of people. Every one of us therefore has a responsibility to conserve and protect the

environment for their benefits and the benefit of the future generations. This can only be possible if we practice family planning/child spacing and Reproductive Health care seeking behavior to reduce pressure on the environment and ensure we co-exist harmoniously with our environment while utilizing the environmental resources for our wellbeing. Consequently, we shall be able to achieve our national PHE vision which seeks to ensure that we have a “healthy population living in a sustainably managed environment”.

- One of the Commitments that Kenya has made during the Global Population Summit held in Kenya in 2019 is to enhance the implementation of integrated approaches to development such as PHE. In addition to this, the Medium Term Plan III for Kenya Vision 2030 identifies PHE as one of the best practices that needs to be strengthened in the country. This will be done through the development of a national policy on PHE. Once this policy is in place, the implementation of PHE activities will be given more priority in the country.

Ladies and Gentlemen

- I am impressed by what I have seen in this model PHE home. In this home measures have been put in place to ensure food security by planting a variety of food crops. An energy saving jiko and a water collection system have been installed. This is very important, especially for women and girls, as it provides them with clean drinking water and reduces indoor pollution as well as saving them time and energy that they would otherwise use in search of firewood and water besides the reduction of respiratory diseases caused by indoor pollution. This home also has the kind of toilet that is recommended for promoting good

health in homesteads. I have also learned that the owner of this homestead is practicing modern methods of family planning and promoting the same in this community.

Ladies and Gentlemen

- On behalf of the National PHE Policy Steering Committee, I want to sincerely appreciate Bwogi Mak Bwogi CBO for implementing and sustaining PHE activities in this community. The PHE activities being implemented here need to be replicated by other communities all over the country in an effort to reduce poverty and enhance the wellbeing individuals and families.

Whenever I get an opportunity, I will encourage other CBOs to come and learn from Bwogi Mak Bwogi.

- I want to take this opportunity to thank the National Council for Population and Development for actively promoting the implementation of PHE integrated approaches in the country and arranging for me to make this visit to your community. I also want to thank UNFPA for their continued support for the population programme in Kenya. In particular, I appreciate the support that they have given Bwogi Mak Bwogi in form of water

tanks. This support will no doubt motivate this CBO to continue implementing PHE activities in this community.

Ladies and Gentlemen

- It is now my pleasure and honour to officially handover eight water tanks to Bwogi Mak Bwogi CBO.

Asanteni Sana, Erokamano