

OPENING STATEMENT BY MR. HENRY ROTICH, CABINET SECRETARY, THE NATIONAL TREASURY, DURING THE DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP FORUM (DPF) ON 'YOUTH EMPLOYMENT' HELD AT OFFICIAL RESIDENCE OF H.E. THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT IN KAREN, NAIROBI ON TUESDAY, 8TH DECEMBER, 2015

**His Excellency the Deputy President
Your Excellency Ambassadors and High Commissioners
Cabinet Secretaries Present
Principal Secretaries present
Government Officers Present
Development Partners
Private Sector & Civil Society representatives
The Foundations representatives
Distinguished Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen**

1. I wish to welcome you all the third Thematic Development Partners Forum, kindly hosted by H.E. Deputy President, at his official residence. Let me, therefore, first and foremost take this early opportunity to thank His Excellency the Deputy President for hosting us here in his official residence and also for finding time in his busy schedule to chair this DPF. I am pleased to note that this DPF is happening now, before we proceed on to Christmas holidays, after a very busy year with so many activities.

2. As you are all aware, the DPFs have become a valuable forum for engaging with our development partners and other key stakeholders that provides a platform to identify and deliberate on priority issues in our development agenda. The aim is to have candid discussions on pertinent issues in order to come up with clear and practical solutions which, if implemented, can make a major difference in advancing our development agenda. The 2030 Agenda on the Sustainable Development Goals which was adopted in September 2015 in New York aims at "leaving no one behind" in development. It is in light of this that the theme of our meeting today is on issues of youth unemployment for accelerated and inclusive growth and development.

3. **Ladies and Gentlemen: - During** the last thematic DPF on devolution, some of the issues raised were on effective revenue collection and management, ensuring that county governments receive adequate resources to fund their functions and also capacity building to enable counties to effectively deliver public services. Our tax administration is being reformed to streamline revenue collection and also boost domestic resource mobilization which in the end is shared with County Governments. We also expect that County Governments will streamline their revenue collection so that the resources mobilized can complement what is raised by the National Government for improved service delivery to Kenyans.

4. To this end, the Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS) has been rolled out to all Counties and is currently being extended to State Agencies. Whereas the roll-out to sub national counties is also of priority, there are challenges of infrastructure development that support the system roll-out which needs to be addressed first.

5. On the aid architecture, we have now incorporated County Governments in the aid coordination structure and the Council of Governors Secretariat represents the County Governments during our meetings. We continue to build, the capacities of Counties and today we shall get updates on what has been achieved under the National Capacity Building Framework.

6. **Ladies and Gentlemen:-** Building dynamic, sustainable, innovative and people-centered economies can only be achieved if we promote youth employment and women's economic empowerment through decent work for all. Equity in access, control and participation in resource distribution for improved livelihoods of Women and Youth is important for inclusive growth and development.

7. According to the African Economic Outlook 2015, it is noted that human development gains in Africa alone are uneven with significant inequality within and across countries. Globally, the inclusion of Women and Youth in socio-economic development framework of countries still remain a challenge. Therefore tackling the issues of youth unemployment will be a big step in achieving sustained economic development that a larger proportion of those not in gainful employment are the youth. I therefore call on all of us to endeavor to mainstream youth initiatives in all our planned programmes for inclusive development.

8. **In conclusion, Your Excellency, Ladies and gentlemen:-** I hope that the deliberations and conclusions from this forum will assist in clearly defining the youth agenda through inclusive participation and leadership and also that our actions will be result-oriented and inclusive. You may all wish to note that the topic of discussion today resonates well with one of our flagship topic during the HLM2 on GPEDC to be held here in Nairobi from 23-24 November 2016.

9. Last but not least, allow me to express our sincere gratitude to all those who have made convening of this conference successful; in particular the Office of the Deputy President; National Treasury, Ministries, the Council of Governors, Development Partners, Private Sector and Civil Society Organizations who were all part of the planning team.

10. With those few remarks, let me kindly, invite His Excellency Hon. William Ruto EGH, the Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya to make his opening statement

Thank You.

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