

SPEECH BY CS JOE MUCHERU, EGH, CABINET SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF ICT, INNOVATION AND YOUTH AFFAIRS, DURING THE LIVE LAUNCH OF THE FUTURE BORA INITIATIVE HELD VIRTUALLY ON ZOOM WEBINAR PLATFORM, ON 22ND OCTOBER, 2020.

Allen Curtis K. Dennis, World Bank Representative

Ms Abia Safir, KYEOP Task Team Leader

Government officials

Private Sector Partners

Stakeholders present

All Youth present here today

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am delighted to be here today to preside over this ceremony that marks the official launch of the Future Bora Initiative under the Kenya Youth Employment and Opportunities Project (KYEOP).

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This initiative, which we are launching today, is part of a five-year Government Project known as the Kenya Youth Employment and Opportunities Project which is funded with a credit of USD150million (≈Ksh15billion) from the World Bank (WB). The Project aims at addressing the issue of Youth unemployment by

targeting Youth between the age of 18 and 29 years old, whose highest education level is Form 4 and who are either in vulnerable employment or have experienced extended periods of unemployment. It is based on lessons learned from the pilot Kenya Youth Empowerment Project (KYEP) and targets at least 280,000 Youth with various products.

I take this opportunity to thank the World Bank for providing the Government with a credit to finance the implementation of the Kenya Youth Employment and Opportunities Project and look forward to continued collaboration.

Ladies and gentlemen,

While skills and work experience are important, expanding opportunities for Youth also requires interventions that expand job creation and increase earnings for Youth who are interested in self-employment or wage employment, whether in the formal or informal sectors.

In Kenya, vulnerable and under-served Youth population groups - such as Youth who were orphaned in their childhood, Youths from vulnerable and marginalized communities, persons with disabilities, Youths living in conflict-prone areas and or are affected by conflict, single mothers, and street Youths- are even more adversely affected by the challenges of unemployment as they are unable to

participate and benefit from mainstream employment interventions.

In addition to the challenges faced by most of the unemployed Youth, these Youth groups face obstacles that are unique to their environments. Some of these challenges include stigmatization and misconceptions, sole childcare responsibilities, lack of mentorship, and limited access to adaptive learning.

It is on this basis that the Government in partnership with the World Bank designed the Future Bora Initiative. Through the Future Bora Initiative, we are looking into identifying high-impact interventions for creating economic

opportunities for the hard-to-serve and fund them to scale.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Future Bora's target segment for the development and delivery of the desired interventions includes social enterprises, non-government organizations (NGOs), Private Sector, Community Based Organizations (CBOs), or partnerships among these various types of organizations, and specifically to those with a presence in Kenya.

The choice of the target segment was informed by the desired impact on the target group which is an expansion of economic opportunities for hard to

serve Youth, sustainability, cost-effectiveness, and scalability abilities in comparison to individuals.

Winners will be selected based on their track record, and the economic viability, merit, sustainability, and potential to improve earnings and employability of targeted Youth. They will also have to demonstrate financial integrity, relevant capabilities, clear management, and operational structures.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Future Bora Initiative fits well into the Government's Youth employment agenda and will contribute to enhancing Youth employability. We also look forward to

learning valuable lessons through this programme that could be of use in future scale-up.

The Governments' concern for the Youth cannot be overemphasized. In this regard, the Government, through relevant Ministries, and, with support from Development Partners will continue to implement programmes and Projects aimed at addressing the challenges facing the Youth.

In conclusion, Ladies and Gentlemen

The Ministry of ICT, Innovation, and Youth Affairs undertake to continue offering

leadership and coordination for effective implementation of the Project.

Further The Ministry undertakes and looks forward to the continued partnership with the private sector and Development Partners in order to enhance the participation of Youth in the Economic Development Agenda of our Nation.

With those few remarks, I wish you all God's blessings in all your endeavors.

Thank you.