

TALKING POINTS BY THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, STATE DEPARTMENT FOR YOUTH, MR. JULIUS KORIR, CBS, DURING THE YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM HELD ON 30TH JANUARY 2020 AT CHESUMEI CONSTITUENCY, NANDI COUNTY

- **Hon. Dr. Wilson Kogo, Member of Parliament Chesumei Constituency**
- **Mr. Kutswa Olaka, County Commissioner, Nandi County**
- **Mr. Mwamachi, Deputy County Commissioner, Nandi County**
- **County Government Present**
- **Our Esteemed Partners present**
- **The Youth of this Great Nation**
- **Our Officers**
- **Distinguished Guests**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

1. I am greatly honoured to officiate today's public sensitization and cheque issuance here in Chesumei, Nandi County.
2. On behalf of everyone here today, I express my deepest appreciation for all the hard work that has gone into organizing this Empowerment Program in Constituency. I wish to extend a special thank you to the Member of Parliament for this area, Dr. Wilson Kogo, for the invitation and involvement in the entire program. It shows commitment and dedication for the Young People of Chesumei. Thank you.
3. I take note that the Forum we are holding today is a culmination of a weeklong entrepreneurship training for Youth in the constituency. Am aware, the forums were conducted at the ward level and covered various entrepreneurial topics as well as how to take advantage of various Government opportunities. Further, I am informed that a total of 230 Youth Groups were mobilized and Kshs 10M in loan applications received. I congratulate you all on doing such an outstanding job.
4. I urge you to utilize the information gathered, align your businesses to the Big 4 Agenda to reap the maximum benefits of your investments and accelerate the achievement of Government objectives.
5. Let me assure you that the vetting process shall be hastened and money will be in your accounts as soon as possible.

Ladies and Gentlemen

6. The Youth constituted as at 2016, 32 per cent of our population and this has increased as per the just concluded census. This makes Youth a critical component of our Nation's Development Agenda.
7. Youth form part of the most active workforce in both the formal and informal sector; in addition to being the largest consumers of products and services in the market. It is definite that the realization of Kenya's Big Four

Agenda, Vision 2030, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is dependent on this important group in our population.

8. To optimize on their contribution, the Government has made commendable efforts to address Youth Empowerment and Inclusivity. Seven years ago, the Fund was established with the primary aim of empowering our Youth. Over the period, the Fund has disbursed Kshs.13B benefiting over 2 Million Youth across the country.
9. In particular, and more specific to this area, a total of Kshs. has been disbursed to.....We acknowledge that several businesses and employment the opportunities have been created in the process. Taking into account that opportunities that seemed obvious a few years ago are no longer that obvious.
10. Additionally, the Government introduced UWEZO Fund and AGPO, (that reserves 30% of all procurement to Youth, Women and Persons with Disabilities). Regarding, the uptake of UWEZO in this area, which stands at 70% for women, while it is 26% for Youth and the Persons with Disability at 4%, I must say that there is need to change approach, if indeed we are in the business of empowering our Youth.
11. Multi-Sectoral and Inter-sectoral approaches will work in addressing the Fund uptake among the Youth. Let's change the narrative. Further, this is revolving fund, interest free and not a political reward. Remember, a revolving fund works well when you borrow and repay. It is the way to increasing the number of Youth beneficiaries.
12. I have already instructed our Staff to ensure that information regarding access of both Fund is available to our Youth. High impactful sensitization forums should be held in our wards to create awareness as early guided and reports submitted appropriately.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

13. In order to address the diverse Socio – Economic needs of Our Youth, we have established Youth Empowerment Centres that provide Youthfriendly services. The Centres provide mentorship, vocational and entrepreneurial development skills, among other services.
14. In this regard, two (2) Youth Empowerment Centres at Aldai and Emgwein Constituency have been refurbished and equipped. I urge our Youth to make us of them.
15. To our partners, I want to tell you the Centres are available free of charge when conducting a Youth Empowerment Programme. Our Officers will mobilize the Youth and avail space.

Ladies and Gentlemen

16. To ensure that all our programmes are well coordinated for high impact in the realization of our dreams, we are rolling out the implementation of Kenya Youth Development Policy (KYDP) 2019. This Policy provides strategies, measures and Framework of Coordination of efforts in Youth Empowerment. When fully implemented, our Youth will realize their potential and be globally competitive and prosperous.

17. To conclude, I would like to state that the success of the fund and programming in the Youth Sector is much stronger when we share information and act together in implementing sound guidelines and measures. The cooperation of the County Government, area MP, local leaders, Youth and Youth Leaders enhance trust between us and improve our effectiveness. Let's work together to empower our Youth and develop our great Country as one.

18. I, therefore, hope that we shall continue to work together with the office of Hon. Dr. Wilson Kogo and partners as one so that we each capitalize on our strengths to make the dreams of our young people a reality.

Ladies and Gentlemen

19. With those few remarks, it is now my honour to issue cheques to successful applicants.

Thank You.