

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



**MINISTRY OF ICT, INNOVATION AND YOUTH AFFAIRS
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS**

**TALKING POINTS BY MR. JULIUS KORIR, CBS, PRINCIPAL
SECRETARY, YOUTH AFFAIRS DURING THE CONFERENCE ON
WOMEN IN MANUFACTURING AND YOUTH BANKABILITY AT
THE VILLA ROSA KEMPINSKI HOTEL, NAIROBI ON FRIDAY
9TH, OCTOBER, 2020**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honor and privilege for me to be invited to attend and provide my insights during this conference for women in manufacturing and youth bankability.

Pursuant to the Executive Order No. 1 of 2020 Issued on 14th January, 2020 and May, 2020 (Revised) on the Organization of the Government of the Republic of Kenya the State Department for Youth Affairs is mandated to promote youth empowerment, mainstreaming youth in national development and harnessing and development youth talents for national development. Other mandates are; managing and promoting engagement with youth for national development and collaborating and overseeing stakeholders engaged in youth promoting activities.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

To enhance the collaboration and oversight of the stakeholders engaged in youth promoting activities as outlined under the Executive Order No. 1 of

2020, the Ministry of ICT, Innovation and Youth Affairs through the State Department for Youth Affairs signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM) on Wednesday 16th, September, 2020.

The purpose of the MoU was to economically empower the Kenyan youth and facilitate their participation in nation building through enterprise development, technical and vocational skills development; advocacy and the promotion of locally manufactured products.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

There are **13.8million** youth (in the ages of 18-35years) in Kenya accounting for **29.1%** of the total population according to the **2019 Kenya Housing and Population Census (KPHC)** report. This being the largest segment of population are our strength, wealth and drivers of innovation and talents. The Government through the State Department for Youth Affairs has undertaken a number of initiatives to promote women (in the category of youth) in manufacturing and youth bankability. These include:

- (a) The provision of financial resources to the youth involved in value addition activities such as processing through the Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF) that has cumulatively disbursed KSh.13billion since 2007;
- (b) The existence of other Affirmative Action Funds namely Uwezo, Women Enterprise Fund (WEF) and National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF) to supplement the resource needs for both women and youth;
- (c) Promotion of Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO), “**Buy Kenya Build Kenya**” policies that target youth for economic empowerment to spur manufacturing and youth bankability;
- (d) The Kenya Youth Employment Opportunities Project (KYEOP), a five year World Bank funded initiative that was developed to increase employment and earning opportunities for targeted youth and to act as a basis for incubation of their business ideas;

- (e) The collaboration with the Kenya Post Office Savings Bank (Postbank) to promote a savings culture for the youth involved in various initiatives such as National Health Programme (*Kazi Mtaani*), KYEOP and other income generating activities that will enhance their security at accessing various loan products available from financial institutions;
- (f) The expansion of the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions in Kenya through upgrade of infrastructure to impart knowledge, skills necessary for industrial development and the realisation of the manufacturing pillar of the Big 4 Agenda (of increasing the manufacturing to 20% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by the year 2022). Further, it will be instrumental in the realisation of the Kenya Vision 2030 blueprint (to transform Kenya into a newly industrialising, middle-income country).

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In conclusion, it is my sincere hope that these brief remarks will provide insights into various programmes and activities deliberately established by the Government through the various mandates to promote women in manufacturing and youth bankability.

Finally, quoting from Ifeanyi Enoch Onuoha, a Nigerian Author “***Youths are our arrows to the future***”. It is thus incumbent upon them to make appropriate choices that will enhance the socio-economic development of Kenya through entrepreneurship.

Asanteni sana na Mungu awabariki.