

**TALKING POINTS FOR PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, STATE
DEPARTMENT FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS, MR. JULIUS KORIR,
CBS AT THE LAUNCH OF THE YOUTH INNOVATION CENTRE,
ISIOLO COUNTY ON 8TH OCTOBER, 2020**

- **Cabinet Secretary, Public Service and Gender
Prof. Margaret Kobia**
- **Cabinet Secretary, Youth and ICT- Mr. Joe Mucheru**
- **Cabinet Secretary, Devolution and ASALs –
Mr. Eugene Wamalwa**
- **Chief Administrative Secretary, Youth and ICT –
Ms Nadia Ahmed Abdalla**
- **Permanent Secretary, Youth and ICT - Mr Julius Korir**
- **Chairman, Council of Governors - H.E Wycliffe Oparanya**

- **Governor, Isiolo County Government –
H.E Governor Mohamed Kuti**
- **Representatives of Norwegian Embassy; Foreign
Commonwealth Development Office; United Nations
Development Programme**
- **Director General, Kenya School of Government**
- **Chief Executive Officer, Huawei**
- **National Youth Council Kenya**
- **Film Classification Board**
- **Frontier Counties Development Council**

Ladies and Gentlemen!

1. Today is a great day! It gives me great joy to witness the launch of this Youth Innovation Centre.
2. The Youth Population in Kenya is very significant. The Government is making great strides in creating opportunities for Youth as we implement our agenda of the Big 4 Priorities. Our constitution guides us very well on how best to successfully accomplish Youth engagement and Development.

3. The State Department for Youth Affairs has taken deliberate efforts to create ***Safe Spaces*** for Youth activities and programs at the County levels. The Youth Empowerment Centres (YECs) are a Kenya Vision 2030 flagship programme under the Gender, Youth and Vulnerable Groups sector of the Social Pillar, which recognized the need to rehabilitate or build one Youth Empowerment Centre (YEC) in each Constituency.
4. The YECs are modelled as a '***One Stop Shop***' providing Youth-friendly services to the young people of Kenya in order to address

their diverse and dynamic needs. In addition, the YECs promote and nurture Youth talent, positive leisure, recreation and interaction.

5. Here, the Youth meet and access information and resources. They are provided with skills training, increasing their employability, and consequently, contributing to the economic growth of our Country. These Centres are also points of incubation of ideas and mentorship.
6. It is hoped that the integration of services such as entrepreneurship training, information provision, ICT, counselling, games, community mobilization and networking will make YECs to be hubs for all Government Youth activities Countrywide.

7. We have revamped our YECs so as to complement the Constituency Innovation Hubs. We are also making concerted efforts to equip the centres and connecting them to internet for the purpose of innovation incubation as well as opening up online opportunities. This, we know, will significantly contribute to employment and decent livelihoods for our Youth

8. Our Partners have been encouraged to consider YECs as training venues. The Centres are available free of charge while conducting Youth Empowerment Programmes and our Youth Development Officers at the Regional, County and Sub-County levels are at hand

to assist with the mobilization of the Youth. We have also encouraged the trainings and the disbursement of the YEDF and other Affirmative Funds from these centres.

9. Currently we have refurbished 150 YECs across the country. 68 of these are fully equipped and operational while 82 require to be equipped so as to be operationalized. It is our hope that the remaining 140 Constituencies will also soon get to enjoy these services provided at the YECs.

Thank You.