

**REMARKS BY JULIUS KORIR, CBS, PRINCIPAL SECRETARY,  
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR YOUTH DURING THE OCCASION OF  
THE TRAINING TO BE HELD ON 24<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2020 AT WEST  
WOOD HOTEL, WESTLANDS, NAIROBI**

**Colleagues**

**Youth Leaders**

**Ladies and gentlemen**

1. I am greatly honored to make opening remarks at this occasion of training the T.o.T
2. I would like to commend the leadership of SOWED Kenya for initiating this training. It gives us the opportunity to share information and chat way forward in the youth co-creation of programs and implementation.
3. As we are all aware, we are faced with unprecedented health and economic challenge precipitated by the Coronavirus Pandemic. The pandemic has aggravated the challenges we face as Youth and Youth Sector. Many of our Youth are stressed and traumatized. About 1.5 million of them have lost jobs. The situation needs action from all of us.
4. Recently, the Government launched an 8-point Economic Stimulus Package to protect the vulnerable and revamp the economy. The success of the initiative depends on the collective efforts of the Youth, Government Agencies and Civil Society Organizations. The Department is well positioned to assist the Youth tap into the opportunities presented.

Our teams on the ground are working closely with other Government Agencies to ensure Youth get maximum benefit of the initiatives.

5. As a Department, we are working closely with partners to ensure Youth are empowered and adequately represented in decision making processes.
6. Our support to Youth Enterprise Development Fund is unequivocal. We want to see the time around for loan application reduced to less than one – week from the time of loan application; the loan packages have been redesigned to ensure that they meet the aspirations and needs of the Youth.
7. We have continued to make deliberate efforts to bring on board as many partners as possible for the benefit of Youth. In this respect, we have brought on board Kenya Association of Manufacturers, Development Partners in the Youth Sector, Mavazi Program, among others.
8. These institutions will compliment the efforts of the Funds by offering training on enterprise development and provision of job – readiness skills. We are optimistic that this will offload some load from the funds and allow them to perform optimally.
9. Am keen to empowering the National Youth Council to deliver its mandate to the Youth in carrying out its advocacy role. We have already engaged staff to assist in this.

10. We have agreed with the Youth Officers to initiate programs relevant to circumstances facing Youth.
11. As you go out after this training, share the information gained with your colleagues and be our ambassadors. I wish you fruitful deliberations for the two days of interaction with the trainers.
12. With those few remarks, it is now my honor to officially declare this training officially open.

**Thank You**