

TALKING POINTS BY SICILY K. KARIUKI (MRS), CBS, CABINET SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SERVICE, YOUTH AND GENDER AFFAIRS DURING THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONSULTATIVE SECTORAL FORUMS ON 6TH APRIL, 2016, KICC, NAIROBI

Cabinet Secretaries present,

Principal Secretaries present,

County Executive Committee Members,

Ladies and Gentlemen

- I welcome today's intergovernmental meeting as a very important step in facilitating the commitment by the two levels of Government to ensure Kenyan receive seamless service irrespective of which level of government is offering the service.
- This is what is required of the public service by the Constitution – **effectiveness, efficiency** and is **responsiveness**.
- I am equally pleased that this occasion also marks the launch of a new sector forum on public service, a recognition of the important role of the public service as a driver to achieving national development goals.
- It is therefore the expectation that the Public Service Forum and indeed the other sector Forums will come up with ways of ensuring there is equitable distribution of quality public services, no matter the point of access.

- As I recognize the efforts of those that have made this meeting possible, I wish to appreciate that the recent reorganization of Government now provides my Ministry the framework to engage in the not only in the specific issue of public service but also gives focus due attention to youth and gender.

Ladies and Gentlemen

- The Public Service must be acceptable to our citizens and address issues of public concern, including: sustainable wage bill, efficiency, productivity, Governance, transparency, accountability and prudent management of resources.
- On our part, the National Government desires to transform the Public Service by building and implementing service delivery systems and culture that will not only ensure efficiency, quality, speed, convenience and dignity in service delivery, but also global competitiveness .
- I wish to note that the Huduma Kenya programme provides an opportunity for such joint working between National and County Governments as seen in some counties. It is therefore our desire to see this collaboration happening in all the Counties.
- Huduma Kenya is part of a wholesome transformation of public services as we seek to; reduce in the cost of providing and accessing public services; develop and maintain globally competitive service delivery standards; and improve the country's ease of doing business and attract investment.

- The Joint National and County Government Coordination Summit agreed to undertake the programme of Capacity Assessment and Rationalisation of the Public Service (CARPS) Programme, another reform programme that seeks to ensure that both levels of Government functions are properly structured and staffed to facilitate transformation of the Public Service.
- The devolved government system, transfer of functions and County Governments has made it necessary that we realign structures, processes, programmes, institutions and staffing to core mandates of the Governments at the national and county level.

Ladies and Gentlemen

- The Public Service is facing a number of human resource management challenges, if not addressed are likely to impact on the gains of devolution and delivery of public service.
- The establishing of the Public Service Forum recognizes the need to address among others the following urgent issues:
 - Common norms and standards in human resource management and development, including career advancement and performance management within the two levels of government,
 - Harmonization of terms and conditions of service of civil servants serving at the two levels of government and more so those serving the county governments,
 - Issues related to transition from the old governance system resulting in several challenges including, issues of staff deemed seconded.

- Despite efforts to address the capacity needs of the counties, there still exist skills gaps in the public service. There is inadequate capacity at both levels of government to implement their respective mandates and functions.
- We also recognize that to meet our obligation of fair equitable treatment of citizens as envisioned in our Constitution, there is urgent need to ensure the establishment of a pension scheme for county employees.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Despite these challenges, today is another step forward.

- The public sector must commit to improving productivity - maintaining or increasing levels of service provision with much reduced resources.
- The Public Service must also look at innovative and creative modes of service delivery.
- Equally, sustainable development Goal 16 has new requirements for improving the public service which include - good governance, rule of law, and strong institutions.
- I wish to reaffirm that the Ministry of Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs is committed to ensure that the Forum is active, successful and realizes its goals.
- Finally, I urge the key actors in public service to continue in this spirit of cooperation and to support the Forum, as it is meant to realize; gains for the public service and gains for Kenya.

God Bless You.