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### **A. About Youth Agenda**

Youth Agenda (YAA) is a national, non-partisan and non-profit Civil Society Organization advocating for young people by developing the capacity of youth to take charge of their affairs in their county through leadership trainings and support, knowledge generation and dissemination and facilitating platforms to engage in governance and development processes. Youth Agenda also closely monitors and track youth participation, representation, government responsiveness to youth priorities and consistently engages in advocacy campaigns to protect and promote youth access to political, economic and social opportunities.

### **B. About the Statement**

Following CS Ukur Yatan's budget presentation to the National Assembly on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2020, Youth Agenda reviewed the Budget Statement to assess its responsiveness to Youth. In this case, Youth Agenda defined responsiveness as deliberate programmes/sub programmes/outcomes that directly target the youth.

### **C. Budgetary Allocations deemed to be Youth Responsive as per the Final Budget Statement 2020/21**

Through the Economic Stimulus Package - Covid-19 Response, we identified the following youth responsive programmes.

1. Allocation of Ksh 10.0 billion to the "Kazi Mtaani Programme" targeting unemployed youth in the major cities and urban settlements of Nairobi, Mombasa, Kisumu, Eldoret, Nakuru and other major towns across the country. The programme targets to engage 200,00 youth in fumigation, storm water drainage works, cleaning of markets and informal settlements, rehabilitation and maintenance of access roads, foot bridges and foot paths and other environmental management activities.
2. Allocation of Ksh 2.4 billion for recruitment of 10,000 intern teachers to support the 100 percent transition in schools.
3. Allocation of Ksh 300 million for recruitment of 1,000 ICT interns to support digital learning in public schools.
4. Allocation of Ksh 1.2 billion for the recruitment of an additional cohort of 5,000 healthcare workers to support local health staff for a period of one year, and Ksh 500 million to the supply 20,000 locally made beds and beddings to public hospitals.

5. Supporting Tourism Recovery: Ksh 1.0 billion is allocated to support to Kenya Wildlife Services to engage 5,500 community scouts for a period of one year.
6. Improving Environment, Water and Sanitation: Ksh 540 million allocated to enhance tree planting programme across the country using locally sourced seedlings.

Beside the youth responsive programmes under the economic stimulus package, Youth Agenda also identified the following youth responsive programmes.

1. **On Quality and Relevant Education**, the government has allocated Ksh 2.0 billion for Recruitment of 5,000 teachers; Ksh 6.3 billion for the construction and equipping of technical institutions and vocational training centres (**TVETs**); Ksh 94.9 billion to support University Education (**Universities**); and Ksh 16.8 billion to the Higher Education Loans Board (**HELB**).
2. **To promote Equity**, Poverty Reduction and Social Protection for Vulnerable Groups, the government has allocated Ksh 10.2 billion to the National Youth Service (NYS); Ksh 2.1 billion to the Kenya Youth Empowerment Project; Ksh 359 million to the Youth Enterprise Development Fund; Ksh 82 million to the Youth Employment and Enterprise (Uwezo Fund); and Ksh 150 million to the Women Enterprise Fund.
3. **To promote equity and social development in marginalized areas**, the Government has allocated Ksh 2.1 billion for National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NG-AAF).
4. **To promote Sports, Culture, Recreation and Tourism**, the government has allocated Ksh 14 billion to Sports, Art and Social Development Fund.
5. **Departmental Priorities deemed to be Youth Responsive from the Programme Based Budget**

To know the actual departmental priorities for the financial year 2020/21, Youth Agenda also undertook a review of the Programme Based Budget. The following are some of the priorities deemed to be youth responsive.

1. State department for Crop Development & Agricultural Research prioritized to sensitize and train 500 youth on modern agriculture; Train 50 youth on capacity building and enterprise development; Equip 10 youth with production, processing or value addition Equipment; and fund 300 early stage youth agribusinesses.
2. State Department for Industrialization through Kenya Youth Empowerment and Opportunities Project KYEOP prioritized to issue 6,439 youth with startup capital.
3. State Department for Labour through the Kenya Youth Empowerment and Opportunities Project KYEOP prioritized to train and certify 22000 youth in industrial skill and recruit 500 Master Craftsmen to train informal sector workers. It also seeks to place 28,000 trainees on industrial attachment.
4. State Department for Gender through UWEZO fund plans to train and disburse 350 Million to 3500 Youth, Women and PWD Groups.
5. State Department for Youth prioritised train 30,000 youth in paramilitary; enroll 30,000 youth in Technical Vocational Training; Sensitise 50,000 youth on AGPO promotion, Entrepreneurship skills and social vices; engage 9000 in internship and Apprenticeship; develop and harness talent of 4700 youth; train 5000 youth in life skills and core business skills; Operationalize 10 Youth Empowerment Centres; support 1500 youth to access business incubation and innovation

services; train 73000 youth on entrepreneurship skills and awareness on AGPO; support 1800 youth to market locally produced goods and services; disburse 575 Million to Youth through YEDF; Engage 16000 youth in leadership and governance initiatives; and register 2000 youth Serving organization.

6. State Department for East African Community prioritised sensitization of Women, PWDs, Youth and Professionals on trade opportunities.
7. State Department for Regional and Northern Corridor Development seeks to employ 400 youth
8. State Department for Post Training and Skills Development seeks to train 100 youth under the apprenticeship program
9. State Department for Vocational and Technical Training prioritised to enroll 108,500 youth to Vocational Training Centres.
10. State Department for Culture and Heritage prioritized to nurture 200 youth to live off their musical talents.

#### **D. Our Concerns**

1. **Youth and the Big 4 Agenda:** Over the past decades, Government efforts to reducing unemployment have had less impact. This is as a result of lack of a clear strategy on how the jobless youth can be integrated in the country's growing economy. The transformative development blueprint (Big 4 Agenda) presents a strong enabling platform to enable youth to secure a bright future and maximize their potential. However, there is no clear roadmap of how youth can tap into the opportunities of the agenda and how this plan can translate to job creation for the youth. To provide Affordable and Decent Housing for All Kenyans, the Kenya Mortgage Re-finance Company (KMRC) is operationalized to address funding constraints, increase access to affordable credit, grow the primary mortgage market and reduce the funding cost of residential mortgages; and land identified to develop 100,000 units under the Urban Areas and Cities Act. While lauding government effort, we note that the new budget does not provide for a roadmap of how youth will benefit from the agenda. In this case, Ksh 4.2 billion is allocated for Kenya mortgage refinance company; Ksh 1.3 billion for construction markets; and Ksh 0.3 billion for Housing Units for Police and Kenya Prisons.
2. **Youth SMEs:** Past surveys shows that firms headed by women and youth find it very difficult to obtain the funding and information they need to fuel company growth. In the financial year 2020/21, the government has prioritized supporting Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises by facilitating access to adequate finances through the Credit Guarantee Scheme. As a result, Ksh 3.0 billion has been allocated as seed capital for the SME Credit Guarantee Scheme. A number of Development Agencies who have also shown willingness to put in additional resources to support the Scheme. However, no measures or guidelines are proposed to ensure that Youth led SMEs access the fund and relevant information.
3. **Internship Programme:** Lack of practical experience is one of the major challenges in formal employability of youth. To bridge this gap, the government adopted the Internship Policy for the Public Service in 2016. This is a commitment to promote and strengthen internship programmes for the youth graduating from training institutions to enable them acquire practical experience. T. The programme aims to: Enhance youth development and employability by creating clear linkages between education, training and work; Provide hands-on experience to build upon skills learned in

the classroom; Fulfil the legal requirement for registration by professional bodies; Develop a culture of high quality life-long learning, positive work habits and attitudes; and Establish a supply pipeline of skills to the public service. The Internship policy provides for interns to be paid a stipend as may be determined by the Public Service Commission from time to time. MDAs are expected to make budgetary allocation for the stipend on annual basis. Subsequently, the Commission issued a circular determining that the interns be paid a stipend of between Kshs.15, 000 - 25,000. A review of the FY 2020/21 budget reveals failure of various Departments and Agencies to plan for the recruitment of interns and make budgetary allocation for the approved stipend. The policy also provides for its review after every three years or as need arises in order to address emerging issues. Three years down, no review has been done. The FY 2020/21 budget failed to provide for the review of the Internship Policy, 2016.

4. **Youth Employment Targets:** Noting the deliberate move by various departments to create job opportunities as evidenced below, the target numbers are not disintegrated by age, gender and ability. To address the high rate of youth unemployment in Kenya, it is expected that the various employment creation strategies as outlined in the MTP 3 and other policy documents should be reflected in the Programmes and sub-programmes across relevant sectors that have the responsibility to create jobs. However, this hasn't been done properly across most of the sectors.
5. **Utilization of Youth Data:** While it is expected that the 2019 National Census would generate very useful data on the status of youth employment in Kenya, there is very little demonstration on how data has been utilized in planning and budgeting for the needs of the youth.

**For more Information, Please Contact us through**

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