



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND GENDER

**REMARKS BY PROF. MARGARET KOBIA, Ph.D, MGH,
CABINET SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND
GENDER DURING THE VISIT TO NYS GILGIL CAMPUS ON
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10TH 2020**

Hon. Rachel Shebesh – Chief Administrative Secretary

**Mrs. Mary Kimonye, MBS – Principal Secretary, State
Department for Public Service**

Lt. Gen (Rtd) Njuki Mwaniki – Chairperson, NYS Council

Ms. Matilda Sakwa, EBS – Director General, NYS

Ms. Ruth Mbuvi – Commandant, NYS Gilgil Campus

Servicemen and women,

Recruits

1. It is an honour and privilege for me to extend a very warm welcome to the new recruits of National Youth Service (NYS), Gilgil Campus.
2. On behalf of the Ministry of Public Service and Gender where the NYS is domiciled, I am here with a team of well-wishers, and Management.
3. I bring you greetings and good will message from His Excellency the President, Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta whom you all know is a champion of youth empowerment.

4. I congratulate all of you for successfully competing and securing a seat in this reputable Government institution.
5. This truly means a first step towards achieving your dreams and realizing your life goals.
6. It does not matter where you are beginning now. What matters, is for you to focus and get the best knowledge and experience from your instructors and the environment. I can assure you, all of us are readily available to listen to your needs as you undergo this Para Military training.
7. The National Youth Service exists for the purpose of empowering young people like yourselves with knowledge, skills, experience and values that will enable you to exploit your potential, earn a decent livelihood and exercise your agency for the betterment of Kenya. You can look forward to taking courses in any other nine schools within the service depending on your grade and preference. This training will ready you for the highly competitive job market and equip you with the technical knowhow to not just survive, but thrive in the job market.
8. In addition to practical vocational skills, NYS will strive to impart in you the highest standards of professionalism and discipline that should set you a cut above your peers in terms of work ethic, patriotism and sense of national duty.
9. The National Youth Service plays a central role in accelerating the implementation of national development projects in collaboration with other public entities. You will interact with some of these projects when you proceed on National Service duty after your passing out parade a few months from now.
10. The Service has a strong record of delivering quality on time and within budget and we hope that when your time comes, you too will leave your mark on Kenya's landscape as so many before you have done

through projects such as the rehabilitation of the Kisumu port, Mama Ngina Water Front in Mombasa and the rail network from Nairobi to Nanyuki.

11. NYS training is one of the Government strategies for empowering the youth to gain skills for meaningful employment. Over 230,000 servicemen and women have passed through this training and are now making a contribution in various organizations as national builders.
12. Most of the NYS graduates are employed in Public Service, disciplined forces and in the Private Sectors (Carrefour, Centum, China Roads Corporation etc.)
13. I encourage you to take full advantage of this training and get involved and participate in most of the extra curriculum activities that come your way. You may discover some of your hidden talents.
14. As you are aware, the vision of H.E. the President is to have a united, peaceful and prosperous Kenya. You will notice you all come from every corner of this country. I encourage you to share His Excellency's vision and make lasting networks and stronger interpersonal relations which is a life skill that you will always need.
15. I am aware your training and stay at this Gilgil Campus will be difficult and challenging as you take every instructions and train for long hours. I remind you nothing comes easy. The higher the challenge, the better the results. Thus, have a positive outlook, the rewards will be life changing for you, your family and the society.
16. Perseverance is the name of the game. Have clarity of what you want in life and focus on and never give up on all these opportunities in Government.

17. True to self, true to country: NYS is the premier institution through which we in government try to grow a critical mass of patriotic youth who espouse the values in our constitution of transparency, integrity, honour and decency. Be patriots and be our ambassadors to pass on these values to other youth out there by how you carry yourselves. Let them learn these values by following a shining example from you.
18. In conclusion, life is a long journey with ups and downs. However, many people such as your parents, relatives and the Government are helping you along that journey. Do not compare yourself with anybody else because God created you for a diverse purpose. Define your own success in life and always remember your destiny is in your own hands.
19. Finally, I would like to thank the NYS Council, Director General, Management and staff, you have done a very good job of settling down the recruits despite Covid-19 Pandemic. The parents and Government have entrusted you with these youthful Kenyans.

After six (6) months or so, we will be back for accountability and graduation. Wishing you all the very best. Our career journey of your future begins here at NYS Gilgil.

20. I now wish to announce His Excellency the President's Christmas gift to you all

I thank you. God bless you. God bless Kenya.