



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND GENDER

SPEECH BY PROF. MARGARET KOBIA, Ph.D, MGH, CABINET SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND GENDER, DURING THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS ON 8TH MARCH 2021 AT THE KENYA SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT, KABETE CAMPUS - NAIROBI

Your Excellency, Mrs. Margaret Kenyatta, First Lady of the Republic of Kenya,

Excellency Ambassadors/High Commissioners,

Representatives of Development Partner Organisations,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. I am pleased to warmly welcome you all to the International Women's Day 2021. The International Women's Day is celebrated annually on the 8th of March to recognize and celebrate the unique and diverse achievements of women globally. I wish to thank Her Excellency, Mrs. Margaret Kenyatta, the First Lady of the Republic of Kenya for honoring our invitation during the International Women's Day Celebrations. We salute you for your award winning programs in promoting quality of lives through Beyond Zero Initiative.
2. The theme for this year's International Women's Day: **"Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world"** illustrates the urgency of putting women and gender equality at the core of recovery and bouncing back better.

Women in Leadership and Decision Making in our Country has been a long windy journey with many obstacles along the way. However, the determination and commitment of the many women to ensure their perspectives are brought into the fore, cannot be ignored. Today, we pride ourselves by recognising various women and men, through our annual **Trailblazer Awards and Recognition Programme**. This seeks to celebrate efforts of women, men and institutions in promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment. The awards are of various categories ranging from economic empowerment, leadership, Anti-FGM efforts, peace and security and institutional awards. I thank various organizations who have supported the awards. We shall also today be launching the Kenyan Chapter of the **50 Million African Women Speak Platform**. I am hopeful that this initiative will improve women businesses and enhance their contribution to the economic growth of our country.

Your Excellency, - Government Strong Statement on Policy and Coordination.

3. As you are aware, the vision of His Excellency, Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta is to have a united, peaceful and prosperous inclusive nation. The projects and programs that the Gender Department delivers, are focused to realization of that shared vision. Together we can achieve a more equal world where men and women have equal opportunities for a better quality of life.

4. Our Chief Guest, in conclusion, Kenya commits to stand on the right side of history in appreciating the role women play in national development, and in the implementation of international values and standards on gender equality and women's empowerment. I am confident that with effective implementation of gender policy, enforcement of laws, continued political goodwill, and change of attitude among majority of Kenyans, we shall secure gender equality and the empowerment of Women. It is now my humble duty to invite Her Excellency, the First Lady of the Republic of Kenya, Mrs. Margaret Kenyatta to give her keynote address.

I Thank You.