



### **Govt to recognize innovative institutions at Public Service Fete**

Over 100 public institutions will converge at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC) from 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2023 to showcase innovations, achievements and their positive contribution to the country's socio-economic development during this year's edition of Africa Public Service Delivery National Celebrations.

The event to be graced by His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta will also present an opportunity for the public sector organizations to take stock of their performance over the last 10 years and make a prognosis for the future as they seek to enhance service delivery to the Kenyan public.

It will be preceded by tree planting at Ngong forest on 20<sup>th</sup> June where several cabinet secretaries led by Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Public Service, Gender, Senior Citizens and Special Programmes, Prof Margaret Kobia, and development partners, will plant trees in response to the presidential directive of ensuring that Kenya achieves 10 percent forest cover by the end of this year.

Themed, "Celebrating Public Service Transformation: Ten Year Journey and beyond", the event seeks to motivate and encourage public servants to come up with innovative ideas, obtain

feedback from the public on services rendered, and reinforce the need for the public servants to adhere to and uphold the core values of professionalism, accountability, responsiveness, ethics and excellent performance in discharging their duties.

The event will comprise exhibition and symposium. Under exhibition, Ministries, Departments, Agencies and Counties will showcase outstanding innovations that have transformed service delivery to the citizens in the past 10 years. The innovations will be categorized into five thematic areas – Business Process Re-engineering, Innovations for Inclusive and Equitable Service Delivery, Public Service Digitization, Entrenching Performance Management: Success in cascading Performance Contracting and Environmental Conservation and Climate Change initiatives. The most outstanding innovations and innovators will be awarded with trophies and certificates at a ceremony on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

The symposium will involve paper presentations and panel discussions to provide an opportunity to scholars, practitioners and thought leaders to share new information and research in public service transformation. The topics will cover; fostering innovation to deliver inclusive and equitable services, strengthening resilience in nutrition and food security for a healthy nation and harnessing health and social protection systems to accelerate social and economic development. Other areas to be covered are, harnessing the youth potential for digital transformation in delivery of services, environmental conservation and climate change initiatives, deepening devolution to enhance service delivery and improve citizens' livelihood, and emerging issues and public service of the future.

Africa Public Service Day is embedded in the African Union calendar. The event owes its roots to a landmark declaration by the Conference of African Ministers for Public or Civil Service held in Tangiers, Morocco in 1994 during which the ministers set aside 23<sup>rd</sup> June as APSD Day to recognize the value and virtues of service to the community. The declaration would later be reaffirmed in Stellenbosch, South Africa, at the fourth Pan-African Ministers' Conference in 2004.

Since then the annual celebration has grown with more countries joining to commemorate the day. At present, APSD boasts of the support of the majority of African Union member countries with a combined population of one billion people. The celebration is structured at two levels – national and continental. While at the national level it is held every year, at the continental level it is a biennial event. Zimbabwe hosted the last (8<sup>th</sup>) APSD event at the continental level.

Some of the benefits the participants and exhibitors will realize at the APSD National Celebrations are; strengthened collaboration and partnerships, visibility for their innovations and new and innovative approaches to public service delivery.