**SPEECH BY HON. JUSTIN B. N. MUTURI, EGH, CABINET SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT DURING THE FIRST REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE AFRICA SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT AT KSG MOMBASA HELD ON 22nd OCTOBER, 2024**

Mr. Felix Koskei, EGH, Chief of Staff and Head of Public Service;

Mr. Amos Gathecha, EBS, Principal Secretary, State Department for Public Service;

Principal Secretaries present;

Justice (Rtd.) Charles Nyachae, Chairperson of KSG Council,

Members of KSG Council present;

Prof. Nura Mohamed, Director General KSG;

Directors-General of Schools of Government;

Government of Kenya officials;

Development Partners;

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen

It gives me great honour to preside over the 1st Africa Schools of Government Conference hosted by the Kenya School of Government. This was the aspiration and affirmation of Africa Heads of State and Governments Golden Jubilee (50th) Celebrations during the celebrations of the formation of the OAU/AU, back then, in May 2013. This conference is to examine mechanisms of advancing this transformative agenda and pursue a unified approach to enhance the capacity building of Africa’s public service. It is also a platform for collaboration and linkages between African Management Development Institutes (MDIs) and Schools of Government to engage into peer-to-peer learning as a strategy of delivering on their mandates.

The Africa Agenda 2063 under the mantra **“*The Africa We Want”*,** also envisioned advancing Public Sector Excellence through capable institutions and transformed leadership in Africa. This Conference today is united in pursuit to realize capable institutions and transformed leadership coordinated by Premier Africa School of Government.

***Ladies and gentlemen,***

The AU Agenda 2063 clarion call is **“Educate and Skill Africa for the 21st Century.”** It aspires that: Heads of Governments, Ministers and senior public servants have access to the latest thinking on institutional reform, management and leadership competencies that drive value creation in policy environments and Governments.

I wish to acknowledge the work the Kenya School of Government and Management Development Institutions have done over the years; to provide learning and development programs to capacity-build public officers in different aspects of management and operations of Government in Kenya, the Region, and the Continent and beyond.

Now, we need one premier institution that develops curricula to realize Africa public service excellence. This conference offers us a singular opportunity towards achievement of that goal.

***Ladies and gentlemen,***

Transformation of great leaders and capable institutions destines a paradigm shift in service delivery. It injects urgency on training at top policy and political levels with systematic induction and training programmes targeting Ministers, Assistant Ministers, Principal Secretaries and Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of State Corporations and Agencies, Members of Commissions and Board of Directors.

Such unified approach will produce top leaders exemplified by:

1. Allegiance to Governments, to the Chief Executives and the principal officials of the day;
2. Ability to evaluate the implications of policy options and to tender clear and honest advice in the process of policy formulation;
3. Support and implement the administrative decisions irrespective of their personal preferences and should not make known their own views in public;
4. Dedication to assisting principal officials in explaining policy decisions and in gaining support of the legislative body and the public;
5. Focused to delivering public services efficiently and effectively.

We believe that the mission of Kenya School of Government situates it in the middle of politics and public service, to solve some of the most contentious issues facing Africa’s leadership today. We also believe that by combining cutting-edge research, training and direct interaction with practitioners, KSG has proven to be capable institution with strong leadership to solve capacity building of Africa’s public service that no other institution can match.

***Ladies and Gentlemen,***

I am excited to see what the MDIs and Schools of Government will do in the near future following this inaugural 1st Africa Schools of Government Conference.

My call to you all, therefore, is to urge you to**, ‘Ask what your country can do to make Africa public service better.’** We must change Africa for the better. Be united in pursuit to realize capable institutions and transformed leadership by changing Africa School of Government to build and develop cutting edge programs that can tackle, unlock and develop transformative solutions to public challenge. I urge you to use your talents and energy to advance the common good which is to foster a more diverse and inclusive African community everywhere you are called to serve. Change Africa’s public service,change it for the better, make it more humane, make it more just, make it more prosperous, and make it more peaceful.

***Ladies and gentlemen,***

I wish to commend you for holding this inaugural Africa Schools of Government Conference. I am proud to be associated with these institutions that are working to better the lives of the public servant through inculcating the value of continuous learning, evidence based research and engaging for positive impact on this continent.

I wish to congratulate you Kenya School of Government for this milestone and urge you to sustain the enthusiasm, to stay committed, and to be the Premier Africa School of Government.

**God bless you all;**

**God bless Africa.**

**Thank you.**