**REMARKS BY HON. JUSTIN B. N. MUTURI, EGH, THE CABINET SECRETARY MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT DURING HIS INAUGURAL VISIT TO THE NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE (NYS) HEADQUARTERS ON TUESDAY, 8TH OCTOBER 2024 AT 10.00 A.M.**

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

I feel truly honored to stand before you today during my inaugural visit to this esteemed institution. First, I would

like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the council and management for the wonderful welcome and the impressive parade. It is no mean task to have this level of preparation at such a short notice.

I come to this institution at a time when we are globally celebrating the Customer Service Week. As a service-oriented organization, it is important embrace this year’s Customer Service Week theme which is “**Above and Beyond”**. I urge all of us to serve Mwananchi with utmost professionalism, diligence, efficiency, prudence and hard

work, as we offer timely service above and beyond the expectations of the citizens of our beloved nation.

I recognize that sometimes back, the Service faced significant challenges, including weak systems, uncertainty, and a damaged public image. However, for the short time I have been at the helm of this ministry, I have noticed that the Service has gradually redeemed itself from these shocks. I would therefore like to sincerely thank the Council and management for working tirelessly to put the Service back on track.

I wish to caution the unscrupulous traders who may have in the past viewed this institution as a cash-cow, that, this organization, is hence a transformed and disciplined institution that only engages in honest transactions aimed at efficient service delivery.

We must however resist the temptation to become complacent in the wake of these achievements and instead strengthen and initiate progressive policy, legal and institutional reforms as well as programmes and projects that will guarantee greater efficiency, effectiveness,

transparency and accountability in the management of the Service, securing it firmly in the transformative leadership trajectory.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I too envisage a revitalized Service that will act as a key enabler and a driving force behind the Kenya Kwanza Government Manifesto, the Vision 2030, and other development agendas. By harnessing the innovative energy of our youth, we can pave the way for the

prosperity of our nation. I believe that together, we will realize the government's aspirations to nurture a generation that is not only skilled but also deeply committed to the betterment of our nation.

As we strive for greatness, I must acknowledge that there are serious challenges that we must overcome including inadequate infrastructural facilities and staffing due to increased number of recruits. I am also aware of the budgetary constraints the Service is facing particularly in

regard to funding commercialization and development that are adversely affecting delivery of the NYS vision.

While this is an emerging issue that cuts across all levels of Government occasioned by under performance of our economy, I will strive to look for resources to support the Service given its strategic role in the development of this country.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I recognize the deep desire of the Service to enhance sustainability of its programmes by utilizing its vast resource base to undertake commercial and enterprise activities as a strategy for generating income for the Service to reduce the burden on exchequer, while increasing skills development and job opportunities for our young people.

Towards this end, I have taken serious note of H.E the President's vision of making NYS self-sustaining to effectively support the youth agenda. I will therefore prioritize the execution of the eight business plans which were developed in collaboration with the University of Nairobi Enterprises and Services Limited (UNES) among other directives issued from time to time. The implementation of these plans and directives will be crucial in transforming this vision into reality.

For example, the recent approval for employment of **200** cadet officers and **500** privates by H.E the President will enable the Service to significantly reduce the staffing challenges. These challenges notwithstanding therefore, it

is my undertaking to ensure that the National Youth Service has the budgetary support, other resources and assistance, and Government goodwill required for you to deliver what we envision as well as the hopes and aspirations of our young people and the nation at large.

Further, I commit to strengthen strategic partnerships, and leverage other Government agencies in both public and private sector, locally and internationally in the furtherance of the functions and programmes, and cascading of the Service benefits and impact.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As I conclude, I wish to observe that as a key player in the national development programmes, the Service is at the core of the Government’s initiative to curb the climate change menace. In view of this, I am glad to note that the Service intends to propagate 50 million tree seedlings and grow 5 million trees this financial year, thereby making a significant contribution to this vital drive aimed at growing 15 billion trees. Additionally, the Service has been called upon to support the restoration of the Nairobi Rivers

Basin as part of the Climate WorX initiative. I strongly encourage the management to diligently implement these activities, as they are essential not only for environmental sustainability but also for securing a healthier and more resilient future for our nation.

Allow me to conclude by reiterating that I am immensely proud of what the Service has been able to achieve amidst unique challenges and emerging issues. I call upon all of us to further commit to supporting the continued

transformation of NYS in whichever capacity we are for the good of the youth of this great nation.

I call upon each of you to work in unity. Our strength lies in our collaboration, and together we can create a lasting impact on the lives of our youth and our nation. Let us embrace the challenges ahead with determination and resilience. Together, we will build a National Youth Service that not only empowers our young people but also contributes significantly to the development of our beloved country.

**Thank you!**