MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

SPEECH DELIVERED BY PROF. JACOB KAIMENYI, PhD, FICD, EBS, CABINET SECRETARY MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DURING THE KENYA UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES CENTRAL PLACEMENT SERVICE STAKEHOLDERS WORKSHOP AT BOMAS OF KENYA ON 23RD APRIL, 2014.
Principal Secretaries, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology
Chairman of the Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service Board, Prof. David Musyimi Ndetei
Board Members, Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service
Vice-Chancellors
Principals of Constituent Colleges and other Colleges
Ag. Secretary/CEO, Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service Board, Mr. John Muraguri
Chief Executive Officers/Secretary of stakeholder Institutions.
Deputy Vice-Chancellors
Deputy Principals
University and College Registrars and Staff
Staff of the Placement Service
Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen
I am delighted to officially open the first stakeholders forum of the Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service that brings together Universities and Colleges in Kenya. I note with gratification the great strides made by the Board during its short period of existence under the able leadership of Prof. David Ndetei and would like in a special way to thank the Board for the Commitment to the Placement Service. When I launched the Placement Service Board on February 10th this year, I emphasized its enormous task of Upholding equity and balanced access to Universities and Colleges by:
a) Ensuring that every Kenyan Child who merits, gets access to the course of their choice and University or College of their Choice.
b) Strictly observing fairness and accountability in the policy applied for Placement.
c) Developing suitable criteria to promote affirmative action and other strategies as may be approved by the Government for the marginalized, the minorities and persons with disabilities.

Ladies and Gentlemen
The constitution of Kenya stipulates the right to education as one of the rights under the Bill of Rights.
Universities and Colleges must be at the forefront of ensuring that the right of education for every Kenyan child is upheld for the attainment of vision 2030.
The education sector is key towards the attainment of our Kenyan Vision 2030 and all Universities and Colleges must reengineer programs towards labor market trends and key sector requirements, enhance research and aim at producing holistic graduates.
The Placement Service Regulatory powers must be exercised to ensure that while coordinating placement of Government Sponsored Students to Universities and Colleges you seal any loopholes which might have existed in the past.

Ladies and Gentlemen
Section 57 of the Universities Act, 2012 provides that Universities and Colleges may independently admit students to their programmes in accordance with their approved admissions criteria. Universities and Colleges must then ensure that only Candidates who merit are admitted and the Placement Service must play its regulatory oversight role. The Commission for University Education and Technical and Vocational Education and Training Authority (To be constituted soon) must play a key role in ensuring quality in our Universities and Colleges.

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

Technical and vocational education is one of the key drivers of robust economies all over the world. It is my joy to see representation of Kenya Association of Technical Training Institute (KATTI) and Technical and
Vocational Education Training (TVET) in the Placement Service Board and their participation in the stakeholder forum. We must continue to nurture the growth of this very vibrant sector.

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

The Universities Act, 2012 provides that the Placement Service will disseminate information on the areas of study prioritized by the Government. This is key as socio-economic growth will be driven by the labor market supply. Our country is in need of expertise in all fields among others ranging from anthropologists, historians to engineers and doctors. The Government has been and will continue to fund all these areas of study and others as priority areas for the achievement of vision 2030.
Ladies and Gentlemen

The Universities Act, 2012, further, under Section 53 has established a fund to be known as the University Fund which under Section 54 (4) (d) will, in consultation with the Public Universities establish the **maximum** differentiated unit cost for the programmes offered.

This fund is yet to be established. However, I am aware that the Vice-Chancellors of Public Universities through Professor Oduol`s Committee have been working on a model of Differentiated Unit Cost (DUC). I am also aware that the TVET institutions through KATTI have also commissioned Professor Oduol to develop DUC for Technical and Vocational Training.
These two reports will be considered for adoption to guide implementation of funding to Universities and Colleges while awaiting the setting up of the University Fund.

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

KCSE 2013 Candidates are eagerly waiting for direction from this forum, as placement must be done on time to allow students report to Universities and Colleges by September. I am informed that all Universities and Colleges have adopted the first week of September as their admission date. The Universities Act, 2012 provides that the Placement Service will coordinate placement of Government Sponsored Students to Universities and Colleges. This notwithstanding, as a Ministry, we are working towards putting in place the necessary
mechanisms for placement as provided for by the Act. This year, however, the Placement Service is guided to place Government Sponsored Students to Public Universities and Colleges, as we work towards ensuring that 2014 KCSE Candidates are placed to all Public/Private Universities and Colleges.

Similarly, it is my hope that at the end of this stakeholder’s workshop, a placement policy and procedure for placing students to Universities and Colleges will be approved.

In conclusion, Ladies and Gentlemen
The Board of the Placement Service has diverse wide experience and is up to the task and we must all continue to support them. I wish to take this opportunity to thank the Joint Admissions Board for the exemplary service to the nation over many years. It is my sincere hope that the integrity they exercised will be replicated by the current Placement Service in its expanded mandate. Thank you and I wish you all a very productive workshop.

With those many remarks, it is my honour and pleasant duty to declare today’s stakeholder’s workshop officially open.

**Thank you and God bless.**