



## **Opening Remarks by Prof. Victor Murinde, Executive Director, AERC Policy Dialogue on Human Capital Development**

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**October 8, 2024**

Good morning, distinguished guests, colleagues, and stakeholders.

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to this important policy dialogue on human capital development (HCD). Today's discussions could not come at a more critical time. As we all know, the development of a nation rests heavily on the strength of its people—their skills, knowledge, and overall well-being. Human capital is not merely a component of growth; it is the foundation upon which sustainable development is built.

At the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC), we believe that investing in human capital is essential for unlocking a country's full potential. Education, health, and job creation are fundamental pillars of this investment, and the research we are presenting today aims to shed light on the policies that can make this possible. As we review the impacts of school feeding programs, free primary education, and the disruptions caused by COVID-19, it is my hope that we can work together to create actionable, evidence-based strategies that will enhance the future of Kenya's education system.

The challenges are significant, but so are the opportunities. With concerted efforts, I am confident we can close the gaps in education access and ensure that every child in Kenya—regardless of their background—has the chance to succeed. This dialogue will help us move closer to that goal.

I look forward to the rich insights and discussions that will follow today, and I am hopeful that our collective ideas will help shape policies that lead to a brighter future for Kenya.

Thank you, and I wish you all a productive session.

