

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Nairobi, 24<sup>th</sup> May 2019...** Labour and Social Protection CAS, Hon Abdul Bahari has said that the government will no-longer register Charitable Children's Institutions (CCI) in Kenya.

"We will enhance the deinstitutionalization programme and promote alternative family care initiatives to allow children be brought up in a family environment." Said the Labour CAS.

He spoke during the centenary celebrations of 'Save the Children' and launch of the Country Strategic Plan for the children at a Nairobi hotel last week.

He said that children should grow within the communities they come from and that Children Institutions should be the last resort for them.

He said that the Ministry has domesticated two international legal instruments which is the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) into the Children Act 2001.

"However, the Ministry has come up with the Children Bill which aligns the children laws to the Constitution of Kenya 2010." Said Hon Bahari.

He said that the Ministry has developed guidelines on the alternative family care and missing children to give directions on how children should be handled in the event they are not under parental care.

"We are further developing guidelines on child online protection to address all forms of online child abuse." Said the Labour CAS.

He said that Save the Children is well aligned with the Big 4 agenda, as it focuses on reducing malnutrition which speaks to the Nutrition and Food Security agenda, and reducing maternal, child mortality and morbidity, which directly contributes to the Universal Health Care.

Hon. Bahari said that the government has achieved a lot in its efforts on the attainment of rights and the improvement of the welfare of our children.

"The Ministry has been implementing a cash transfer for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) for the last 15 years which has seen 353,000 households benefitting from a stipend of Ksh. 4,000 every two months which is regular and predictable." Said the Labour CAS.

In her remarks, the Country Director of Save the Child Ms. Wang Le reiterated that Investing in the future of children is a priority and that all stakeholders must massively step up their efforts to be there for children.