

GOOD DEEDS DAY (GDD) 2ND AFRICA REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Nairobi 9th Friday 2019... According to the World Giving Index 2017, Kenya is ranked among the top 10 countries with a 51 per cent participation in volunteering time and 60 per cent participation in giving behavior.

The report further says that Kenya has over 13,950,631 volunteers involved in volunteer work.

And speaking during the official opening of the Good Deeds Day (GDD) 2nd Africa Regional Conference in Nairobi, State Department of Social Protection PS, Nelson Marwa said the State Department is in the process of ensuring enactment of the draft of Volunteerism Bill which has been forwarded to the State law office for redrafting and onward submission to Parliament for approval.

He said that the Volunteerism Bill will provide a legal framework for the promotion, co-ordination and management of volunteerism to safe guard the interests of all the players.

The three-day(August 6th – 8th 2019) conference which attracted over two hundred delegates was organised by The Volunteer Involving Organizations Society (VIOs), the State Department for Social Protection, the County Government of Nairobi and the Good Deeds Day International.

In attendance was the Global CEO of the Good Deeds Day Mr. Kaynan Rabin.

Good Deeds Day is a global movement that unites thousands of businesses and organizations in 108 countries in doing good deeds for the benefit of others.

The Conference theme was: “A world of Doing Good: Leveraging on Corporate Volunteering, Youth Engagement and Partnerships for Africa’s Socio-Economic Growth”.

The Conference was attended by delegates with a majority drawn from Africa including North Africa Nations. The representatives included top Government Officials, Senior Representatives of UN Agencies and International Organizations,

Private Sector Corporate Leaders, eminent Researchers, Volunteer Managers and Volunteers.

“Good Deeds is a great platform for promoting volunteerism in Africa particularly in Kenya where it is underpinned by cultural notions of belonging.” Said PS Marwa.

The PS said that through Executive Order no. 1 of 2018, the State Department is mandated to coordinate and promote volunteerism initiatives in the country. “We co-hosted the Good Deeds celebration on 2nd April, 2017 and subsequently looking forward to celebrating the next one on the 29th March, 2020.” Said the Social Protection PS.

The PS said that the State Department has established the National Volunteerism Secretariat in the Department of Social Development to support the institutionalization and operationalisation of volunteerism in Kenya.

“The State Department has developed the National Volunteerism Policy, 2016 which provides a Framework for implementation of volunteer’s activities, creating a more structured room for partnership in the sector.” Said PS Marwa.

He said that the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection promotes volunteerism through engagement of volunteers in different programmes which include the Volunteer Children officers and the Lay counsellors who provide psychosocial support and other crisis interventions. “Other programmes in the Ministry that benefit from volunteers include cash transfer to Older Persons, Persons Living with Disabilities’ (PWDs) and the Orphans and Vulnerable where volunteers support with mobilisation and social audit in the programmes.” Said PS Marwa.

PS Marwa said that volunteerism has contributed immensely to peace and National development goals by strengthening civic engagement, safeguarding social inclusion, deepening solidarity and harnessing ownership of development results.

“I urge all the Volunteers to work hand in hand to ensure they deliver the best interest of the people and inculcate the culture of giving back to the society as a way of promoting peace and development for the success of Kenya, and also for the continent and the world at large”. Said the PS.

He reiterated the government's commitment to live and celebrate the ideals of volunteerism through the practice of good deeds and that the department is grateful for the partnership it has had with the Volunteer Involving Organisation Society and Good Deeds Day Movement in Kenya.

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