



**STATE DEPARTMENT FOR SOCIAL PROTECTION, OFFICE
OF THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY**

**SPEECH BY MR. NELSON MARWA SOSPETER, EBS
,PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, STATE DEPARTMENT FOR
SOCIAL PROTECTION DURING THE INTERNATIONAL DAY
OF THE OLDER PERSONS CELEBRATIONS HELD ON
TUESDAY, 1ST OCTOBER, 2019 AT UMAMA GROUNDS,
EMBAKASI, NAIROBI.**

OCTOBER 2019

TALKING NOTES FOR THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR SOCIAL PROTECTION
DURING THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE OLDER PERSONS
CELEBRATIONS
HELD IN UMAMA GROUNDS, EMBAKASI ON
1ST OCTOBER 2019
THEME: JOURNEY TO AGE EQUALITY

- It is indeed an honour and a privilege for me to join you today on this memorable occasion as we mark the International Day of Older Persons.
- Today we join hands with people across the globe in commemorating the International Day of Older Persons to celebrate the important role, contributions, wisdom and sacrifices made by our older people to ensure that future generations enjoy quality lives. This year's theme is **“The journey to Age Equality”** domesticated sub theme **“Tuthamini Uzee”**.
- Some lessons come in an instant, and others must be learned from years of experience and growth. The older we grow, the more we learn about kindness, patience, heartbreak, love and mercy. All of these experiences lead us to a deeper understanding of life's seasons and a greater wisdom of God's presence through them all, and help us make sense of this year's theme:
- **“Tuthamini Uzee”**, as we empower them by promoting and strengthening their active participation in the social, economic and political life to reduces inequalities.
- The family and community remain the most effective and important institution in caring for older persons. Let us promote awareness among the

younger generation through formal and informal education to respect, recognize accept and care for our older persons.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- To address issues affecting the older persons, the National Policy on Older Persons and Ageing and the National Standards and Guidelines on the Establishment and Management of Institutions for Older Persons have been developed. Currently, Kenya is in the process of ratifying the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa.
- The Government continues to take measures to guarantee security and safety of older persons through the implementation of various targeted programmes such as the National Social Security Fund which provides finances to retirees in the formal sector and the National Hospital Insurance Fund.
- The Ministry of labour and Social Protection, continues to make progress in improving the lives of older persons by creating awareness on elder abuse, tackling poverty, improving life expectancy and extending access to basic services through the Inua Jamii Programme which provides cash transfers to the Older Persons, Orphans and Vulnerable Children and Persons with Severe Disabilities.
- The Inua Jamii programme currently provides social assistance to **833,129** households headed by older persons. This has significantly reduced abject poverty and improved the quality of life of older persons.

- During 2018/19 the programme has undergone through radical re-engineering aimed at making its implementation more credible, transparent and above all more dignifying to the beneficiaries.
- This process involved the migrating of beneficiaries from **Card Based** to **Account Based** model of payments through four contracted Payment Service Providers Namely Co-operative Bank, Equity Bank, Kenya Commercial Bank and Postbank. This system is more secure, affording them banking services by choice, payments in proximity to their locations, ability to save and withdraw from several outlets among others.
- The State Department for Social Development has just recently concluded the Inua jamii Clinics exercise to address case management issues in all the 47 counties.
- I wish to thank all stakeholders who participated in making this day a success by organizing various weeklong activities that culminated to this day, Sholder trust for organizing for a walk from Uhuru Gardens on 28th September 2019 and La Vie Foundation for organizing a procession and medical camp on 26th September 2019.
- In conclusion, I wish to take this opportunity to appreciate the National Steering Committee, County Steering Committees, Stakeholders, Development partners and senior citizens who are with us today and all those who made this occasion a success.
- With those few remarks, it is my pleasure to join you in celebrating the International Day of the Older Persons 2019.

Thank You and God Bless You.