



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

**SPEECH BY MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL PROTECTION
CABINET SECRETARY HON. (AMB) UKUR YATANI DURING THE
SOCIAL PROTECTION SECTOR REVIEW LAUNCH AT THE
INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL NAIROBI ON 11TH OCTOBER, 2019**

SPEECH BY AMBASSADOR UKUR YATTANI, THE CABINET SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL PROTECTION DURING THE CELEBRATIONS TO MARK THE SPINA BIFIDA DAY HELD AT FEED THE CHILDREN, DAGORETTI, ON 25TH OCTOBER 2019

The Chairman National Council for Persons with disabilities

Invited Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen.

It gives me great pleasure to be with you this morning as we mark the Spina Bifida Day.

As you are aware, the International Day for Spina bifida and Hydrocephalus was set aside by the European Union and the International Federation for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus and is celebrated annually on 25th October.

The Day provides a platform to honor survivors, create awareness on the causes and care and advocate for preventive measures of the conditions. It is also a Day that our society is sensitized on the existence of those with the condition and the challenges they face as persons with disabilities. The theme for this year's Day is ***Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Made Me Better***

As a country, we are pleased to celebrate this Day with the rest of the World. The Day is symbolic as it forms part of the major days and events that our country celebrates to honour persons with disabilities and create awareness on disability. We celebrate these days with a view of eliminating stigmatization and promoting inclusion of persons with disabilities.

Ladies and gentlemen

As you are aware, my ministry is implementing a number of programmes that are aimed at improving the lives of persons with disabilities country wide. One of the programmes that my ministry is implementing is the cash transfer to households with persons with severe disabilities. Under this

programme, the government provides a stipend of Ksh. 2000 per household every month.

In promoting mainstreaming of disabilities in all sectors, the Government introduced a target on Disability Mainstreaming on the Performance Contracting within the public service. Under this target, all government Ministries, Agencies, Departments and County governments are supposed to report on their achievements in mainstreaming disability in their programmes and policies. This guarantees the promotion of inclusion of persons with disabilities in the public sector.

Ladies and gentlemen

Over the years, my Ministry has continued to support the programmes of the National Council for Persons with Disabilities so to enable it deliver on its mandate as provided for in the Persons with Disabilities Act 2003. The Funding to the Council has grown from Ksh. 232 million in 2008/9 Financial Year to Ksh. 1.692 billion in 2018/19 Financial Year.

Further, to strengthen the operations of the Council, my Ministry is committed to finalise the review of the Persons with Disabilities Act before the end of this Financial Year. So far the persons with disabilities (Amendment) Bill 2018 has been forwarded to the Attorney General for approval. From here the Bill will be sent to parliament for debate.

In addition, to streamline the issuance of the tax exemption through the Council and fast track the registration of persons with disabilities, my Ministry in partnership with the Kenya Revenue Authority and the Ministry of Health has reviewed the regulations for tax exemption and registration of persons with disabilities. With the implementation of the new regulations it is expected that persons with disabilities will no longer keep waiting too long to get their tax exemption certificates. The delays in the registration will also be a thing of the past as the disability assessment reports will be issued in time.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am aware of the numerous challenges that persons with Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus face. Some of these include access to drugs such as the Oxydiutinine which is expensive and not readily available in our local hospitals. I am also aware of the high cost and unavailability of continence material such as the catheters used by those with hydrocephalus condition.

I would like to assure you that my Ministry will work with relevant government departments to make these essential drugs and materials available and affordable to all those with these conditions.

I also wish to assure you that during the replacement of the beneficiaries of the Cash transfer to persons with severe disabilities, my Ministry will consider persons with Spina Bifida and hydrocephalus conditions during this Financial Year to replace those who have exited from the programme. We intend to allocate more resource going forward so that more persons with these conditions are enrolled on the programme. This is expected to ease the burden of the households with persons with Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Last year, Kenya was privileged to co-host the Global Disability Summit with the UK Government and the International Disability Alliance (IDA) from 23rd July to 24th July, 2018 in London. The aim of the Summit was to galvanize global effort to address disability inclusion and to generate sustainable commitments from Governments, Donors, Civil Society, Foundations and the Private Sector/Companies.

I am pleased to inform you that Kenya is on course in implementing the recommendations of the summit which include:

1. Finalizing the review of the Persons with Disability Act of 2003
2. Finalizing the National Persons with Disability Policy, 2017

3. Developing an Action Plan for implementation and monitoring of the commitments made at the Summit.
4. Developing a National Assistive Technology Policy.
5. Fastracking the Ratification of the African Union Protocol on Human and People's Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
6. Formalizing the partnership pledges in respect of local and international actors.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Going forward, I wish to assure all of you that my Ministry will continue supporting programmes aimed at empowering persons with disabilities throughout the country. My Ministry will also ensure that the needs of persons with disabilities are taken care as we implement the Big Four Agenda of the Jubilee Government i.e., Manufacturing, Universal Health Care, Affordable Housing and Food Security.

Ladies and Gentlemen

As I conclude my speech, I wish to reiterate the role of each one of us in realizing an inclusion society. As we mark this Day, it is the duty of all of us to take bold steps in addressing cases of discrimination and stigmatization of persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities have a lot of talents that lay untapped. Let us give persons with disabilities opportunity to shine. To echo the words of Eliud Kipchoge, **No human being is limited.**

Thank You