



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

STATE DEPARTMENT FOR SOCIAL PROTECTION

**VISIT TO LIGHT AND HOPE CENTRE FOR
CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES**

**TALKING NOTES BY THE CABINET SECRETARY,
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL PROTECTION
MR SIMON K. CHELUGUI**

30TH JUNE 2020

**His Excellence the Israel ambassador to Kenya,
The Country Director, Social Development,
The CEO national council for people with disabilities,
Representatives from other institutions / organizations,
All Government officials,
Management and staff of this institution,
Watoto,
The media
Distinguished Guests**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning

It is with great appreciation that I join you all to witness the handing over of assistive technology devices that have been donated by the Israel Embassy here in Kenya,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

According to the Kenya National Housing and Population Census, 2019 the overall disability rate in Kenya is 2.2% which translates to 918,270 persons with disabilities. Additionally Kenya has a total of 9,720 Persons with Albinism.

Access to appropriate Assistive Technology enables people with loss of function, disabilities, non-communicable diseases, and the aging population to participate in education, work, family, and community life. Without

Assistive Technology, individuals may experience isolation and exclusion from education, the labour market, and civic life.

Mobility carts are a form of Assistive Technology developed for people to maintain or improve functioning and thereby promote their well-being. It enables people with difficulties in functioning to live healthy, productive, independent and dignified lives, participating in education, the labour market and social life.

To raise awareness, reduce stigmatization and discrimination, the Ministry is in the process of finalizing an awareness creation booklet so as to increase the levels of public awareness on the needs, aspirations and capacities of persons with disabilities to enhance their acceptance, participation, inclusion and integration in society.

There is also need to raise and sustain awareness about the existence of affordable assistive products and that their use can be a cost-effective intervention to reduce disease and disability burden.

We appeal for the integration of assistive products into services at the primary health care levels as a move towards universal health coverage which is one of the governments Big 4 agenda.

We are aware people with disabilities cannot afford to purchase assistive devices due to the high costs. We are therefore encouraging local manufacturers to venture into this technology so that as a country we can diversify the production of assistive devices beyond wheel chairs and sound enhancement devices.

In order to improve the quality and standards of assistive devices, the government is developing an assistive technology policy that will look into all these issues and ensure that people with disabilities get devices that are affordable accessible and of high quality.

We are also in the process of regularizing and enforcing standards on innovation for development and importation of assistive devices. The Government is in the process of setting up an assistive technology HUB. Consultations are ongoing with major stakeholders including universities, innovators, producers, users among others.

I wish to appreciate the Israel Government for supporting this center through the purchase of this land and the establishment of this center.

I understand that this center currently supports 127 children with various forms of disabilities.

Let me also thank Israel Government most sincerely for the donation you are making here today which will go a long way in assisting the beneficiaries to be able to undertake their daily social activities in a better way. Thank you very much for your kind gesture

To all the children in this Center wish to encourage you all that disability is not inability, you all have a chance to become what God always wanted you to become

Thank you and May God bless you all