



**MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL PROTECTION
OFFICE OF THE CABINET SECRETARY**

SPEECH BY SIMON K CHELUGUI, EGH

CABINET SECRETARY

LABOUR AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

**DURING THE MEETING TO WELCOME THE NEW BOARD
CHAIR FOR STREET FAMILIES REHABILITATION TRUST
FUND**

AT NSSF BUILDING, NAIROBI

MONDAY, 18th JANUARY, 2021

CAS Hon Patrick Ole Ntutu

PS Nelson Marwa

The Outgoing Chairperson, CAS Hon Linnah Jebii Kilimo

The Incoming Chairperson, Hon Mary Wambui

Members of the Board of Trustees

The CEO, Carol Towett

Staff in the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection

Good morning

I take this opportunity to thank you all for joining me this morning in welcoming the new Chair to the Street Families Rehabilitation Trust Fund Board. This handing over of leadership baton at the Street Families Rehabilitation Trust Fund was occasioned by the appointment of the outgoing Board Chair Hon Jebii Kilimo to the position of Chief Administrative Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture.

The Street Families Rehabilitation Trust Fund was established on 11th March, 2003 under the then Ministry of Local Government through a Gazette Notice No. 1558, to address the concerns of all homeless, destitute and vulnerable persons in urban areas. It was registered as a body Corporate in August, 2010 under the Trustees (perpetual succession) CAP 164 Laws of Kenya. The Trust Fund is supposed to have has 8 trustees.

The current board is the fifth board, the first board was the one that was chaired by Manu Chandaria which served for three terms while the fourth board was chaired by Lucy Yinda.

Let me thank the outgoing Chairperson for her commitment in ensuring that the Trust Fund's vision is achieved and that street families are accorded dignified livelihoods. Within the two years she has served as the Chair, the Trust Fund has received good publicity. Some of the achievements include the launching of the National Census of Street Families Report 2018, which must inform the targeting of street families for inclusion in social protection programmes. She has also guided the finalization of the draft national policy for rehabilitation of street families which is now headed to the stage of national validation.

Let me just state that objectives National Census of Street Families Report 2018 were to establish the magnitude and demographic characteristics of the street families in Kenya; assess the socio-economic and political push and pull factors of street families; generate a databank for street families; and map out existing services, opportunities and potential challenges for street families.

This census identified that there were 46,639 street persons majority of whom were age between 10 to 34 years. The report also showed that the highest concentration of street persons was found in Nairobi, Mombasa, Kisumu, Nakuru and Uasin Gishu in that order. This report must become the source document for the Trust Fund in guiding most of your decisions, because decisions based on accurate and reliable data hardly ever fails. .

Ladies and Gentlemen

Recently we signed a performance contract between myself and the outgoing Chair which I believe will be handed to the incoming Chair. This will enable her to understand the tasks which the board has planned to undertake in the current financial year which is already halfway. As you develop policies to guide implementation of the rehabilitation of street families, develop the National Street Families Bill and a Street Families Trust Fund Strategic Plan, my office remains open to provide any support that you may require to achieve the set targets.

As you are aware, street families have been assigned many names, some say it a menace, others eyesore, However, we see it as a social challenge which require to be handled with care. Despite interventions by the Government, NGOs and individuals the presence of street families has been an unending problem. Over the years, the Government has been promoting socio-economic interventions targeting the vulnerable and marginalized groups, including street families, with an aim of empowering them for sustainable livelihoods. We must tire of doing this work and I am confident that the incoming Chairperson is equal to this enormous task and that much will be achieved before expiry of her term as a Chair to the Board.

I wish to implore on you Hon. Chair that there is need to bring on board and work together with different actors and multilateral agencies, in a bid to address the issue of improving the living conditions of street families and develop preventive measures against the underlying factors forcing them onto the streets. The street families' census report we launched last year has enumerated all these push and pull factors very well.

Last year we also launched a report on Violence Against Children which showed that Children in Kenya are subjected to various forms of violence such as trafficking, child labour, child marriage, online abuse among others. I therefore urge you to take these in mind as you deal with the issues of street families because majority of them are children.

With these few remarks, I wish to officially welcome **Hon Mary Wambui** as the new Chair of Street Families Rehabilitation Trust Fund.

Thank you all and God bless you