



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

SPEECH BY

**HON. SIMON K. CHELUGUI, EGH
CABINET SECRETARY
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL PROTECTION**

**DURING THE LAUNCH OF THE ASSESSMENT REPORT AND
BLUEPRINT FOR REHABILITATION AND SOCIAL
REINTEGRATION PROGRAMMES SERVICE AND PRACTICES
FOR CHILDREN IN CONFLICT WITH THE LAW IN KENYA.**

**ON
28TH APRIL, 2021**

The Chief Administrative Secretary, Ministry of Labour Social Protection,

The Canadian Deputy High Commissioner Representative Ms. Kate Churchill- Smith, First Secretary (Political and Public Affairs),

United Nations office on Drugs and Crime Regional Office Representative Ms. Sylvie Bertrand,

Representatives from Development partners,

Representatives from Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies,

Ministry Staff,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection has continued to take major step to improve the care and wellbeing of our children in conflict with the law. These milestones have been achieved with the support of our developments partners and today, it is with great pleasure that I am joining you for the official launch of *the Assessment Report on Rehabilitation and Social Reintegration Programmes Services and Practices for Children in Conflict with the Law in Kenya* and the *Blueprint for Rehabilitation and Social Reintegration Programmes for Children in Conflict with the law in Kenya*.

Changing dynamics in child offenses have necessitated a paradigm shift in Kenya's child justice system. With an increase in the number of child offenders and involvement in not only petty but also serious offences, new approaches in response to child offending are inevitable.

Kenya has domesticated the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Administration of Juvenile Justice, which sets out principals of promoting the welfare of children within the criminal justice system, into the Constitution, and the Children’s Bill, 2020. I am happy to note that the Office of Director of Public Prosecution is forming a Task Team on Juvenile Justice and plans to develop guidelines for prosecutors to improve the handling of children in the criminal justice system. All these instruments sets out standards for treatment of child offenders in Kenya to ensure that every child in conflict with the law is treated with respect and dignity.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Legal aid provision to child offenders and access to quality justice still appears to be a challenge to children in conflict with the law. The Assessment report revealed that a key concern is lack of legal aid for children and their inability to effectively participate in court proceedings. The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child in which Kenya is a signatory, recommends that the essential aim of treatment of every child in conflict with the law, if found guilty of infringing the penal law, shall be his or her reformation, reintegration into his or her family and social rehabilitation.

Optimal rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders require well designed and implemented programmes. The Assessment Report we are launching today, which sought to check on the effectiveness of the rehabilitation programmes, services and practices in the statutory children’s Institutions in Kenya, revealed that there are inadequate rehabilitation programmes in remand homes The recommendations

contained in the report will be useful in addressing the real deficiencies that still exist and which do not respond to the needs of the children who find themselves in conflict with the law and especially those committed to statutory institutions.

Juvenile justice system should aim to promote the reintegration and rehabilitation of the child. The blueprint we are launching today, therefore maps out the key programmes that ought to be implemented in child offenders' institutions and upon release of offenders from institutions. It also highlights the principles that should inform processes at each stage of the child justice system, in line with the overall objective of rehabilitation and reintegration.

It is recommended that partnerships between child justice institutions and communities should be enhanced, as community involvement in reintegration is crucial. A paradigm shift towards a focus on rehabilitation and reintegration should be embraced by all agencies in the child justice system.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As I conclude, I would like to recognize and sincerely appreciate the United Nations Office on Drugs and Regional Office Eastern Africa for their devoted, unending support to the Government in implementing rehabilitation programmes within the Statutory Children's Institutions.

My sincere appreciation also to all the stakeholders who participated in the development and validation of the two documents we are launching today.

My Ministry in collaboration with key stakeholders in the Juvenile Justice System is committed to ensure that officers are trained on the standards for dealing with child offenders, through Care and Aftercare Procedures, in order to equip them with basic skills to aid their work. I call upon all all stakeholders to adopt the recommendations made in these reports so as to improve the existing rehabilitation programs, practices and services for children in conflict with the law in Kenya.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is now my pleasure to officially launch the **Assessment Report on Rehabilitation and Social Reintegration Programmes Services and Practices for Children in Conflict with the Law in Kenya** and the **Blueprint for Rehabilitation and Social Reintegration Programmes for Children in Conflict with the law in Kenya.**

Thank you and God bless you.