



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

**SPEECH FOR  
THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY  
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL PROTECTION**

**DURING THE LAUNCH OF THE DAY OF THE AFRICAN  
CHILD CELEBRATIONS ON 9<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2021 IN  
NAIROBI**

**The Chair person, National Council for Children Services,**

**Representatives from our Development Partners**

**Senior Ministry Staff,**

**Representatives from Government Ministries, Departments  
and Agencies,**

**Our Dear Children**

**Ladies and gentlemen**

**Good morning,**

It is with great pleasure to join you today as we launch this year's celebrations of the Day of the African Child. The Day is set aside in memory of children who were killed and maimed during the anti-colonial struggle against oppression and injustice in Soweto-South Africa in 1976. This day has also over time, evolved to embrace and focus on the diverse child rights violations and their underlying causes all over Africa.

This Day gives us an opportunity to take stock of what we have done for our children as a country and reflect on what more needs to be done to ensure that they fully enjoy their rights.

The Day of the African Child was first celebrated in Kenya in June 1991 and has since become an annual event celebrated not only nationally, but in all the Counties and Sub-Counties in the country.

Just like last year, our celebrations this year will mostly be virtual because Covid -19 is still here with us, and it is important that we all follow the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health to contain the spread of this disease.

This year the Day of the African Child is being commemorated under the theme: **30 Years After Adoption of the Charter: Accelerate Implementation of Agenda 2040 for “Africa Fit for Children”**.

This theme calls upon member states of the African Union to reflect on the implementation of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child thirty (30) years after it came into force, the challenges experienced and future commitments in line with the aspirations of the Agenda 2040. The Agenda 2040 was adopted in the year 2016 by the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, and prioritizes steps towards empowering the children of Africa by the year 2040.

Children make up almost half of Kenya’s population, and as a country, we have always endeavored to ensure that we have laws, policies, institutions and programmes that promote child rights and welfare.

Kenya has ratified both international and regional legal instruments for children including the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. Our Constitution which is rated as one of the most progressive constitutions in Africa, recognizes all international and regional laws that Kenya has signed as a direct source of law. Further, Section 53 of the Constitution outlines the rights of all children in Kenya and emphasizes on consideration of the Best Interest of the Child in every matter concerning them.

The Children Act, 2001, which is the primary law for safeguarding the rights and welfare of children in Kenya is also testimony to the Government’s consistency in the protection of children. The Government is also in the process of developing a new statute for children to address the inconsistencies between the Constitution and the Children Act, 2001,

and to address emerging issues that result from changes and advancements in the various facets of child protection and welfare.

It is also worth noting that the Government has put in place many other laws, policies and guidelines to further safeguard the rights and welfare of children. Additionally, it has also established institutions, structures and instituted measures to implement these laws and policies.

As we mark this year's Day of the African Child and also report on our implementation of the aspirations of Agenda 2040, it is important to note that safeguarding the rights and welfare of children is undertaken by various agencies both state and non-state. We acknowledge the role of each agency especially during this pandemic and appreciate the coordination efforts of the National Council for Children's Services.

While we have made gains in as far as protecting our children is concerned, it is not lost on us that there are still challenges that impede the full realisation of child rights and welfare in the country, as envisioned in our legal and policy framework.

Let us, therefore use this opportunity to renew our commitment and resolve towards overcoming these challenges.

With those few remarks, I declare the 2021 celebrations of the Day of the African Child officially launched.

**God bless the children of Kenya,**

**God bless Kenya.**