

**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**



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

**SPEECH BY**

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**DURING THE LAUNCH OF THE DISABILITY AWARENESS  
CREATION BOOKLET**

**28<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2021**

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**Country Director, Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI)**

**Organizations of and for Disabled Persons (OPDs)**

**Civil Society Representatives**

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

**Distinguished Guests,**

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

It is a great pleasure to join you all today in this important launch event of the Disability Awareness Creation Booklet. The role and liaison of each organization and each person represented here is of paramount significance to the Government, in ensuring persons with disabilities access, benefit and enjoy their rights and specifically by ensuring public awareness creation.

Kenya is proud to have co-hosted the Global Disability Summit alongside the United Kingdom and the International Disability Alliance in July 2018 in the United Kingdom. The aim of the Summit was to transform the lives of Persons with Disabilities by raising global attention and focus on a hugely neglected area, mobilizing new global and national commitments to meet and implement the ambition set out in the global goals and UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

While we consider this a recognition of our efforts towards addressing economic, social, cultural, political and civil rights of Persons with Disabilities, the process provided us with an opportunity to reflect on the progress we have made towards ensuring that persons with disabilities are not left behind in the development agenda.

The Summit gave both the right holders, the persons with disabilities and the duty bearers, including we as Government and other policymakers, a chance to have a no-holds barred, honest and open face to face conversation on the state of the disability sector in Kenya.

### **Ladies and gentlemen,**

During the summit, it was noted that there were a number of areas that required urgent attention from policy makers and concerned stakeholders. Despite changes in the legislative environment and concerted efforts by partners across the country to educate communities, **stigma and discrimination** was identified as a prevalent challenge in our country.

Kenya therefore made commitments during the Summit to **tackle stigma and discrimination** by creating **public awareness** on disability rights, by involving Persons with Disabilities and their representative organizations towards demystifying disability. We also committed to enhance Disability inclusion through collection of accurate **disaggregated data** for Persons with Disabilities by signing the Inclusive Data Charter(IDC).

I am glad to state that we have continued to improve our **data** on Persons with Disabilities as evidenced by the **Kenya National Housing and Population Census of 2019** that used the Washington Group of Short Questions. According to the census, **918,270** people aged 5 years and above had a disability with a total of **9,729** persons having albinism.

The Ministry in partnership with many of you here today, have developed an **Inclusive Data Charter Action Plan** to implement the requirements of collection of accurate data. The main aim of this IDC action plan, is to engage Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and non-State actors, to be

coordinated in collection, analysis and utilization of comprehensive disaggregated disability data.

To address stigma and discrimination, my Ministry embarked on the development of a **Disability Awareness Creation Booklet** which we are launching today. The Booklet has been developed to guide in **creating awareness** on disability with an **aim of demystifying disability** to reduce stigma and discrimination and thus enhance social inclusion of Persons with Disabilities.

The development of the booklet was guided by three fundamental documents that address disability, namely;

- **The Global Disability Summit Commitments;**
- The UN **Convention** on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities - Article 8, that directs that ‘State Parties **raise awareness throughout society, including at the family level**, regarding Persons with Disabilities, to foster respect for their rights and dignity’ and;
- **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs) that have an overarching principle of “leave no one behind”

### **Ladies and gentlemen**

The booklet that we shall launch today will guide in raising awareness on disability and will foster respect for the inherent dignity for Persons with Disabilities. It will help to combat stereotypes, prejudices and harmful practices relating to disability and Persons with Disabilities.

It is expected that after today’s launch, the Booklet shall be disseminated for use as a tool to sensitize the public on disability, advocate for the rights of

Persons with Disabilities to increase acceptance, their involvement and participation in National Development.

It is my belief that the Parliamentary Labour and Social Welfare Committee will support my Ministry in lobbying for funds towards disability awareness creation programs in the Country. In addition, I appeal to other stakeholders to support in the implementation of the awareness creation programs.

As I conclude, I wish to recognize and sincerely appreciate the support from our partners towards the development of this Booklet. My Sincere appreciation goes to the Country Director, Clinton Health Access Initiative for their financial support towards this launch.

Ladies and Gentlemen, allow me to share with you my conviction that there is an urgent need to rethink disability as an important agenda in the greater national development processes, and to advocate for its rightful positioning in national discourse. The Government of Kenya recognizes disability inclusion as a prerequisite to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. To this end, the Government will continue to ensure that persons with disabilities are accounted for, and participate equally in every aspect of life.

**Ladies and Gentlemen**, it is now my pleasure to officially launch the Disability Awareness Creation Booklet on this day of **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021**. This Booklet will be instrumental in enhancing public awareness on opportunities, inclusion and justice of persons with disabilities.

**THANK YOU AND MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL.**