



**MINISTRY OF LABOUR
OFFICE OF THE CABINET SECRETARY**

REMARKS BY MR. SIMON K. CHELUGUI, E.G.H.,

CABINET SECRETARY FOR LABOUR

**DURING THE CEREMONY TO HANDOVER OF THE FUNCTION
OF SOCIAL PROTECTION AT THE MINISTRY HEADQUARTERS
ON 19TH OCTOBER 2021**

Prof Margaret Kobia, CS

Nelson Marwa PS

HODs Present

Media,

Good Morning

Let me welcome you all to the Ministry of Labour for this brief ceremony as I handover the Functions of Social Protection to my colleague, CS Prof Margaret Kobia

The State Department for Social Protection comprises of four technical directorates namely: Directorate of Children's Services; Directorate of Social Development; National Social Protection Secretariat; and Directorate of Social Assistance.

It has three Semi-Autonomous Government Agencies (SAGAs) namely National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWDs), Child Welfare Society of Kenya (CWSK) and National Council for Children Services (NCCS).

It also houses two Trust Funds namely; Street Families Rehabilitation Trust Fund (SFRTF) and National Assistance Trust Fund for Victims of Counter Trafficking.

Briefly, let me mention the key mandate of these directorates and SAGAs; **The Department of Social Development** work is to mobilize and empower individuals, families, groups and communities to facilitate the process of social change for growth and improved livelihoods.

The Directorate of Children Services overall mandate is to safeguard and protect the rights & welfare of all categories of children in the Country.

The National Social Protection Secretariat is mandated to guide and facilitate integration, coordination and harmonization of social protection programmes in the country.

The Directorate of Social Assistance is responsible for the overall coordination and implementation of the cash transfer programmes.

The National Council for Children Services work is to advise the government on all aspects related to child rights and welfare

The National Council for Persons with Disabilities work is to promote the rights of persons with disability in Kenya and mainstream disability issues into all aspects of national development

The Child Welfare Society of Kenya is mandated is to provide for the care, Protection, Welfare and adoption of children

The Street Families Rehabilitation Trust Fund was established to address the concerns of all homeless, destitute and vulnerable persons in urban areas through Rescue, Rehabilitation, Resocialization and Re-intergration of street persons.

And finally, **the National Assistance Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons** which was established to spearhead identification,

compensation of victims and prosecution of perpetrators of victims of trafficking in persons in the country

From what I have just stated, the function of this state department are wide touching on almost all aspect of the society namely; the children, the elderly, the vulnerable members of our society, people with disability, and the entire society through community development.

I really want to the H.E The President for having given me the opportunity to handle the functions of Social Protection, especially, coming at the height of covid-19. The experience for me has been very humbling and fulfilling because these functions touch the heart of the society.

I really want to appreciate the staff in this state department for their support. I found the staff very knowledgeable and committed to their work. I always felt your support especially during the many sessions we had to endure facing various interest group on issues of child protection and Inua Jamii. There is not a single time I ever feel let down by the staff, thank you again for all the support, am sure you will continue to do the same for my colleague Cabinet Secretary, Prof Margaret Kobia.

To the staff, you have now moved functionally to another ministry, but we are still serving in the same government, my door will still remain open for any consultation even at individual level.

As I handover, let me just mention the key highlight in the period these functions were under my leadership. This includes;

- We ensure that all the technical staff in both Children Services and Social Development departments across all cadres got their promotion
- The launch of Violence against Children Survey 2019 report
- The Launch of the National Prevention and Response Plan on Violence against Children 2019-2023
- The launch of **the Spot it Stop it** campaign,
- The launch of Child Friendly Booklet on Protecting Children Against Violence,
- The launch of National Child Protection Case Management and Referral Guidelines
- The launch report of the National Census of Street Families 2018,
- The launch of the PWDs portal to link PWDs with potential employers,
- The launch of disability awareness creation booklet
- The launch of Community of Practice (CoP) for Social Protection Practitioners - Kenya Chapter
- The opening of child protection unit in Kwale,
- The opening of child rescue center in Kilifi,
- The opening of the Kirinyaga model rescue center for older persons,
- Through the Ksh. 10 billion allocation, the State Department and a multi-agency team targeted **603,058** vulnerable persons at the height of COVID-19, for the **ksh 1000** weekly disbursement,
- Signing of MoU between the Ministry, County Governments, Ministry of Health, and NDMA to guide the implementation of the Nutrition Improvement through Cash and Health Education (NICHE) program

being implemented in 5 counties of **Kitui, Kilifi, Turkana, West Pokot and Marsabit**

- Signing of MoU between Ministry of Health and NHIF on UHC on systematic access of National Safety Net Program beneficiaries to NHIF.
- Signing of MoU between the Ministry and the Kenya School of Government **on Social and Child Protection Capacity Development**
- We established partnership with UNICEF, UK government through Givedirectly, the European Union, WFP, Kenya Red Cross, Oxfam, Concern World Wide, ACTED/Reach, Wangu Kanja and CREAM in reaching out to vulnerable persons during the onset of covid -19 pandemic.
- In spite of COVID-19, we also ensured that we celebrated all the international days, such as International day of the Family, the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, Older Persons Day, Persons with Disabilities Day, and Volunteerism Day, Day of the African Child, Counter Trafficking in Person's day
- On child protection, we were eventually able to see **the Children Bill** tabled in parliament, public notice by national assembly was published in our dailies yesterday 18th October 2021.
- We ensured that the **INUA JAMII** cash transfer programme continued to be professionally managed for the benefit of the intended beneficiaries.
- Currently the State Department is conducting a retargeting exercise to reinstate all the beneficiaries who used to receive stipend but due to one reason or another, no longer receive the same.

These are just but highlights of what we managed to achieve working together with all the staff in the State Department, under the able guidance of **PS Marwa**.

As I hand over these functions to my colleague, let me give you my assurance that I am always available for any consultation on any of these issues and you can be sure of my support both in the Cabinet and outside as we champion the cause of Social Protection in this Country.