



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

**REMARKS BY MR. JOSEPH MOGOSI MOTARI, MBS, PRINCIPAL SECRETARY,
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR SOCIAL PROTECTION AND SENIOR CITIZEN
AFFAIRS DURING THE HIGH-LEVEL BREAKFAST MEETING FOR THE NATIONAL
STEERING COMMITTEE FOR SOCIAL PROTECTION**

Tuesday, 09th April, 2024, 07.00 am

Distinguished Participants,

Colleagues in the Social Protection Sector,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning

It's truly a pleasure to welcome you all to this breakfast meeting of the National Steering Committee for Social Protection (NSCSP). As colleagues and practitioners in the realm of social protection, each of you has been an integral part of our sector's journey. Your tireless efforts in implementing various interventions have played a crucial role in fulfilling the government's obligations to its citizens, particularly in enhancing social protection programmes aimed at building resilience among vulnerable populations.

I firmly believe that this committee remains essential in our collective mission to ensure coordination and collaboration towards achieving social protection outcomes and addressing emerging issues in the sector. Established in 2018, the NSCSP serves as a cornerstone in coordinating and strengthening Kenya's social protection system. By drawing on the expertise of relevant government departments, UN agencies, the Cash Working Group, and Civil Society, we are better equipped to deliver coordinated interventions and programmes that uphold the dignity of all Kenyans, in accordance with Article 43 of the Constitution.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Social Protection sector has gone through considerable progress since 2005 with the introduction of the Cash Transfers. We have moved from dispensing cash to

more integrated programming that include complementary programmes and shock responsive interventions

Most of you supported the the 3rd Kenya Social Protection Conference (KSPC) which was held in April 2023. **H.E the President, Dr. William S. Ruto** pledged timely disbursement of funds for vulnerable groups under the Inua Jamii flagship and the Hunger Safety Net Program. Since July 2023, the Government has effected monthly payments of the National Safety Net Programme cash transfer to end delays that previously would span into several months.

Further, H.E. the President during the Conference committed to increase coverage of poor and vulnerable Households under the Inua Jamii Programme from the current 1.2 million to 2.5 million by 2025. The first phase of registration of new

Inua Jamii beneficiaries targeting 500,000 beneficiaries was done in September 2023.

Colleagues, a Joint Call to Action was signed and an Implementation Matrix developed which provides a clear roadmap of the agreed commitments by each of us in this room to ensure an integrated and coordinated follow-up and outcomes that impacts the lives of the people.

Significantly, a great impact has been experienced through complementary programs like the Nutrition Improvement through Cash and Health Education (NICHE) and the Economic Inclusion Program (EIP) components under the Kenya Social and Economic Inclusion Project (KSEIP) which my State Department has been implementing since 2019. This has been evidenced through the reduced cases of

stunting and malnutrition in the case of NICHE and a notable growth in the income of the participating households in the case of EIP.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Through the Office of the Deputy President (ODP), various sectors have been steered toward establishing robust and dynamic **Joint Sector Working Groups (JSWGs)**. In the realm of **Social Protection**, our efforts have not gone unnoticed; we are recognized as pioneers. We consider ourselves fortunate to already possess a JSWG that encompasses members primarily from bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as the UN. The JSWG on Social Protection is a collaborative effort, co-chaired by the Principal Secretary and supported by the Social Protection Secretariat. It also enjoys co-chairmanship from UNICEF and FCDO. Currently, we are exploring avenues to broaden our representation by including non-state actors like

the Kenya Cash Working Group and entities from the private sector. The JSWG stands as an essential mechanism for enhancing coordination and efficiency in devising and implementing potent social protection initiatives for Kenyans.

In line with making sure that we align ourselves to existing laws and regulations, Kenya Social Protection Policy, 2023 was finalized and adopted by the Cabinet on 15th January 2024. Additionally, a comprehensive Social Protection Bill has been finalized, adopted by the Cabinet, underwent public participation, and is presently at the Office of the Attorney General awaiting submission to Parliament. The objective of these two policy documents is to bring all Social Protection actors together to enhance coordination among all SP implementing actors; to enhance accountability, which has been enhanced by building the Enhanced Single Registry (ESR), the Consolidated Cash Transfer Programme (CCTP) MIS, The Community Development MIS, the NICHE MIS and the enhanced Grievance & Case

Management (EGCM). The Social Health Insurance Act, No. 16 of 2023 was assented to in 2023 establishing the Social Health Authority and a framework for managing social health insurance to give effect to Article 43(1) (a) of the Constitution.

Notably, the Government through the State Department for Social Protection and Senior Citizen Affairs developed and launched the Strategy for the Extension of Social Protection Coverage to Workers in the Informal and Rural Economy in Kenya. The strategy aims to provide a framework for the provision of inclusive and adequate social protection for rural and informal sector workers. All this progress has been made possible by the collaboration with all our partners.

Moving forward, the State Department is committed to updating the Social Protection Sector Review which is strategic and important in identifying the

strengths and weaknesses of the social protection system in Kenya. More importantly, the Sector review will indicate the position we are in as a country and propose pertinent areas of improvement, toward social protection programming that is sustainable, effective, and inclusive that addresses shock, and has a lifecycle approach. There are also additional plans to cascade the Social Protection curriculum, currently being offered in the Kenya School of Government, to the counties.

Finally Ladies and Gentlemen,

Climate change is a serious conversation that we need to have. Green social protection is a new frontier that we need to prioritise. Am hoping from our interventions as a team, we will design and share climate smart Social protection interventions and programmes that can help our vulnerable communities.

In this regard therefore, I urge you all to come up with innovative ways to ensure that the vulnerable population is further prevented from falling into deeper vulnerability and to enable their resilience to be better cushioned in the case of emergencies and shocks. Let me once again thank you all for responding positively to our invitation. I hope this is the beginning of an upward trajectory for the sector, to universalism where the rights of all vulnerable persons are respected and promoted.

I Thank You.