



**MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL  
PROTECTION**

**OFFICE OF THE CABINET  
SECRETARY**

**Remarks By Hon. Florence Bore, Cabinet Secretary for Labour  
and Social Protection.**

**During the official launch of the second International  
Conference on Child Protection.22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023 at  
Daystar University**

- **Mr. Joseph Motari, PS for Social Protection and Senior Citizen Affairs**
  - **Ms. Shaheen Nilofer, UNICEF Kenya Country Representative**
  - **Prof. Laban Peter Ayiro Vice Chancellor Daystar University**
  - **AbdiNoor Mohamed, CEO National Council for Children Service**
  - **Mr. Shem Nyakutu Secretary Children Services**
  - **Conference Presenters and Panelists**
  - **Conference Delegates**
  - **Ladies and Gentlemen**
- GOOD MORNING**

**I am very delighted to welcome all of you to this informative three days' conference.** This second bi-annual National Child Protection Conference 2023 whose theme is **Ending Violence Against Children - Evidence to Action**, provides the platform to: celebrate our gains in the provision of child protection services, share and learn from the many experiences across the country and the globe.

World over, children experience different forms of violence, sometimes within safe environments and in the hands of 'most trusted people'. The challenges we face today pose a threat to the gains and efforts made in the attainment of child rights. The disintegration of traditional values, the contemporary challenges to families, climate change impacts which has deepened the levels of poverty and vulnerability- exposing children to

more harm and deprivation, technological impacts that have come with uncontrolled information to children and online abuse among others, require that we shift our concept of programmes to make them more adaptive to the needs of our children.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

The Kenya Constitution in Article 53 affirms the basic rights to children including the right to education, nutrition, shelter, health and parental care and further recognizes the need for all children to be protected from abuse, neglect, harmful cultural practices, all forms of violence and hazardous/exploitative labour. Kenya enacted the Children Act 2022 to ensure that children living in Kenya are adequately protected and are able to advance their life-long opportunities.

I want to applaud the support of the many stakeholders who have continued to journey with us not only in the development of the Act, but also in the ongoing development of regulations that will give effect to the full implementation of the Act.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen**

Protecting children from abuse and neglect certainly requires changing approaches particularly at the parenting, communal and institutional levels. This calls for strengthening capacities for child protection and embracing evidence-based programming.

In 2019, Kenya conducted a survey that measured the prevalence, nature and consequence of physical, emotional and sexual violence against children. The survey revealed that over 50% of children have faced at least one form of violence in their lives. The consequence of these forms of abuse have far reaching negative impacts on our children.

Drawing on the survey findings, The Government developed the National Prevention and Response Plan 2019-2023. The plan which is aimed to accelerate multisectoral actions to addressing violence against children, outlines the actions designed to address the root causes of violence, protect children at risk and support the healing process of child survivors.

The implementation of the National Prevention and Response Plan includes raising awareness and advocating for child rights through the

**"Spot It, Stop It"** campaign to end Violence Against Children. This year marks the end of the implementation of the National Prevention and Response Plan and we therefore need to reflect on the gains made, acknowledge the existing gaps and prepare our next set of interventions to help us combat violence against children. It is my hope that the interactions and experience sharing in this conference will build into the existing knowledge and pave way for the improvement of programmes. We also need to be innovative in detecting and responding to violence against our children

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Violence meted to children not only make them victims but also perpetrators of violence. With regard to issues of children in conflict or in



contact with the law, I wish to commend the Honorable Chief Justice for Gazetting the Standing Committee on the Administration of Justice for Children in Kenya and acknowledge the selfless efforts by the Judiciary in the improvement of the child justice system.

The Government's efforts of protecting children will continue to gain more traction through scaling up child-inclusive social protection services, facilitating accessible child-friendly justice system and enhancing mechanisms for online child protection. This financial year, My Ministry aims to strengthen the operations of the Child Help Line 116 which has been pivotal in responding to children concerns. The Family Promotion and Protection Policy which was approved by Cabinet in October 2023 provides for development of parenting programmes. I am glad to report

that my Ministry has designed a National Positive Parenting Programme which will be useful in building the capacity of families in nurturing their children.

### **To our Distinguished Partners**

Inter-sectoral coordination and collaboration has proven essential in providing effective and efficient child protection services. Our continued concerted efforts as Government; Development Partners, NGOs, Private Sector and communities will no doubt serve to amplify the impacts of our interventions and ensure sustainable wellbeing to our children. On behalf of the Government of Kenya, I wish to sincerely extend my appreciation to all our partners who have continued to support child protection initiatives and interventions in the country.

Together we can guarantee the future of our society by safeguarding and empowering our children. We therefore have the obligation to protect and support our children.

To our children, we reaffirm our unwavering support to help you grow to achieve your full potential. To the conference delegates, I wish you the very best as you interact, discuss and seek solutions to the many issues affecting our children and families.

I now wish to declare the Kenya Child Protection Conference officially opened.

**Thank you and God bless you.**