



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 WORLD DAY AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN
PERSONS HELD IN NAIROBI**

**The Principal Secretary, State Department for Social Protection
Mr. Joseph M. Motari, MBS**

The Chair, Counter Trafficking in Persons Advisory Committee

**The Chair, National Assistance Trust Fund for Victims of
Trafficking**

The Advisory Committee Members

The Board of Trustees

**Representative, United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime
(UNODC)**

Representatives of the IOM, ILO and Partners present

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am delighted to join you today to observe the World Day against Trafficking in Persons which is marked annually on 30th July since 2013 when the United Nations General Assembly designated the day for this purpose. This year, we have brought forward the celebrations to 28th July, 2023 to enable our brothers and sisters attend to their spiritual call on Sunday. This day is purposely set to **raise awareness, encourage vigilance and gain public support for prevention of trafficking in persons.**

This year's theme is **“Reach every victim of trafficking, leave no one behind”** leaving persons behind in the context of trafficking in persons means failing to end trafficking in persons; inadequate support to victims and survivors of trafficking; not identifying groups vulnerable to trafficking and non-involvement of victims of trafficking in persons in development agenda.

Trafficking in Persons is a global crisis that affects nearly every country in the world. Anyone can be a victim of this heinous act regardless of age or socio-economic background. Human trafficking has a devastating impact on victims, who are often predisposed to physical and emotional abuse, sexual exploitation, threats against self and family, and even death. It undermines the safety and security of affected nations. Kenya has been described as a country of origin, transit and destination in trafficking in persons; with the most prevalent forms of trafficking being labour and sexual exploitation.

A recent study by the National Crime Research Center 2022, revealed that human trafficking in Kenya is high. The country experienced trafficking for labour and sexual exploitation; and for cultural purposes. Trafficking for labour accounted for 96 % and 98.3% of all trafficking cases in the year 2020 and 2021 respectively. The Study further revealed that external

trafficking in persons was the most prominent at 64.7% while domestic trafficking was 35.3%. In external trafficking, majority of the victims were adults and youthful females aged 18-34 years. Children were mostly victims of domestic trafficking accounting for 4 out of 10 victims of domestic trafficking.

Some of the main factors contributing to Trafficking in Persons include poverty, unemployment, ready markets for cheap labour and ignorance and impacts of climate change.

Ladies and Gentlemen, to address trafficking in persons in the country, Kenya has undertaken to: -

- Ratify the 2005 United Nations Palermo Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.

- Review the Counter Trafficking in Person Act 2010 to align to the Constitution, address existing gaps and incorporate emerging issues.
- Established the Counter Trafficking in Persons Advisory Committee which came into force through the enactment of the Trafficking in Persons Act and has been operational since inception.
- Established and operationalized the National Assistance Trust Fund for trafficking in Persons to provide assistance to victims of trafficking in persons through rescue, screening, referrals, legal assistance, repatriation, economic empowerment and reintegration. In the last financial year 2022-2023, the Fund was able to repatriate 15 Kenyans who had been trafficked to Laos and Turkey for cybercrimes and sexual exploitation while 36 survivors trafficked to the gulf countries as domestic workers were provided with economic empowerment.

- To strengthen the operationalization of the National Assistance Trust Fund, Guidelines have been developed to provide a framework for disbursement of funds and procedure for assisting identified victims of trafficking.
- The Government in conjunction with development partners like UNODC, IOM, ILO, CIVIPOL and local Civil society organizations has continued to enhance the capacity of law reinforcement officers to handle cases of trafficking in persons leading to significant improvement in the investigation, prosecution and determination of cases. The Advisory Committee through the Secretariat, in collaboration with CIVIPOL, UNODC, the Office of Public Prosecutions and The Directorate of Criminal Investigations recently developed Standard Operating Procedures for Investigating and Prosecuting Trafficking in Persons cases in the country. Once rolled out, it is

expected that more perpetrators will be investigated and successfully prosecuted while ensuring the protection of the victims.

Trafficking in Persons is complex and multi-faceted in nature and requires a multi-sectoral approach. The Counter Trafficking in Persons Secretariat has continued to work with other government agencies like Transnational Organized Crime Unit, the Anti Human Trafficking and child Protection Unit in conducting rescue and placement of victims of trafficking in persons in shelters.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Despite the efforts, the journey to make Kenya free of human trafficking is still long. Lack of government-run shelter houses remain a major setback in offering direct assistance to victims of trafficking. My Ministry is in the process of rehabilitating an existing facility in Nairobi which will

be used as a safe house for victims. It is hoped that once the rehabilitation is complete it will act as a screening and rehabilitation centre for victims in order to empower and protect them from being re-trafficked.

Inadequate access to accurate, timely and reliable data in trafficking in persons has remained a great challenge, the Ministry with support from Lawyers Without Borders has started the process of developing a National Integrated Information Management System on trafficking in persons which will enhance data collection, reporting, budgeting and planning.

There is an increase of migration of Kenyans to other countries mostly for job opportunities. In quest for better opportunities abroad, many have fallen victims of unscrupulous employment agencies and traffickers who make enticing job advertisements through the internet. As a result, the number of Kenyans in distress in foreign countries have continued to

increase. I call upon Kenyans who require to migrate for labour to ensure they deal only with *agents who are duly Registered with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection through the National Employment Authority (NEA)*.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Today we shall register a milestone as a sector following the finalization of the third National Plan of Action on Trafficking in Persons 2022-2027 which I will be launching today. The Plan of Action is anchored on the pillars of prevention, protection, prosecution and partnerships and will guide stakeholders in the planning, implementation and monitoring of the Counter Trafficking in Persons strategies and interventions in Kenya. I therefore urge all the stakeholders in the counter trafficking in persons sector to implement the National Plan of Action in order to realize a coordinated response to the trafficking in persons' menace. I will be keen

to get progress reports of its implementation. I will therefore require periodic reports on its implementation.

As I conclude, I wish to register and acknowledge the invaluable contribution made by development partners including UNODC and ILO who provided technical and financial support to the development of the Guideline, international NGOs, local Civil Society organizations and all other stakeholders for complementing government efforts in combating trafficking in persons.

In the words of Martin Luther King **“Our Lives Begin to End, the Day We Become Silent About the Things That Matter.”** let us all join hands and say **No to trafficking in persons.**

GOD BLESS YOU ALL.