



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

OFFICE OF THE CABINET SECRETARY

REMARKS BY

**HON. FLORENCE BORE CABINET SECRETARY FOR LABOUR AND
SOCIAL PROTECTION**

**DURING MARKING OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

ON 3RD DECEMBER 2023

AT

MAKUTANO STADIUM, WEST POKOT COUNTY

- **Your Excellency, Hon. Simon Kachapin, Governor, West Pokot County,**
- **Hon. Samuel Poghio, Senator, West Pokot County,**
- **Hon. Lilian Cheptoo Tomitom, Woman Representative, West Pokot County,**
- **All Members of the National Assembly Present,**
- **Mr. Amos Gathecha, PS Public Services,**
- **Apollo Okello, County Commissioner, West Pokot County**
- **Members of the County Assembly present**
- **Board Members of the National Council for Persons with Disabilities**
- **Mr. Harun Hassan, CEO of the National Council for Persons with Disabilities**
- **Representatives of Organizations for Persons with Disabilities,**
- **Representatives from Government Ministries, Departments & Agencies,**
- **Distinguished Persons with Disabilities,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**
- **GOOD MORNING**

I am greatly delighted to join you in marking this year's United Nations International Day of Persons with Disabilities, which is celebrated every year on 3rd December. This day accords us the opportunity to reflect on what we have done as a nation, to remove the barriers that hinder persons with disabilities, to participate in all sectors of development. It further accords persons with disabilities the chance to celebrate their achievements and capabilities.

This year's theme, ***“United in Action to rescue and achieve the SDGs for, with and by persons with disabilities”*** emphasizes the critical role that Sustainable Development Goals play in reducing inequalities within and among countries by empowering and promoting the social, economic and political rights for all, including for persons with disabilities in all aspects of development.

According to the 2019 National Housing and Population census, the population of persons with disabilities above the age of 5 years stands at 918,270. This constitutes about 2% of our population.

Although persons with disabilities form a critical segment of the population, they still face numerous barriers that have over the years hindered them from participating fully in developmental activities and from fully enjoying their rights.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

My Ministry has been working on the review of the **Persons with Disabilities Act, 2003**, to align it with the constitution of Kenya, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the realities of the present times. The **Persons with Disabilities Bill, 2023** when passed into law, will transform the disability

agenda in our country. I commit to continuously make the needed follow ups until the Bill is enacted.

My Ministry, in enhancing public awareness on disability rights, published the Disability Awareness Creation Booklet as a source book for awareness creation on disability. We are engaging persons with disabilities and their representative organizations as well as the public towards demystifying disability and hereby call on the support of all stakeholders in this mission.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Ministry in line with the President's commitment to scale up the Inua Jamii Cash Transfer programme has listed about **137,119** persons with disabilities, who will be subjected to further checks to ensure they meet the eligibility criteria for the Persons with Severe Disabilities Cash Transfer programme. Out of this, a total of

28,152 households with severe disabilities will be enrolled to the programme as replacements or scale ups.

The **Implementation of the 5% employment reservations** for persons with disabilities in public sector; and the **Implementation of the affirmative action** under the Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) where 30% of government tenders are reserved for persons with disabilities, is another milestone in ensuring the inclusion of persons with disabilities in development through economic empowerment.

Further, the Ministry **provides technical skills to persons with disabilities** in 12 Vocational Rehabilitation Centres across the country. The graduates of these centers are provided with relevant business start-up toolkits to enable them engage in income generating activities for self-reliance and independent living. Every year,

the centres train approximately 700 persons on information communication technology, electrical installation, fashion and design among others. I therefore urge all persons with disabilities to take advantage of these centres to acquire the requisite skills.

The Ministry in addition is partnering with UNICEF through the **Inclusive Humanitarian Model (IHM)**. Through the initiative, UNICEF provides Cash transfer top-up of **ksh 10,000** per three-month cycle in a year to 332 household beneficiaries in Kacheliba, West pokot county.

Ladies and Gentleman

It is imperative to note that my ministry held the Kenya Disability Inclusion conference on 28th and 29th November, 2023. The Conference which brought together over 200 participants, majority of which were persons with disabilities,

from the County and National level, was aimed at disseminating the Global Disability Summit Commitments and engaging stakeholders at National and county levels to adopt and strategize the implementation of the commitments. During this conference, the National Action Plan on the implementation of Global Disability Commitment 2022-2025 was unveiled. **I hereby wish to reiterate the Call to all partners to contribute to the implementation of these commitments.**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

My Ministry is keen on developing programmes that support persons with disabilities and their primary caregivers, through provision of respite care services and strengthening psychosocial support systems currently offered by our lay volunteer counselors and community-based rehabilitation volunteers.

In appreciating the place of **assistive technology** in the improvement of service delivery, and the general living standards of persons with disabilities, my Ministry, in collaboration with various organizations for persons with disabilities, will continue to provide appropriate assistive and mobility devices to persons with disabilities. I am happy to note that through the National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD), assistive devices have been issued to persons with disabilities to enable them be productive and participate in their own development and that of the country.

In addition, the National Fund for the Disabled of Kenya has been of immense assistance on this front. Over the years, the Fund has supported an average of **3,000** persons with disabilities annually with assistive devices and tools of trade aimed at facilitating their inclusion and economic empowerment through start-ups. The Fund has also implemented over 200 infrastructural projects in various

institutions of learning across the country. This has resulted to increased enrolment and retention of learners with disabilities as well as enhancing their learning experiences.

My ministry in collaboration with the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, and Organizations of and for persons with Disabilities among other stakeholders undertook a support needs assessment for persons with disabilities and their primary caregivers in March 2022. The main objective of the assessment was to provide evidence on the met and unmet support needs of the diverse persons with disabilities and their family members to inform the design of inclusive social protection schemes. My Ministry will work with partners to implement the various recommendations in the report

Another great milestone in the disability fraternity is the onboarding of the registration of persons with disabilities on eCitizen in line with the Government directive to digitize public services to enhance service delivery and efficiency. I wish to applaud the Council for the initiative and urge the leadership to ensure a robust awareness programme for optimal uptake of the eCitizen registration service.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As I conclude, I wish to thank the Governor for West Pokot, H.E. Hon. Simon Kachapin and all the people of West Pokot, for the warm welcome and collaboration in making this event a success. I also wish to appreciate the Planning Committees both from the National and the County levels for their tireless efforts

in seeing through the preparation of this event to fruition and more particularly for ensuring the participation of Persons with Disabilities.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge the role played by all our partners at the County and National level not only in supporting this event but also in the advancement of the disability agenda in this country.

As we look back to our progress, **let us all remember that we still have much to achieve, I therefore reiterate to all us to continue putting in the requisite measures and collective commitments to enable our persons with disabilities realise their full potential and achieve sustainable livelihoods.**

Sere Nyaman, Sere nyowow.

Merry Christmas and prosperous 2024.