



**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**

**OFFICE OF THE CABINET SECRETARY**

**REMARKS BY**

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

**DURING THE MEETING WITH THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY'S  
DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL PROTECTION ON 12<sup>TH</sup>  
APRIL, 2024 AT THE PRIDE INN HOTEL, MOMBASA**

- **Hon. Alice Ng'ang'a Chairperson of the National Assembly Departmental Committee on Labour and Social Protection**
- **Mr. Joseph Motari, PS for Social Protection and Senior Citizen Affairs, Principal Secretary for Social Protection and Senior Citizens' Affairs,**
- **Hon. Sofia Abdinoor Chairperson of the National Council for Children Services and Council members,**
- **Board Members of the NCCS Board of Directors**
- **Staff from the Committee Secretariat and the Ministry**
- **Good Morning**

1. I wish to thank you Chairperson and your Committee for finding time within your busy schedule to attend this retreat, to better understand children matters and initiatives within the National Council for Children Services (NCCS) and the Directorate of Children Services.
2. I recall from our last meeting that discussed the Ministry's budget that you challenged the NCCS to borrow leaf from the National Council for Persons with Disabilities and start engaging the Committee in activities. I am glad that the Council has actualized this. I sincerely thank you chair and you committee for honouring our request to this retreat.
3. **Chair and honourable members,** Children matters remain pivotal to the prosperity of our nation since this is where our human capital capacities evolve

from. The Bottom-Up Economic Transformative Agenda calls for investments in the people at the bottom of the pyramid and there can never be another constituent at the bottom of the pyramid than our children. I am glad that these sessions are dedicated to the institutions responsible for children matters.

4. The Children Act, 2022 came into force in July 2022 to give effect to Article 53 of the Constitution. The enactment of the Children Act 2022 has been a milestone in the protection of children's rights and in the provision of children services. The Act establishes the National Council for Children's Services as a regulator, overseer and advisor of government on children matters, whereas the Directorate of Children Services is established as a lead implementer in the provisions of the Act.

5. Specifically, the Act provides for safeguarding children's rights, delineating parental responsibilities and establishing provisions for various forms of children's: alternative care including guardianship, foster care placement and adoption and; further makes provisions on the rights and welfare of special groups of children, including those in conflict with the law, children in armed conflict, refugee children, those exposed to or recruited into violent extremism, children living with disabilities and those in need of online child protection.
6. As a progress to the implementation of the Act, the Ministry through the National Council for Children Services has developed nine (9) Regulations to give effect to the full implementation of the Act.
7. The National Council for Children Services having been recently established into a fully pledged Semi-Autonomous Government Agency with regulatory

mandate needs to have its capacity expanded to all the 47 counties alongside strengthening the overall implementation systems. Equally, the Directorate of children services is involved in a number of critical child protection activities that require adequate resourcing including children rescue, reintegration, preparation of situational reports to support children's cases in courts - which mostly require home visits, management of the child helpline 116, Management of children institutions, the Presidential Secondary School Bursary Fund which is currently far from the demands by needy families among others.

8. As you are aware, Kenya is also enroute to transitioning children from institutional care to families as indicated in the National Care Reform Strategy 2022-2023 and entrenched in the Children Act. This too will require adequate

resources for raising awareness and supporting Charitable Children Institutions during the transition processes.

9. For close to a decade, there has been serious downward financial allocation to Child Care and Protection Services in Kenya. The two child protection entities are currently under resourced hence affecting the quality and extend of child welfare and protection services. The funding for child protection is much below the set and prevailing international minimum standards. This has impeded effective implementation of the roadmap on the implementation of the Children Act that was developed by the Sector.

10. **Chair and Honourable Members**, this platform will help us understand the mandate of the Directorate of Children Services and the National Council for Children Services. We shall further be inviting you to a number of our field



activities in order to appreciate the ongoing services and gaps in dispensing services to our children.

11. Finally, I wish to request for your support in championing additional resourcing for strengthening the regulatory and implementation role of the Ministry for optimal realisation of children rights in Kenya.

**THANK YOU!**