



MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL PROTECTION
OFFICE OF THE CABINET SECRETARY

**REMARKS FOR THE CABINET SECRETARY,
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL PROTECTION
MR. SIMON K. CHELUGUI, EGH**

**DURING THE COMMEMORATION OF THE WORLD
DAY AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS**

30 TH JULY 2021

The Chief Administrative Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection

Your Excellency, Eric Kneeder, Charge d' Affaires, United States of America Embassy, Kenya

Mr. Johan Kruger, Head Transnational Organized Crime, Illicit Trafficking and Terrorism Programmes, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Regional Office.

Ms. Sharon Dimache, Chief of Mission, IOM Kenya Country Office

Ms. Grace Banya, Programme Manager, International Labour Organization, CAPSA Programme

Mr. Noordin M. Haji, The Director of Public Prosecutions

Mr. George Masese, Chairperson, Counter Trafficking in Persons
Advisory Committee

Hon. Major (RTD) Marcus M. Muluvi, Chairperson, National Trust
Fund for Victims of Trafficking

**Representatives of our Social Partners and Development
Partners joining us virtually**

**Representatives from Government Ministries, Departments
and Agencies**

Ministry Staff,

Distinguished guests

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning

I am delighted to join you today to commemorate the World Day against Trafficking in Person. The theme for this year's celebration, "**Victims' Voices Lead the way**", puts the Victims of Trafficking in persons at the center of the campaign and highlights the importance of listening to, and learning from survivors of human trafficking. Their voices for justice should inform our actions and permeate our conscious in our response to human trafficking.

Trafficking in persons is defined as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power, or position of vulnerability, or the giving or receiving of payments or benefits, to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. It is a global epidemic and one of the fastest growing crimes that violates fundamental human rights and abuse to human dignity.

Globally people are trafficked for sexual exploitation; forced labour; forced begging; forced marriage; child sale and child soldiers; removal of organs; and other forms of exploitation and abuse. According to the

UNODC report for 2016, majority of all human trafficking victims are women and girls at 71 percent.

In Kenya, the most prevalent forms of trafficking are labour and sexual related, at 44% and 53% respectively (National Crime Research Centre report 2015). The most prevalent internal trafficking in persons affecting children is in domestic labour, where they are moved from rural to urban areas. From July 2020 to date, **1143** cases of child labour have been reported on the Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS). Out of these cases, 50.3% were girls and 49.7% were boys.

However, it's noteworthy to mention that the enhanced implementation of the Government policy on free primary education and 100% transition

to secondary school has positively impacted on many children who could have been victims of trafficking for labour. We must however, double our efforts in eradicating retrogressive cultural practices that contribute to trafficking of children such as Female Genital Mutilation and child marriage.

Ladies and Gentlemen

This year, the World, once again marks the Day under extraordinary circumstances following the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020. The pandemic increased the number of people at risk for human trafficking as traffickers took advantage of the social and economic crisis created by the global outbreak. Due to massive job losses and closure of

business, many people and households have been pushed to extreme poverty. Globally, much of the resources and efforts have been directed to the fight against the COVID-19, and the capacity of most actors in responding to human trafficking and other social ills have been greatly challenged. However, the country is gradually adapting to the new normal, making use of technology and other innovative methods to continue providing services to its citizens including addressing trafficking in persons in the country.

Victims of trafficking and irregular labor migrants have found themselves in more difficult situations as the economic instability occasioned by COVID-19 rendered them more vulnerable. A case in point is the over 100 girls from a region in Uganda found homeless and

rescued in Nairobi’s “Majengo” area by the Counter Trafficking in Persons Secretariat, Anti-human trafficking and Child Protection Unit of DCI and Civil Society organizations. The children and young ladies are currently in a Shelter awaiting their repatriation and reintegration with their families in Uganda.

Since trafficking is a transnational crime, there is need to improve on the intercountry and cross-border cooperation for us to succeed in this fight. Even though Kenya has been identified as a source, transit and destination country for cross border trafficking, major strides have been made in this fight against trafficking in persons guided by the globally agreed upon action plan parameters of **Prevention, Protection, Prosecution and Partnerships.**

Kenya is a signatory to the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, popularly known as the Palermo Protocol, which it acceded to on 5th January 2005 and later domesticated through the Counter Trafficking in Persons Act, 2010. The Act is currently under review to align it to the Constitution 2010 and incorporate emerging issues in Trafficking in Persons.

Some of the Government achievements towards countering trafficking in persons include: Implementation of the Counter Trafficking in Persons Act, 2010 through establishment of the multi-agency Counter Trafficking

in Persons Advisory Committee, that coordinates counter trafficking in persons activities; operationalization of the National Assistance Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking; development of the National Referral Mechanism for assisting victims of human trafficking in Kenya which provides guidelines for a standardized system of identification, assessment, referral, holistic support, assistance and reintegration of victims of trafficking in Kenya. So far, these guidelines have been disseminated to various key actors and stakeholders. Other strategic documents have been and continue to be developed to ensure that the country gradually forms a practice that is responsive to the needs of victims of trafficking and provide a framework that guides in effectively combating the vice.

Other achievements include; capacity building of law enforcement officers, which has been done in conjunction with UNODC, IOM, GIZ, and NGOs, leading to the training of more than 733 law enforcement officers on issues related to counter trafficking in persons. Similarly, in collaboration with partners, community sensitization, especially in border counties, has been undertaken as a trafficking in persons' prevention measure.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

To reduce vulnerability, the Government has put in place various social protection programmes including the Inua Jamii Cash Transfer

Programme that targets Older Persons, Orphans and Vulnerable Children and Persons with Severe Disability, some of whom are in the category most vulnerable to trafficking.

Similarly, the Ministry has been vetting all local private employment recruitment agencies through an inter-ministerial committee, to make sure that any Kenyan going to work in the foreign market does so within the law and is well protected.

Kenya has remained in Tier 2 of the United States, Department of State Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report for the last five consecutive years meaning that, although the Government of Kenya is making significant

efforts to address trafficking in persons, it still does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. However, despite the COVID 19 pandemic, the 2020 report indicates that the country has demonstrated overall increasing efforts compared to the previous reporting period. These efforts included increasing the number of investigations and prosecutions of trafficking crimes; convicting more traffickers; increasing personnel dedicated to specialized anti-trafficking police units; and launching a new hotline to report crimes. Areas that were flagged out for improvement include: identification of victims; and provision of protection services for identified victims, particularly adults. I recommend that this report be scrutinized by all actors and deliberate efforts be made to improve in the key areas highlighted.

Let me take this opportunity to sincerely appreciate our partners for committing both human and financial resources towards the fight against human trafficking in our country. We have come from far, and our journey is still in progress.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As I conclude, let me state that My Ministry is committed to fight against human trafficking and will continue to provide leadership in the sector. The key priority areas of focus will be; strengthening partnerships, review of the current law, victim protection, prosecution of traffickers, capacity building of law enforcement agencies and creation of

awareness to communities, more so the segments at higher risk of trafficking namely children, women, migrants, refugees and Internally Displaced Persons.

Ladies and Gentlemen, “Human trafficking is not only an injustice to the victim, but it is an injustice unto the families and friends of that victim”. Let us therefore work together in protecting their rights and to end human trafficking in our country and the world at large.

Thank you and May God Bless you all