



MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

STATE DEPARTMENT FOR SOCIAL PROTECTION

OPENING REMARKS BY THE CABINET SECRETARY, HON. (AMB) UKUR YATANI, DURING THE CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP ON ALIGNING KENYAN'S DRAFT NATIONAL FAMILY PROMOTION AND PROTECTION POLICY WITH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS, HELD ON 23RD- 26TH APRIL 2019 AT STRATHMORE UNIVERSITY.

**Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and gentlemen.**

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to this Workshop.

We are here today, because of the Draft National Family Promotion and Protection Policy.

The development of this Policy began in 2015 based on the main aspirations of the Government of Kenya as articulated in Chapter 4, Article 45 of the Constitution, which recognizes the family as the natural and fundamental unit of the society, and the necessary basis of social order and should therefore enjoy the recognition and protection of the State. The Government of Kenya has put efforts in relation to the family through various Acts of parliament such as:

- The Marriage Act of 2013,
- The Matrimonial Act of 2013,
- The Succession Act,
- The Children's Act,
- The Protection Against Violence Act of 2015

However, the Family Promotion and Protection Policy is the first single policy framework in Kenya since independence that speaks to the family as a unit. It builds around the recognition of the family as an essential social unit and of the

various educational, nurturing and caring functions it performs towards their members. It identifies issues facing families and also provides broad implementation strategies that will enable families make meaningful contribution in the development processes. This policy brings the agenda of families to the government and provides a basis to access resources that can be geared towards supporting families in Kenya.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The overall goal of the Policy is to provide an environment that recognizes and facilitates the well-being and empowers families to participate in the socio-economic development of the country. The Ministry has made extensive consultations in the policy development process, involving Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs); Development Partners, Civil Society Organizations (CSO'S) and Faith Based Organizations, to ensure their views and inputs have been incorporated into the Policy as part of public participation.

Emerging issues revolving around the family in Kenya include: Street families, Child headed Families, destitute families' members abandoned in hospitals, Skip generation families among others. Challenges of such families include poverty, disease, homelessness and even discrimination based on gender and disability.

Consequently, as we focus on the goal of the workshop which is to align the family policy to the relevant Sustainable Development Goals, it is important to take cognizance of the emerging issues and ensure they are incorporated in the policy and appropriate actions proposed.

The Ministry is committed in ensuring that the Policy is finalized and implemented and notes that your participation as stakeholders is critical in ensuring this goal is realized. This will entail your support in lobbying the Parliament and other stakeholders to buy in and facilitate approval of the Policy and its implementation.

Once again, I take this opportunity to express our gratitude to UNDESA for their continued cooperation and look forward for more support in development and

implementation of strategies to support families in Kenya, including the generation of a state of the family report to present key trends on the well-being of families in Kenya.

I wish to commend the Technical Working Group members, who have worked tirelessly in the development of the Policy. Your commitment and hard work is highly appreciated.

Finally, I would like to thank Strathmore University for hosting the workshop and all the participants from various organizations and Ministries who have found time to take part in this workshop.

Thankyou.