



**MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL PROTECTION  
OFFICE OF THE CABINET SECRETARY**

**REMARKS: BY HON. FLORENCE BORE**

**CABINET SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND  
SOCIAL PROTECTION**

**KEY NOTE SPEECH DURING THE END OF TERM  
MEETING FOR THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR  
OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH (NACOSH)**

**HELD IN MOMBASA**

**ON WEDNESDAY, 7<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2022**

**The Principal Secretary, State Department of Labour and Skills Development, Mr. Geoffrey Kaituko**

**The Secretary Directorate of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSHS), Dr. Musa Nyandusi,**

**The Chairman, NACOSH**

**Members of NACOSH**

**Heads of Departments present**

**The secretariat to NACOSH,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Good morning,

I am delighted to join you today during the end term meeting for the National Council for Occupational Safety and Health (NACOSH). This is my first interaction with the NACOSH since my appointment as Cabinet Secretary for Labour and Social Protection. I note that the meeting will focus more in taking stock and reflecting on strides made towards having a safe and health culture among the working populace in our country.

I am aware that, NACOSH is the top organ at policy level mandated with matters Occupational Safety and Health. I would therefore expect

nothing short of an effective outcome from today's deliberations that will set the Kenya's worker in the right trajectory when it comes to safety and health at work.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am informed that, NACOSH is constituted of various heads of Government agencies and organizations that have direct interest in matters Occupational Safety and Health.

In fulfillment of its mandate, NACOSH conducts its operations through committees such as Finance, Legal and Communication committee,

Extractives and Construction Sector committee, Manufacturing and Service Industry Committee and Agricultural Sector Committee; committees which are in line with the Government Key priority areas.

It is for this reason that, I would expect a lot to have been achieved during your term as members of NACOSH, more so when it a mere fact that Occupational Safety and Health is not a foreign subject to you.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As you all know, the National Occupational Safety and Health policy was developed and put into use way back in 2012 courtesy of NACOSH, and

it is overdue for review. I am excited to be updated on your deliberations today especially on what the Council has planned and come up with, as an input to the review of the policy framework.

We all know that Kenya is a member state of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and therefore Conventions, protocols and recommendations have to be given effect in the legal framework relating to OSH in our country. NACOSH is mandated by law to spearhead this. I look forward to have an update in this regard.



## **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I cannot forget to appreciate the shift from application of provisions of Work Injury Benefits, Act, 2007 in compensating injured workers, which is employer liability based, to the new conceptual Work Injury Social Insurance Scheme (WISIS), which is Social Liability based. This is where the world is heading in terms of compensation of occupational injuries.

I am happy to note that courtesy of NACOSH, gainful strides have been made in promoting the best practices in occupational safety and health. One of such best practice in the country is marking of World Day for Safety and Health at work every year on 28<sup>th</sup> April.

## **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Indeed, this is the way to go especially when events like Scientific Conference, first aid contests, medical examinations of workers, OSH awards, forums in the media and OSH training are some of the activities that populate the occasion. The World Day for Safety and Health at work activities play a big role in promoting the OSH culture in the country as well as increasing visibility of our Ministry; thanks to NACOSH.

We all know that best OSH culture cannot be achieved without first ensuring that preventative culture has been established and maintained. It is for this reason that NACOSH is tasked with this role. It is therefore

prudent that you leave behind a legacy that will be continued by the incoming team in this regard.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The two Acts of Parliament that spell out the mandate of DOSHS have been in use since 2007. I am informed the review of provisions of these Acts, and subsidiary regulations is underway. I am certain that the review has been reliant on NACOSH to be at the status it is currently. My office will give necessary assistance to ensure completion of the review.

In the same breath, my office will work with NACOSH and the Directorate of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSHS) in any standards

and codes of practice that relate to OSH that are under development to enable their finalization.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The field of Occupational Safety and Health is vast and very much reliant on data. Statistical analysis of work related to deaths and injuries are important in putting OSH plans into perspective. Once again let me reiterate the importance of NACOSH. It is my hope that the deliberations and advisories provided by NACOSH relied on data and statistical analysis.

## **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Your departure and indeed lapse of your term does not spell out the end and your articulation of matters OSH in workplaces. The departure signifies the setting of a pace and standard for an incoming team to carry on. By virtue of your experience attained during service in the Council, your input will still be required.

I once again would like to reiterate support from my office to NACOSH with emphasis that any advisories presented will be given due consideration and acted upon. As it has always been, my office and NACOSH will work alongside one another. The synergy will benefit us all.

## **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We have a new regime that has a particular focus on revamping the Medium and Small Enterprises (MSE) with the “Bottom Up” agenda. The list of responsibilities has therefore increased for DOSHS and indeed NACOSH. There is still much to be done in improving the OSH situation and culture in this sector. The sector requires OSH improvement while at the same time ensuring economic sustainability.

I would urge you to pass a vibrant button to evoke even more vigour to the next team so that this new sector finds its place in the OSH fraternity.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As you exit, be good ambassadors and crusaders of OSH and bear in mind that your safety and health starts with you. It is my wish that we will have fruitful deliberations that will benefit our workers out there.

Let me also take this early opportunity to wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year 2023.

**Thank You for the attention and God Bless you all.**

