



STATE DEPARTMENT FOR LABOUR AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

REMARKS BY

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STATE DEPARTMENT FOR LABOUR AND SKILLS
DEVELOPMENT**

**DURING THE COMMEMORATION OF
THE WORLD YOUTH SKILLS DAY
ON 15TH JULY, 2024**



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Dr. Beatrice M. Inyangala, Principal Secretary, State Department for Higher Education and Research

Dr. Esther Muoria, Principal Secretary, State Department for Technical and Vocational Education and Training, Ministry of Education

Dr. Belio R. Kipsang, CBS, Principal Secretary, CBS, State Department for Basic Education

Mary Mwiti, CEO, Council of Governors

Dr. Stephen Jackson, UN Resident Coordinator



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Caroline Njuki, Chief Technical Advisor, International Labour Organization

Stephen Gitagama, Chief Executive Officer, Nation Media

Jacqueline Mugo, Executive Director & Chief Executive Officer, Federation of Kenya Employers

Dr. Francis Atwoli, Secretary General, Central Organization of Trade Unions, Kenya

Margret Kiogora, Ag. CEO, National Youth Council,

Senior Government Officials,

Distinguished guests including the youth and students,



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Ladies and gentlemen,

I am delighted to host **World Youth Skills Day 2024** here at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre. The day was set aside by the United Nations General Assembly in November 2014 to celebrate the strategic importance of equipping young people with skills for employment, decent work and entrepreneurship. Since then, the World Youth Skills Day is celebrated in Kenya on 15th July of every year in line with this declaration.

Ladies and gentlemen,



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The global theme for this years World Youth Skills Day is ***'Youth Skills for Peace and Development'***. This theme is driven by the need to recognize the crucial role that young people play in peacebuilding and conflict resolution efforts. Time and again, the world faces conflict and violence, with many conflicts today waged between non-state actors such as political militias, criminal, and international terrorist groups. These conflicts pose a threat to the future of the youth and the overall stability of societies.

Ladies and gentlemen,



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On this day, we re-affirm our commitment to equip the youth with the necessary skills for fostering a culture of peace, nurturing responsible global citizens, and promoting sustainable development to build a more just, inclusive, and sustainable future for all. The time has come to recognize the potential of young people as agents of peace, to provide them with peace building skills and to place them at the heart of our quest for a peaceful, prosperous, and resilient Kenya.

Ladies and gentlemen,



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The World Youth Skills Day is taking place at a time when the young people, popularly known as 'Generation-Z', are agitating for a better future. The question we ask today is: Shall we harness the ideas of the youth in order to transform society, to improve the state of the world and to shape the future? The answer is yes! Our young people have made this clear to us. They want us to proceed in a new direction, one that puts the needs of the youth at the center of the national development agenda.



STATE DEPARTMENT FOR LABOUR AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Ladies and gentlemen,

Recall that the scripture in Joel 2:28 that states that “your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions.” There is a lesson to be learnt from this passage. During these times that are defining our young generation, it is their visionary spirit that must be celebrated. On this day, we should carry with us the task of ensuring that young people are empowered, are included and not left behind. We must give our young people a greater voice in decision-making at all levels.



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Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we commemorate the World Youth Skills Day, we have to acknowledge the challenge of youth unemployment. According to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (2021), the age groups of 20-24 and 25-29 years continued to record the highest proportion of the unemployed at 16.3 per cent and 9.1 per cent, respectively. Furthermore, the youth aged 20-24 years had the highest rate of long-term unemployment (continuous periods of unemployment extending for one year or longer) which stood at 13.5 per cent.



STATE DEPARTMENT FOR LABOUR AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The youth unemployment challenge is not beyond our ability to solve. The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection is committed to promoting decent work, skills development and sustainable job creation. In discharging this commitment, we are mindful of the potential of young people to contribute to socio-economic development and foster increased prosperity for the country.

Towards this end, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection has embarked on the following:



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1. Reducing the skills mismatch by aligning skills supply to demand towards attaining a skilled workforce that is employable, productive, enterprising, innovative, adaptable and competitive.
2. Optimizing safe, orderly and regular labour migration to enhance youth employment in the global labour market.
3. Transforming career guidance to enable the youth manage their careers, including making informed



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education, training and occupational choices, for sustained employability.

4. Promoting integrated work-based learning for enhanced employability, productivity, enterprise development and sustainable socio-economic development.
5. Enhancing Business Process Outsourcing through skills development to enhance online employment in the gig economy.



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6. Promoting reskilling and upskilling interventions for new and emerging occupations.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection has also created and maintained various management information systems aimed at enhancing access to labour market information. These include:

1. The National Employment Authority Integrated Management System (NEAIMS) which provides information on local and foreign employment



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opportunities for the youth. This system can be accessed at www.neaims.go.ke

2. The Kenya Skills Hubs which provide the youth with information on skills development and career development opportunities. This system can be accessed at: www.posttraining.go.ke

3. The Kenya Labour Market Information System (KLMIS) which helps the youth make informed career decisions. This system can be accessed at: www.labourmarket.go.ke



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Ladies and Gentlemen,

As I conclude my remarks, allow me to extend a heartfelt appreciation to all of you for sparing your time and joining us during this auspicious occasion. It is gratifying to see the joint presence of the public sector, private sector, education and training institutions, industry, professional bodies, social partners, development partners, NGOs, youth organizations and students at this event. I also take this opportunity to thank our development partners for walking



STATE DEPARTMENT FOR LABOUR AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

the journey with us. To the National Organizing Committee, I commend you for successfully coordinating this event.

It is now my pleasure to declare the World Youth Skills Day 2024 officially launched.

Thank you and God bless you!