

REMARKS BY SIMON K. CHELUGUI, E.G.H., CABINET SECRETARY,
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL PROTECTION ON THE LAUNCH
OF THE COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE FOR SOCIAL PROTECTION IN
KENYA

8TH OCTOBER 2020, NSSF BUILDING, 8TH FLOOR, EASTERN WING

Hon. Eugene Wamalwa, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Devolution
Chief Administrative Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection
Hon Patrick Ole Ntutu

Representatives of UNICEF, World Food Programme, World Bank, DfID
and other Development Partners

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen

Welcome and thank you for attending today's launch of the Kenya
Community of Practice for Social Protection.

Today marks a great moment for the social protection practitioners in
Kenya and especially for the implementers as well as the beneficiaries as
we launch the Community of Practice for Social Protection (CoP), Kenya
Chapter. This is a forum in which practitioners, implementers and
stakeholders will share knowledge, best practices, a platform for
mentorship and exchange ideas for the advancement of the sector in
Kenya.

The formation of the CoP, Kenya Chapter for Social Protection has been a
collaborative effort, reflecting the way we hope to achieve the greater goal
of social protection as a tool and instrument for poverty reduction and
economic growth. The Ministry would like to recognize the immense
contribution of the various stakeholders that participated in its
establishment since 2017. Social protection is an enabler and a pillar for the
achievement of the Big Four Agenda in Kenya.

The Government of Kenya has embraced social protection as a tool for
poverty reduction and economic growth amongst the most vulnerable and

poor population. I am pleased with the outcomes of social protection in cushioning the poor and vulnerable through government led interventions in social assistance, social security and health insurance. These interventions are key in promoting equity and social inclusion as envisaged in the Kenya Constitution 2010 provisions. We have witnessed the gains of social protection in the country including: income security for households, dignity for all, broadening of financial inclusion to the most vulnerable, improved child development, economic stimulus and opportunities for business.

As you may be aware, the social protection sector has grown rapidly since the introduction of the social assistance in the country in year 2004. As a Government we are especially proud of the Cash Transfer to Orphans and Vulnerable Children (CT-OVC), Older Persons Cash Transfer Programme (OPCT), Cash Transfer to Persons with Severe Disabilities (PWSD-CT) and Hunger Safety Net Programme (HSNP) which is managed by the State Department of Devolution. State and non-state actors have invested heavily in the sector resulting in tremendous growth in terms of programmes, number of beneficiaries receiving various forms of social protection interventions, increased number of actors designing and implementing social protection, strengthened capacity and spurred knowledge sharing.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The establishment of the Community of Practice for social protection in Kenya is critical to building linkages and synergies across programmes and sectors for knowledge sharing platforms by bringing together skills and specialities in the social protection sector. The goal of establishing the forum is to provide a forum for sharing knowledge, exchange of information, mentorship and sharing of best practices in social protection.

It is worth noting that the need for Community of Practice for social protection was identified through various processes namely the Social Protection Sector Review and as a Call to Action arising out of the 2nd Social Protection Conference undertaken in 2018. The CoP therefore seeks to include all stakeholders to participate in the social protection agenda which includes the government department, donor agencies, local and international non-governmental organizations, private sector and academia.

The Government recognises the interactions that have been going on among stakeholders albeit informally. Activities on knowledge management and sharing are continuously being carried out with several countries visiting the country to learn best practise from us having implemented many social protection activities that have demonstrated positive results.

As we have noted from the presentations, the CoP for social protection in Kenya we are launching today provides opportunity towards a better results management framework in social protection, leveraging linkages and resources in the sector, flagging out policy and structural gaps as they arise, a platform for sustained advocacy for increased financing and finally it will provide a space within which stakeholders can build consensus on normative standards for specific programs.

To conclude:

I invite you all social protection stakeholders to actively take up membership in the forum and continue collaborating with the Government in supporting these noble initiatives. I call on the entire social protection sector fraternity to play their part in ensuring the Forum is vibrant for sustainability and to have a meaningful impact to the sector.

With those remarks, it is now my pleasure to officially launch the Community of Practice for Social Protection in Kenya.

I thank you.