

Government responds to BBC allegation of child theft and sale

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By Cheruiyot Korir

A team of officers from relevant government departments has been constituted to investigate and take action against individuals and institutions allegedly abetting theft and sale of children in the country.

Labour and Social Protection Cabinet Secretary, Mr Simon Chelugui, who was briefing the media at his NSSF office boardroom following reports by BBC and a section of the local media on the allegation, said the government will protect the children by all means as they are the custodian and an assurance of the country's future.

“We condemn in the strongest terms possible the alleged stealing and sale of babies in Nairobi and any other part of the country. This is unacceptable and the government will deal with it decisively” said Chelugui.

Mr Chelugui said the government has put in place policy, legal mechanisms and institutions to promote child safety and protection and assured the public that public health facilities are secure and safe for mothers and children.

The Cabinet Secretary encouraged the public to report cases of child rights violations through Child help line 116, the police or relevant government agencies for legal intervention.

He urged individuals or couples who may not have children of their own that there are legal procedures for adopting children.