

Government focuses on bilateral agreements for export of skilled labour

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By Mary Atandi

The Cabinet Secretary for Labour Mr Simon Chelugui has called on the National Employment Authority (NEA) to negotiate Bilateral Labour Agreement that will offer the youths opportunity to export their skills in an orderly and safe process.

Mr Chelugui said that his office is ready to support the NEA to seek employment opportunities in Canada, Australia, United Kingdom and Poland among other destinations that present better markets for Kenya because of historical ties.

The Cabinet Secretary noted that initially, opportunities for labour migration have been for semiskilled and low skilled workers, however, concerted initiatives were now increasingly focused on export of skilled labour.

Speaking at a meeting to introduce the newly appointed NEA Chairperson Prof. Grace Cheserek, Mr Chelugui said the Ministry is committed to champion relevant policy, legal and institutional reforms that will enhance labour migration management for the benefit of the country.

Mr Chelugui noted that the Public Employment Services will be enhanced by re-engineering and transforming the existing employment offices into job centres to act as one stop shop on all issues relating to employment.

Mr Chelugui acknowledged the strategies put in place by NEA to enhance provision of Employment service for job seekers by developing and implementing youth-centric employment creation programme, re-designing of the pre-departure and orientation for prospective migrants and establishment of safe house to act as temporary shelter for those stranded abroad among others

The newly appointed NEA Board Chair Prof. Grace Cheserek said she will work to increase growth of employment, build collaboration, explore new labour markets, and design mechanism for measuring employment and work