



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

**SPEECH BY
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**DURING THE HANDING OVER AND OFFICIAL
OPENING OF KILIFI CHILD PROTECTION CENTRE**

3rd FEBRUARY 2020

**The County Commissioner Kilifi,
Representatives from Plan International,
Representatives from County Government of Kilifi,
Representatives from Government Ministries, Departments
and Agencies,
Ministry Staff,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen**

Good morning,

I am delighted to officiate the opening of Kilifi Child Protection Centre, a collaborative effort between my Ministry and Plan International-Kenya. This important forum is a celebration of the fruits of partnership in Kilifi County.

The Child Protection Centre (CPC) will serve as a hub of information and services, primarily for children and the whole community. It is set within the community, where vulnerable children can be protected from abuse, violence, neglect and exploitation. Their needs will be identified, assessed, addressed and referrals for rehabilitation, counselling and vocational training will be made.

The CPC provides a child friendly space that approaches child protection from a diverse, holistic angle. From the experience of already existing

CPCs, there is high demand for the integrated services provided in CPCs. The Government has established six Child Protection Centres in the country in Malindi (established in 2012), Garissa, Nairobi, Nakuru, Kakamega and Siaya. The services offered include; individual assessment, counselling, Psychosocial support, legal aid, tracing, reintegration and family reunion, rescue services, outreach services, referrals for other services, Resource Centre and child friendly recreational spaces.

The objective of child protection centers is to work with the community to provide comprehensive preventive and response services. CPCs work to prevent and to respond to all forms of violence, abuse and exploitation. It promotes reintegration and retention of children within the community, strengthening community child care structures through awareness creation and advocacy on child rights, strengthening collaboration between line ministries, NGOs and development partners, in response to issues affecting vulnerable children and to strengthen child protection referral system in the country.

Ladies and gentlemen

The CPC model has created community sense of ownership of child protection issues, especially in Centres that have been in operation with intense outreach program like in Malindi, Nakuru and Garrissa. Data from CPC is captured and recorded in the Child Protection Information Management System. For example, from 2010 up to the end of 2018, Malindi Child Protection Centre was able to handle 24,389 children cases, 301 schools reached through outreach Programs and 79,454

pupils/students given services or empowered. Through CPCs mobile program, 67 forums were held reaching 10,047 community members.

The Kilifi CPC is expected to augment existing social and child protection measures to cushion families in the region. A case in point is the consolidated Cash Transfers. The cash transfer targets households with Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC), older persons and persons with severe disabilities. In Kilifi 32,014 households are benefiting from the CTOVC program, 21,886 from the older person's program (OPTC) and 826 for people with disability (PWSD). In addition, Kilifi is one of the 5 pilot project counties for the Nutrition Improvement through Cash and Health Education (NICHE) under the World Bank funded KSEIP program under my ministry.

Data from the Violence Against Children Survey Report 2019 indicated that majority of the perpetrators of violence are people known to the children which means they are within the community and hence the need to have services closer to children to avoid delays, reduce facilitation costs, reduce the rate of case fall outs because of various reasons such multiple referrals. When services are consolidated in one place, it reduces on delays, traumatizing of children, compromising of stakeholders and any other negative results on the war against child abuse.

The survey report is proof that child abuse and violence still exist in the society, including Kilifi. There is therefore dire need to enhance Child Protection services closer to the community.

My Ministry is planning to replicate the CPC model in the Sub-county offices in the country, where children and their families will receive integrated services (counselling, legal Aid & services, referrals) among

others, at one point. The model will also reduce duplication of service, strengthen referral system, prudent utilization of resources, equitable distribution of funds and create a hub of services. The plans will be realized through the support of Child Protection Technical Working Group established in 2018.

Today's function brings a new dawn to Kilifi community, because services will be closer to them. It will also create community awareness on child protection issues in communities through community outreaches hence increase in case reporting, quick interventions and appropriate referrals.

Kilifi County has high preference of child protection cases such as teenage pregnancies, child marriage, and child-sex tourism among others. The current COVID-19 pandemic has also exacerbated the vulnerability of children. I believe this Centre will enhance service provision to children and their families, and children living on the streets can be assessed and referred appropriately.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Government and Private Sector partnership has brought about development in Kenya. The successful completion of the Kilifi CPC is a clear demonstration of public and private sector partnership.

On behalf of the Ministry and the Government of Kenya, I convey our gratitude to Plan International for complementing the Government through the construction of this very important facility to protect Kenyan children. My Ministry will utilize the facility to comprehensively serve its

intended purpose of safeguarding the rights and welfare of children as well as upholding The **Best Interest of the child principle**.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Once again, It is my pleasure to officially receive the Child Protection Centre from Plan International and declare it officially opened for operations.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU