

Government embarks on the construction of Child Protection Units to enhance children's rights

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By Mary Atandi

The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection in partnership with the National Police Service are working together to ensure that the rights and welfare of children in custody and those in conflict with the law are protected while in police custody.

The Cabinet Secretary, Simon Chelugui, said the government is keen to ensure that child cases reported to the police station are handled professionally to ensure children access justice and their rights protected.

Speaking in Kwale where he opened a Child Protection Unit, Mr Chelugui said, the opening of Units across the country will provide for children at the police station to be held separately from suspected adult criminals and alleged offenders.

Mr Chelugui explained that a report by a special Task Force on Children Matters Chaired by Lady Justice Martha Koome handed over to the Chief Justice in November last year shows that, the rights and welfare of Children continue to be violated at different stages of the justice system.

Mr Chelugui called on advocates to expand their free services to children faced with judicial proceedings to ensure their rights are protected and their cases are processed without delay.

The Cabinet Secretary said there was need for a multi sectoral approach on protection of child rights and commended Plan International for supplementing government's effort by supporting the construction of the Child Protection Unit in Kwale.