



**MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL PROTECTION**

**OFFICE OF THE CABINET SECRETARY**

**SPEECH BY**

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**CABINET SECRETARY**

**DURING THE INDUCTION TRAINING OF THE BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS**

**FOR THE STREET FAMILIES REHABILITATION TRUST FUND**

**AT**

**LAKE NAIVASHA RESORT**

**3<sup>RD</sup> MARCH, 2021**

The Principal Secretary, State Department for Social Protection

The Honourable Chairperson, Board of Trustees -SFRTF

Board Members of SFRTF

Heads of Departments Present

SFRTF Secretariat Staff

Ladies and Gentlemen,

### **Good Morning**

It gives me great pleasure to join you today to officially open this induction training for the new Board Chair and a refresher for the other Trustees. Honourable Chairperson once again let me congratulate you on your appointment to chair the Board of Trustees of Street Families Rehabilitation Trust Fund. This noble task requires dedication and commitment to meet the expectations of Kenyans in ensuring a country free of street families.

As I had mentioned earlier during the handing over, I am very confident that you are equal to this enormous task and you will ensure that much will be achieved before expiry of your term as a Chair to the Board.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

This induction workshop aims at equipping you Honourable Chairperson and other trustees with the requisite knowledge and skills necessary to enable you effectively execute your mandate. For the other trustees, you are getting your double portion having received a similar training in May, 2019.

Our President expects entities owned by the Government to promote and accelerate economic growth and development; and drive the social and economic transformation of our Country. This can only be achieved if such entities follow proper corporate governance.

The 2010 constitution has significantly addressed the question of leadership, governance and management of public resources. However, to increase efficiency and accountability in the use of government resources, the government developed Mwongozo, a code of conduct for all state corporations. I implore on all of you to get a copy of this document and study it well. Mwongozo has entrenched principles and values of public service and best practices in corporate governance. It addresses issues of transparency and disclosure; accountability; risk management; internal control; ethical leadership; and good corporate citizenship; among others.

Corporate governance is basically a structure and system of rules, practices and processes by which an organization is directed, controlled, and held accountable. It involves balancing the interest of many stakeholders in an organization; provides a framework for achieving the objectives of the organization; and creates benchmarks for measurements.

To achieve your objectives, you ought to have qualified staff, capable of exercising independent judgement. The board must ensure that staff skills and competencies are regularly developed and also annually evaluated.

In all your decisions, you must ensure effective, accurate, timely and transparent disclosure of pertinent information on all operations because, transparency creates opportunity for continuous improvement of structures and processes. You must especially ensure that financial reporting is adhered to; procurement rules adhered to; ensure compliance with laws and regulation; adhere to vision and mission; remuneration structures; analysis of key organization risk among others.

The board must ensure there is sufficient internal controls, in particular, the internal audit must be allowed to operate without any hindrance and must submit a quarterly report to the board. The board must know what it meets to evaluate so that the board does not start doing the work of its staff. These are some of the questions that the board need to answer;

- Does the board have a procurement policy
- Is there an ICT policy and how does it fit into the funds operations
- Does the board have a risk management policy
- Does the board have a financial reporting policy
- Have you mapped out your key stakeholders?
- Do you have a policy on conflict of interest?
- Do you have a code of conduct and ethics?
- Have you established your core values, and how do you ensure everyone follows them?
- How do you promote you public image?
- Do you have a whistle blowing policy?
- How do you resolve disputes within the organization?
- How do you relate with both National and County governments

- What is your sustainability policy?

## **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The above questions if answered will give this board enough work to do. I wish to guide this board to avoid the temptation of most boards which tends to convert themselves into secretariat and get involved in the day to day running of the operations of organizations. The work of boards is to give policy guideline and oversight the secretariat. You are expected to adhere to guidelines on board meetings, and must avoid the temptation of having more board meeting that is allowed by State Corporation Advisory Committee (SCAC).

Over the years, the Government has been promoting socio-economic interventions targeting the vulnerable and marginalized groups, including street families, with an aim of empowering them for sustainable livelihoods.

These interventions have borne fruits and now need to be scaled up. I am aware that in the past, the Trust Fund has partnered with Private institutions and supported them in order to provide rehabilitation services, education and vocation training to the Street Families. While this may have worked, this strategy now requires further review to ensure that the limited resources at the fund are utilised for the intended purpose and reach the targeted street families.

The country has witnessed a notable upsurge of street families which may have been caused largely by high levels of unemployment and loss of jobs due to Covid-19 pandemic as well as family breakdown. This

means that your work is increasing and becoming more complicated, you therefore need to work extra hard to reduce these numbers. Remember the president has given a directive to see all school going children in school, you are therefore expected to work closely with the ministry of Education and The Interior Ministry to execute this directive.

Last year we launched the census of the street families. That report highlighted both the push and pull factors and i believe that you have read or are reading that report and developing your programmes based on its findings.

I am also aware that you are working on the National Policy on Rehabilitation of Street Families and enactment of a Bill; mobilization of resources to finance rehabilitation programmes; development of preventive measures against the underlying factors forcing people onto the streets; coordination of effective rescue, rehabilitation, reintegration and resocialization of street families to ensure there are minimal relapses; and undertaking awareness creation to popularise the Trust Fund. You must remain focussed to deliver on all these, because our country does not expect less from us.

It is my expectation that by the end of this induction workshop you will all be more equipped, with skills and knowledge on effective coordination and management of the Street Families Rehabilitation Trust Fund, even as you endeavour to achieve the Trust Fund's vision of a country free of street persons.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As I conclude, I assure you of my support and guidance as required. Let me remind you that I expect you to always remember that the parent Ministry is expected to oversight this board, and therefore you should deliver your quarterly report to the ministry as expected.

It is now my honour and privilege to declare induction workshop officially open.

**Thank you and God bless you all.**