

Kenyans working abroad hit 4 million

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There are over 4 million Kenyan migrant workers, a greater percentage of which are the youths whose skills are on demand in international markets.

Cabinet Secretary for Labour and social protection Simon Chelugui said a survey conducted on Kenyans working abroad established that there are 2 million workers who registered with Kenyan embassies while another 2 million are unregistered.

He explained that the number of Kenyan migrant workers continue to increase, therefore there is need to effectively manage the migration and ensure protection of the workers.

The Cabinet Secretary said that the Ministry has reviewed the regulations on private employment agencies, signed three Bilateral Labour Agreements and established an inter-ministerial committee to vet Private Recruitment Agencies in a bid to streamline the labour migration.

He added that measures are also being taken to finalize labour migration policy and Labour migration management bill to strengthen the sector.

Mr. Simon Chelugui said that diaspora remittances that hit over Sh 300 billion by the end 2020 are currently Kenya's highest foreign exchange earner having overtaken tea, coffee and tourism.

He observed that, despite significant benefits obtained by the country from labour migration, weak coordination of labour migration management, inadequate information on labour migration, policy and legal framework remains a challenge to the growth of migrant labour.

The CS also cited limited Bilateral Labour Agreements and inadequate social protection for migrant workers as some of the issues that slows down the sector. He said, the Government has prioritized key initiatives such as promotion of ethical recruitment to increase access to labour migration information.