

30,000 workers set to work in the Middle East

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The Cabinet Secretary for Labour and social protection, Mr Simon Chelugui has said the government is promoting labour migration in the country to reduce the level of unemployment locally.

Mr. Chelugui said that, the government is targeting to secure 30,000 job opportunities for the youths in foreign market over the next one year.

The Cabinet Secretary said, the ministry has developed a national policy on labour migration and a Labour Migration Management Bill that will facilitate accreditation of private recruitment agencies and developed pre-departure training and orientation programmes.

Speaking at the National Industrial Training Authority (NITA), Athi River centre yesterday, during a graduation of over 70 homecare management graduands, Mr. Chelugui said the government has designed the home care management course to provide skills, knowledge and attitudes to migrant workers seeking domestic work in the middle East.

He said the home management course aims to enable the workers perform their duties effectively and reduce conflict with their employers adding that labour migration was important because it provides socio-economic benefits to the both country of origin and destination. He explained that

migrant labour is a source of employment and brings in diaspora remittances to the country of origin, while it helps in skill transfer and facilitate productivity in the host country.

Mr. Chelugui said the government has addressed some challenges faced by migrant labour through provision of pre-departure training and orientation and putting in place regulatory framework for private employment agencies to streamline the sector and enhance productivity of migrant labour.

The Cabinet Secretary challenged NITA to recognize prior learning and practical experience and carry out assessment and award of certificates to those who benefit from the training.

He urged Kenyans seeking for job opportunity in foreign market to carry out due diligence on employment agencies offering them the job opportunity and confirm if they are licenced by the government.

The Cabinet Secretary said, NITA is conducting national trade test examinations in 46 counties, noting that ongoing assessments exams, are geared towards supplying employable skills to the industry. He said it is essential to align skills supply to the demands of the market.