

Launch of the Technical and Oversight Mechanism Committee on Migrant Labour

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BY: SEDAN MWALO

A multi-stakeholder technical committee to oversee the operations of Private Recruitment Agencies for Kenyan migrant labour has been established.

The Committee that will also develop community feedback mechanism in the recruitment of Kenya migrant labour was launched by the Cabinet Secretary for Labour and Social Protection Mr. Simon Chelugui.

Mr. Chelugui said, with the increase in the number of Private Recruitment Agencies in the recent past, the country was faced with challenges of creating and sustaining ethical recruitment practices that has sometimes created a negative image of the country.

Mr. Simon Chelugui noted that, Labour migration provided immense socio-economic benefits to both countries of origin and destination. He explained that, migrant labour was a source of employment and livelihoods for migrant workers; supported and bridged skills gap in destination countries and facilitated technological transfer in the countries of origin.

The Cabinet Secretary called for the effective management of labour migration in the country to ensure protection of Kenya migrant workers mostly made up of the youth who continue to migrate to different parts of the World, such as Europe, United States of America and Asia to seek for employment opportunities.

He called on the newly formed committee to ensure Kenyan migrant workers have proper contract documents and are not subjected to unfair treatment in foreign labour markets.

He directed the committee to ensure employment agencies are registered with National Employment Authority and have the agencies spread their operations across the country for fair coverage to avoid disadvantaging some regions.

Mr. Chelugui said that the mandate of the committee is to sensitize the community on the structures and systems put in place by the government to stop unethical recruitment practices and encourage citizens to report recruitment Agencies involved in irregularities. He announced that a toll free hotline to report those violating the guidelines will be set up to facilitate information sharing.

He added that the committee is also expected to promote knowledge and awareness among members of the community, migrant workers, job seekers and the general public on legitimate processes of labour migration.

Mr. Chelugui said that the Ministry has reviewed the regulations on private employment agencies and signed Bilateral Labour Agreements (BLAs) with key labour destination countries among other reform measures as part of efforts geared towards creating employment opportunities for the youths.

He said that, the Ministry was posting labour attaches to conduct regular assessment of skills demand and identify job opportunities for Kenyans in foreign labour markets.