

TALKING POINTS FOR PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, STATE DEPARTMENT FOR YOUTH, MR. JULIUS KORIR, CBS DURING A STAKEHOLDERS' ENGAGEMENT FORUM ON INTERNATIONAL YOUTH LABOUR MIGRATION HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 30TH SEPTEMBER 2020

Protocols,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

1. Because of the tremendous economic benefits from exports of labor, developing countries across the world, with excess labour, high levels of unemployment and under employment have positioned themselves to maximize benefits from labor exports. These countries have enacted policies to encourage temporary migration, institutionalized labor export mechanisms, established regulatory frameworks and undertaken bilateral and regional initiatives to enhance labor exports.
2. One of the greatest challenges facing our nation today is the high level of youth unemployment. According to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, the Youth account for 37% of the working age population and yet their unemployment rate stands at 24%.
3. Despite academic qualifications and a strong desire to succeed in life, the Youth are faced with limited opportunities to secure jobs. The struggle to find jobs has led to discouragement, dissatisfaction and disappointments amongst our youth.
4. The consequence of this is idleness, radicalization, increasing crime rate, and alcohol, drug and substance abuse among other vices.

5. The government has a role to play by ensuring that sustainable policies and strategies are implemented to address these challenges. Part of the strategies to create employment opportunities for our Youth has been through labour export implemented by multi-agencies, both in the public and private sectors.
6. One of the objectives and purposes of the Youth Enterprise Development Fund is to facilitate employment of Youth in the International Labour Market. Since inception YEDF has executed this mandate through training of labour immigrants.
7. The government acknowledges the role of Private Employment Agencies (PEAs) in identifying skill shortages in the international job markets, and enabling Kenyans to access employment. They specifically carry out the recruitment, processing of Visas and air tickets for workers on behalf of employers and partner agencies.
8. The IOM Kenya office has supported the development of Home care and pre departure curriculum to enhance knowledge and skills of labour migrants thus making the Kenyan worker competitive in the global market.
9. The Ministry of ICT ,Youth and Innovation takes cognizance of the various costs incurred by labour migrants such as costs of Air ticket , Medical costs ,Visas and other incidental costs prior to travel . The State Department of Youth affairs through YEDF has been conducting the pre – departure Training over 21,000 labour immigrants since 2007.
10. Majority of trainees travelled to the Gulf countries as Domestic workers (House girls , drivers ,cooks , security workers) some also travelled to work in the hospitality and construction industries (Plant

operators ,electrical engineers , plumbers, mansions ,supervisors ,forklift drivers ,waiters, battlers, cooks). Professionals such as Teachers, Nurses , Physiotherapists and Nutritionists have also been employed in the Gulf , albeit in small numbers .

11. The trainings stopped in March ,2020 when most of the Gulf countries halted the entry of flights into their countries in order to contain the spread of Covid-19 Pandemic.

Ladies and Gentlemen

12. The objective of our meeting today is to explore ways in which more professional Youth can be facilitated to work abroad and how the Country can explore new frontiers beyond the Gulf region. We have identified your organization as key stakeholder in this endeavor.
13. I welcome you to make contributions on how best the youth of country can secure gainful employment abroad.

Thank You.