



**MINISTRY OF LABOUR  
OFFICE OF THE CABINET SECRETARY**

**REMARKS BY  
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**MINISTRY OF LABOUR**

**DURING THE NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT AUTHORITY JOB  
FAIR**

**28<sup>nd</sup> JUNE 2022**

County Commissioner,

Chief Administrative Secretary **Jackson Kalla**

Principal Secretary- **Eng Peter Tum**

Principal Secretary **Andrew Sunkuli**

Chairman, NEA -

Ag DG, Edith Okoki

Invited Guest

Staff from the Ministry,

Staff from NEA

Ladies and gentlemen,

**Good Morning**

I am delighted to join you all this morning as we interact with various players in the labour market through this job fair organized by National Employment Authority, themed “**Towards Self Reliance and Decent Job Opportunities**”.

Labour is one of the most critical factor of production and plays a central role in economic growth of any economy, and in an economy like ours, having a decent job is what most youth seek for, because it offers them an exit from poverty and a ticket to a better life.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The Ministry of Labour's mission is **promotion of decent work, skills development and sustainable job creation.** To achieve this mission, the Ministry is expected to develop and implement employment policies, programmes and strategies, a role which the Ministry has partly delegated to National Employment Authority.

In the implementation of this mandate, National Employment Authority is expected to provide a comprehensive institutional framework for employment management; enhance employment promotion interventions;

and also enhance access to employment for youth, minorities and marginalized groups.

I note that, since NEA board was fully constituted, they have played this role rather well, and I want to thank the entire board, and the Management led by the **Ag DG, Madam Edith Okoki**, for the efforts you have put in to create visibility to National Employment Authority.

## **Ladies and gentlemen,**

It is every parent, dream and prayer that upon graduation, their children will be easily absorbed in the labour market. However, in spite of all the efforts that the government has put in place, our economy has not managed to create enough jobs to accommodate all the youth joining our labour market.

In particular, in the last ten years, our government implemented a number of strategies meant to create a better investment climate in the country, hence creating enabling environment for employment creation. Some of these strategies include reduction in the cost of doing business; expanded democratic space which has kept political risks low; improved governance;

simplification of business registration processes; improvement in physical infrastructure; the last mile connectivity; promotion of science, technology and innovations; and improved ICT connectivity.

The Government also enhanced the affirmative action funds such as the Uwezo Fund, and Women Enterprise Fund, and initiatives such as Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) with the twin objective of creating opportunities for self-employment and economic development.

At the Ministry of Labour, the government enhanced the capacity of NITA to offer relevant industrial skills training, and encouraged industrial collaboration through curriculum development. The government also enhance data collection to identify skills needs in the industry, promoted



productivity practices, strengthened social dialogue through tripartism, promoted need for investing in occupational health and safety and strengthened the capacity of NEA to provide employment services, through online jobseeker's registration, and placement of jobseekers both in the local and foreign market.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

While our government has done a lot to promote decent work, lack of timely, reliable and up-to-date labour market information has sometimes hampered these efforts. It is on this back drop that the Ministry of labour through National Employment Authority planned this job fairs.

I appreciate that searching for job is normally very frustrating for most jobseekers, especially when they do not know where to start, let me therefore encourage all job seekers to register themselves through the NEAMIS online job seekers portal, this will give you an opportunity to see all available jobs.

Let me also bring to your attention that National Employment Authority has established employment promotions centers at the county level. Let me encourage all Employers to take advantage of these employment promotion centers to advertise available vacancies through NEA online portal. Through this portal, you will attract job seekers from all corners of our

country. I also want to encourage employers to recruit employees through the **NEAMIS**, a service which is available at no cost at all.

Let me also encourage employers to use the online NEAMIS to file your employment return. The system has been made very user friendly that you do not need to wait until the end of the year to file your returns. This system has been designed to allow employers to file their returns monthly, hence easily fulfilling your statutory obligation, with ease.

As I conclude, let me wish you fruitful interactions. Through this Job fair, the Ministry of labour and National Employment Authority, aims at bringing various players in the labour market together, to dialogue on the best approaches in addressing the problem of youth unemployment, besides increasing awareness on available job opportunities.

The Ministry and NEA also plans to share challenges associated with labour migration management and to share the efforts which the government has put in place to ensure ethical recruitment process by Private recruitment Agencies, and also mechanism put in place to enhance protection of rights of Kenya migrant workers.

Let me mention that our government recognizes that our economy is not creating enough jobs fast enough, to absorb the large number of youths graduating every year. It is for this reason that the Ministry of labour is supporting well managed labour migration because of the social economic benefit it brings to our country.

Even as we promote Labour migration, we are not oblivious of the challenges experienced in some destination countries. However, our government has put in measures to ensure that, Kenyans wishing to migrate to other countries are assured of their protection in line with international conventions and standards.

Some of the measures the government has implemented and will continue to implement aimed at enhancing labour migration management includes negotiation of Bilateral Labour Agreements, implementation of pre-departure training as well as return and re-integration programmes.

Lastly, as we think about strategies to reduce youth unemployment, I want to challenge NEA and NHRPD to come up with a career navigator. Most students in our country choose their career very late in their life, mostly at form three or form four. For most of them, the choice of university is just a routine activity before seating for their national exams, and mostly not much thought is put in it.

Going forward, we would hope to start engaging with students at secondary schools by partnering with employers, so that we can start having career fairs in schools. This will help students immediately they join secondary school to start engaging with industry players to help them shape their career choices. This will also help to broaden the horizons of most student, by interacting directly with industry players.

Finally, it is my hope that National Employment Authority will document success stories from this first job fair and use it as a learning curve for the other upcoming job fairs. It is my believe that going forward, thousand of prospective job seekers will attend future job fairs for career talks, and hope that some of the employers may also take the advantage of these job fairs to directly recruit and interview some jobseekers.

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