

MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

PRESS STATEMENT

STATEMENT ON BBC AFRICA EYE INVESTIGATIVE DOCUMENTARY - 'BABY STEALERS OF NAIROBI'

1. One of the Key mandates of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection is Child Protection.
2. The attention of the Government is drawn to reportage about the safety of children in our country. We condemn in the strongest terms possible the alleged stealing and sale of babies in Nairobi and in any other part of the country. This is unacceptable and the Government will deal with it decisively. I warn those who are stealing and or selling children that they will met with the full force of the law. Likewise, I am warning those who are buying such children that they are equally guilty as this is a criminal offence.
3. Kenya takes pride in and is protective of its children, for they are our heritage; our assurance for tomorrow. As a Nation, we take the issue of child protection very seriously, a position that is reflected by our being signatory to several international conventions and protocols that protect the rights and welfare of our children. These include the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child; United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children (Palermo Protocol); the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare on the Child.

4. A team of officers from relevant government agencies has been constituted to exhaustively investigate the allegations carried out and take necessary action.
5. We do not condone child trafficking and will do everything possible as a Government to get to the bottom of it. We therefore assure Kenyans that our health facilities are secure and safe for mothers and children. We further urge the public to report to government agencies any case involving child loss.
6. Further, the Government is committed to the safety and security of all children in Kenya and would like to inform Kenyans who for one reason or another may not have children of their own that there are legal procedures for adopting children guided by the recently gazetted National Adoption Committee. The Ministry has children Officers across the country where information on adoption process can be readily accessed.
7. We encourage the public to report cases of all violation of children's rights including trafficking, through **Child Helpline 116**, Police or other relevant Government agencies.



SIMON K. CHELUGUI
CABINET SECRETARY