

PRESS RELEASE

Daystar Hosts the International Child Protection Conference

For immediate Release

Nairobi August 9, 2018.... The Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Hon. Amb. Ukur Yatani has underscored the need for countries to urgently respond to, and mitigate the current complex circumstances that include climate change, unmitigated migration induced by conflict, and uncontrolled urbanization that expose children to vulnerability.

Hon. Yatani said that when he opened the International Child Protection (ICP) conference at Daystar University Nairobi campus, on Wednesday August 8, 2018.

The three day conference themed: *“From Vulnerability to Resilience, Innovation and Evidence”*, will close on Friday, August 10, 2018.

Hon. Yatani revealed that the Government of Kenya had put in place various measures geared towards mitigating vulnerability in the sector among them:

Through the Department of Children Services, the Government is supporting a total of 22,103 orphans and vulnerable children in boarding secondary schools by paying their school fees, worth Kes.30, 000 per year each, and has also allocated, under the Presidential Secondary School Bursary Program, a total of Ksh.400 Million per year.

Additionally, in order to ensure children issues remain in focus, the Government has been at the forefront in advocating for child participation, which is one of the key pillars in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, for which Kenya is a Signatory.

Further, the Government has developed various guidelines including online protection for children, parents, caregivers and educators; Guidelines for Alternative Family Care for Children; Area Advisory Councils (AAC) guidelines, in line with the Constitution, among others.

Making his remarks during a pre-conference media briefing on August 6, the Ag. Vice Chancellor of Daystar University Prof. James Kombo said children faced tremendous challenges, some of which have to do with culture and institutions in which they are brought up.

“As a University, we endeavor to work towards developing children who are strong in character, and who will be able to bring influence in the society,” said Prof. Kombo.

During the opening ceremony, Prof. Kombo welcomed the delegates to Daystar and appreciated the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection for choosing to hold the conference at Daystar University.

“As a Ministry, we are going to fight the menace of child insecurity head-on,” promised Mr. Nelson Marwa, the PS, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection.

In his speech, during the pre-conference media briefing Mr. Marwa noted that “Without unity there is no security and when there is insecurity the most affected are the children and women.”

The Director of Children Services, State Department & Social Protection, Mr. Noah Sanganyi promised that the children contribution in this conference will go into the Ministry work plan for the children. He also observed that the call to action of the ICP conference will be incorporated in the Ministry’s strategic plan which will be launched soon.

The ICP conference brings together Government and Policy makers, academicians, practitioners, researchers and children representatives from across Africa.

The conference is co-sponsored by Daystar University, the Government of Kenya through the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, UNICEF, Plan International, Child Fund Kenya, Save the Children, Catholic Relief Services, Christian Aid, MtotoNews, HealthIT, Bantwana World Education Initiative, African Institute of Children Studies (AICS), REPPSI and SOS Children’s Villages Kenya

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