NEA
Weekly e-SHOT
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"Employment opportunities for all"

WHAT'S HOT This Week

KENYA SIGNS A BILATERAL AGREEMENT WITH UNITED KINGDOM ON RECRUITMENT OF HEALTH CARE WORKERS



H.E President Uhuru Kenyatta witnessing the signing of a Bilateral Agreement on recruitment of Health care workers from Kenya at Royal Collage of Physics in the United Kingdom. UK's health partnership with Kenya is 30 years old and growing stronger over the years.

The Government of the Republic of Kenya and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, signed a Bilateral Agreement on recruitment of health care workers on 29th July 2021. This came at the backdrop of President Uhuru Kenyatta's three-day official visit to the United Kingdom. The President held various engagements aimed at strengthening the Kenya-UK health partnerships in dealing with Covid-19, as well as on cancer prevention and treatment. The Bilateral Agreement was signed by Hon. Simon Chelugui, Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Labour and Social protection and Rt. Hon. Sajid Javid MP, Secretary of the Department of Health and Social Care of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (DHSC).

Why UK ?

Healthcare workers comprise 1 in 10 of the total workforces in the United Kingdom of Great Britain, with the National Health Services (NHS) the biggest employer in UK. Despite such large numbers, the UK has a lower number of doctors and nurses compared to other European countries. In the UK, there is one doctor for every 356 people. In contrast, in other similarly developed countries, there is one doctor for every 277 people. These developments present a golden opportunity for Kenya to access the lucrative UK labour market through a bilateral labour agreement for health care skills.

The Journey

On 21st January 2020, His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta and Prime Minister Boris Johnson approved the framework for strategic partnership 2020-2025 between the Republic of Kenya and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The partnership allowed for collaboration in five pillars namely; mutual prosperity, security and stability, sustainable development, climate change and people to people- reflecting the key challenges and opportunities of our time.

Under the people-to-people pillar, a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on health partnership was signed on 20th January, 2021 between the Cabinet Secretary for Health, Kenya and the Secretary for of State for



NEA Acting DG, Mrs. Edith Okoki with Ambassador Kamere and Kiiru at Royal Collage of Physics at the signing of Bilateral Agreement on recruitment of Health care workers

Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Affairs and First Secretary of State in Nairobi, Kenya. The strategic objective of this partnership is to strengthen existing collaborations and explore new opportunities for collaboration in health sector between the Governments and their respective institutions.

This latest Bilateral Agreement therefore builds on the progress of the previous MOU signed in January 2021. It centres on Supporting the enhancement of the capacity of human resources for health and the delivery of health care through recruitment of health care professionals in Kenya for employment in the United Kingdom of Great Britain while sharing common values and best practices, in accordance with the respective existing national laws and regulations.

Other Bilateral Labour Agreements

In order to enhance protection of Kenyan Migrant Workers, Kenya has signed three (3) Bilateral Labour Agreements (BLA); with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, State of Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The country has also initiated negotiations towards Bilateral Labour Agreements with Jordan, Kuwait, Oman and Bahrain.

Kenya has also ratified and domesticated ILO Convention No. 143 on Migrant Workers, and Convention 97 on Migration for Employment. In addition, the country is a signatory to the East African Community Common Market Protocol and is also guided by the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Revised Regional Migration Policy Framework.

The National Employment Authority remains commited to creating and promoting jobs that provide decent earnings, ensuring safe working conditions, providing social protection, and safeguarding workers' rights.

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Do you have any feedback?

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