

Weekly e-SHOT

WHAT'S HOT This Week

- 1 Steps in protecting Migrant Workers
- 2 Kenya-Tanzania Bilateral Meeting on immigration issues
- 3 Inter-ministerial retreat to adopt measures to mitigate challenges faced by migrant workers

KENYA MAKES STEPS IN PROTECTING MIGRANT WORKERS



Kenyan migrant workers contribute to the growth and development of the country. Properly managed migration benefits the countries of origin, transit and destination through skills transfer and income generation for the migrants and families as well as increase in the gross domestic product (GDP) through taxation of remittances. According to the Central Bank of Kenya, diaspora remittances is now Kenya's highest foreign earner, which stood at 305.9 million USD in June 2021 and continue to rise steadily despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite this positive story, some migrant workers continue to face exploitative working conditions and discrimination, they lack access to basic economic needs, social and cultural rights, are sometimes exposed to gender-based violence and in worst case reported mysterious death.

The government has initiated several measures to guarantee the welfare and safety of Kenyan migrant workers. The National Employment Authority in collaboration with stakeholders developed a training manual for conducting pre-departure training for outbound Kenyan migrant workers.

The program focus on: terms and conditions of employment, rights and obligations at work, protection and safety at work, remittance channels, investment opportunities as well as the role of Kenyan mission abroad. Additionally, return and reintegration support activities for Kenyan returnee migrants are being implemented through the help of ILO.

Kenya has also entrenched best labour migrant practices into the host countries' labour laws through Bilateral Labour Agreements with the governments of Qatar, UAE and Saudi Arabia. The issues covered include; wages, working hours, employment contracts, termination of employment, confiscation of travel documents, work permits and labour dispute resolution mechanism.

Additionally, the country has established Labour Attaché offices in Qatar, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to aid in resolution of employment and labour related disputes and collection of data on Kenyan migrant workers.

Kenya developed code of conduct and regulation guidelines on foreign employment in 2016. It is a legal requirement for all Private Recruiting Agencies to be vetted and accredited by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection through the National Employment Authority (NEA).

TALK TO US

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Inter-Ministerial Retreat on Safe Labour Migration



The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Employment Authority (NEA) held a consultative meeting on safe labour migration between 4th and 6th August 2021 at the Naivasha Sawela Lodge. The retreat which was officially opened by Hon Ababu Namwamba, EGH CAS foreign affairs aimed at; reviewing the Bilateral Labour Agreements between Kenya and the gulf states, adopting measures to mitigate challenges faced by Kenyan migrant workers and safeguard their safety in the host countries.

Kenya -Tanzania Bilateral Meeting



Ag. Labour Commissioner Madam Helen Apiyo and Director Planning led a Bilateral meeting to discuss immigration and Labour Issues between the Republic of Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania on 5th August 2021 at Emirates Ole Sereni Hotel, Nairobi. The consultative meeting provided a much-needed opportunity to discuss the challenges facing Kenyan workers in Tanzania and proposed areas of cooperation. Key among the recommendations was the proposal to exempt Kenyans from some provisions of Non-Citizen (Employment Regulations) Act 2015 that regulates conditions under which non-citizen seeking employment in Tanzania, need to promote equal treatment in employment of Kenyan workers by ensuring the rights accruing to workers are protected and reciprocal treatment on processing of work permits, passes and visas and waiver of permit and visa fees

ADVICE TO JOB SEEKERS

Before you leave the country;

- 1 Ensure that the job offer is genuine. Job opportunities can be accessed through the NEA portal www.neaims.go.ke.
- 2 To avoid the alteration or change of terms in the employment contract, ensure you obtain the contract early enough before travel and if possible seek a second opinion on the terms contained in the contract.
- 3 Ensure you are traveling with the correct and legal documentations. Most countries require that you apply for a work visa if you plan to work in that country.
- 4 It is important to have the contacts of people and organizations that can provide assistance once you arrive in the host countries. More information for Kenyan migrant workers is available through <https://kmw.nea.go.ke/>
- 5 Ensure that you are being facilitated by an accredited agency that is in possession of a valid Accreditation Certificate from the National Employment Authority (NEA). A list of certified recruitment agencies is available on the National Employment Authority (NEA) portal, visit www.nea.go.ke, or www.neaims.go.ke

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