

Weekly e-SHOT

This Week We Focus on

1 SUCCESS STORY OF A STREET BOY:-

Lessons learnt by Gregory Mutua Working in the Middle East

2 WORK SHOP:-

the Oversight mechanism (O/M) and the community feedback mechanism (CFM).



ABOUT NEA

The National Employment Authority (NEA) was established in April, 2016 by an Act of Parliament (the National Employment Authority Act 2016). The Authority's main policy priorities are the promotion of employment in all aspects of national development. Specific policy priorities are:

- 1 Employment creation, especially for the youth, minorities and marginalized groups
- 2 Provision of labour market information;
- 3 Re-engineering of public employment services; and
- 4 Promotion of foreign employment.

Meet Gregory Mutua, a Kenyan who defied all odds in life and moved from the Streets of Nairobi as a 'street boy' to become a resourceful service man working with the US military in Iraq, Afghanistan and UN Armsom in Somalia.

A seemingly jovial but assertive Gregory attests to the fact that his life is a demonstration of what is possible.

“ I was a street child, living in horrendous circumstances where the sky was my roof and Gigomba market was my life-line on which I lived and slept. I had no basic right to food, health or education.

Gregory's turningpoint came in March 2003, when the Government established the Street Families Rehabilitation Trust Fund (SFRTF) that spearheaded response to restore the dignity of street families by rescuing, rehabilitation and reintegration. Through this program he was enrolled to the National Youth Service (NYS). He was exposed to strict discipline, dedication, perseverance, persistence, courage and commitment to higher ideals”

Gregory admits that after the training, getting a job was not easy.

“ I had actually given up on looking for a job when a friend introduced me to a recruitment Agent by the name Silver Ray HR company that had advertised for security jobs in Iraq.

Gregory says that although he was confident with the kind of skills he had acquired at NYS, he was a little bit skeptical of moving outside the country because of the negative publicity on how Kenyan migrant workers were being mistreated especially in the Gulf Nations. He further explains that he was confident at last since he learnt that the Agent facilitating him was duly registered by the National Employment Authority (NEA).



When Gregory took up the job in Iraq working for the US military, he received training on the use of a wide range of artillery and heavy machine operation.

“ When I went to Iraq for this job, I wasn't sure what the future held for me. It was this strange pull towards something that seemed to be a challenge.



“ We took up some of the toughest projects; places where access was difficult; projects that no one else was interested....I earned the respect and trust of my employer and the community which turned out to be my greatest strength.

In regards to the mistreatment of Kenyan migrant workers in the Gulf nations, Gregory acknowledges that there are few challenges faced by migrant workers. However, he was quick to clarify that not all employers are bad. He noted that there are many untold success stories which are never shared.

To mitigate some of these challenges, he advises job seekers to ensure that they are being facilitated by accredited agency which is in possession of a valid Accreditation Certificate from the National Employment Authority (NEA). The list of accredited agencies can be accessed through www.nea.go.ke

Today Gregory owns a home here in Kenya as well as rental houses in

PHOTO CAPTIONS

- 1** H.E President Uhuru Kenyatta listens as Gregory Explains his experience working in Iraq, Afganistan and Somalia
- 2** Gregory Mutua handling a machine gun at the US military base in Iraq

Dandora. In his parting shot, Gregory emphasized on the need for those working outside Kenya to have self-determination and clear vision.

“ I feel one must believe in oneself, even if no one else does. One must have a mission, a clear vision and go on to take up challenges.

More information for Kenyan migrant workers is available through <https://kmw.nea.go.ke/>

- 3** Gregory Mutua working at the US military base in Afghanistan
- 4** Gregory Mutua working in the UN camp in Arnyson Base at Mogadishu, Somalia



VALIDATION WORKSHOP FOR OVERSIGHT MECHANISM (O/M) AND COMMUNITY FEEDBACK MECHANISM (CFM)



The State Department for Labour held a validation workshop in Naivasha between 25th to 27th August 2021. The aim of the workshop was to validate the Oversight Mechanism Roadmap and engage in discussions that will help a multi-stakeholder technical committee to gain an in-depth understanding and internalize the Terms of Reference towards the operationaliza-

tion of the Oversight mechanism (O/M) and the community feedback mechanism (CFM). The sessions were chaired by Winnie Karingithi, Director of Planning, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection.

The State Department for Labour with support from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is implementing this project with an aim of fostering recruitment agencies' ethical practices and accountability as well as supporting the government of Kenya to pilot a recruitment Oversight Mechanism and Community Feedback Mechanism. The pilot Oversight Mechanism will serve to monitor the Kenyan recruitment industry as a whole and identify Private Recruitment Agencies and Sub-Agents that are non-compliant and thus continuing to expose migrants to the risks of modern slavery. The Community Feedback Mechanism will further provide a platform for communities to report suspected human trafficking cases or Private Recruitment Agencies operating unethically.

This process is at an advanced stage. On 23rd July 2021, Hon. Simon K. Chelugui, the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, successfully launched the Multi-Stakeholder Technical Committee in an event attended by key migration sector stakeholders. The mandate of this Technical Committee is to establish, operationalize and roll out the Oversight Mechanism and Community Feedback Mechanism in Kenya. At this stage, the Technical Committee is expected to internalize the Terms of Reference as well as validate the draft Roadmap for establishment of the Oversight Mechanism and Community Feedback Mechanism.

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