

**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**



**THE PRESIDENCY  
MINISTRY OF DEVOLUTION AND PLANNING**

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**PRESS STATEMENT**

**LAUNCH OF THE TASKFORCE ON THE PROPOSED AMMENDEDMENTS TO THE PUBLIC  
BENEFITS ORGANIZATIONS ACT 2013**

The provisions of the Public Benefits Organizations Act, 2013 have generated public debates amongst the various stakeholders including the general public. This is healthy and it is useful in generating an optimal state of affairs. From the outset, we wish to make it clear that as a Ministry we appreciate and applaud the role of Public Benefit Organizations (PBOs), previously referred to as non-governmental organizations (NGOs), in service delivery and social development especially in areas where the government's limited resources are unable to meet all the needs of the communities. We acknowledge that the Government needs these partnerships to advance the national developmental agenda. PBOs therefore, are firmly rooted in society and with local participation and support, are essential for a caring, responsive and effective service delivery network. Indeed, the current administration recognizes that "NGOs have a valuable role to play in monitoring Government and helping to strengthen the social infrastructure in our country."

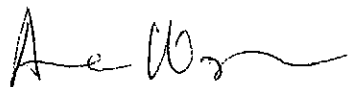
While we do not take PBOs role for granted, it is clear that the sector is currently conducted in a fragmented, un-coordinated fashion without a comprehensive and coherent strategy. This approach makes it difficult to meaningfully respond to the needs of the citizens. We are of the opinion that one of the obstacles to social development and poverty eradication in Kenya relates to fragmented, scattered, ad-hoc efforts in responding to social needs

and that resources are not mustered and harnessed towards integrated and holistic programmes.

It is for this purpose that the government sought to improve the regulatory and policy framework governing PBOs. To this end, there have been and continues to be consultative discussions comprising of the Government, NGO representatives and other stakeholders on the PBO Act.

To crystallize these consultations in a more structured and coordinated manner we established a taskforce on the Proposed Amendments to the Public Benefits Organizations Act 2013. The Taskforce which will be in place for the next three months, is composed of members from varying backgrounds both from civil society and from Government including the architect of the PBO Act 2013, Hon. Sophia Abdi who is the Chair of the Taskforce.

The mandate of the Taskforce includes seeking views and reviewing comments from stakeholders including the general public on proposed amendments to the PBO Act; monitoring the process of legislation of the same, and; advising the Cabinet Secretary on implementation of the amended PBO Act. It is therefore my pleasure to unveil the Taskforce on the Proposed Amendments to the Public Benefits Organizations Act, 2013. I believe this Taskforce is up to the challenge and will successfully deliver on its important mission.



**ANNE WAIGURU, OGW**  
**CABINET SECRETARY**