

## Minister Advocates for Establishment of Institutions Concerned with Child Labor

Juba, Susan Athiei Mangar

The State Minister of Labor, Public Service and Human Resource Development, Central Equatoria Valentino Kenyi Pitya advocated for establishment of institutions that would directly be concerned with child labor issues.

"The raising of awareness and advocating for more action to eliminate child labor, especially the worst forms of it should be taken up seriously by establishing strong institutions concerned with child labor issues", he said.

"By this I mean, institutions like child labor unit, National Bureau of Statistics and the support from National Steering Committee on Child Labor and ILO in Juba be made available in every state for the dissemination to proceed evenly," Kenyi added.

According to him, all the concerned institutions and organizations should have their offices in all the ten states of South Sudan for more effectiveness.

Kenyi said this yesterday during a seminar organized to observe the world day against child labor under the theme, "South Sudan Human Rights and Social Justice-Let us end child labor".

He stated that Central Equatoria has achieved commendable successes in the area of Institutions of Development in six counties.

Some of these departments include that of labor and one of establishments to be followed by

establishment of more related to Human Rights and Social Justice in employment.

According to the acting national Minister of Labor, Public Service and Human resource Development, Kuong Danhier Gatluak he equated the importance of this day in South Sudan to that of the 9th July.

"This day is also very important like the independence day", said Danhier. In addition, "children to us are the most valuable and precious gifts that God has given to us, they give us a reason to smile".

Due to the importance of the children he stated the need of urgent elimination of child labor in South Sudan especially its worst forms.

He said that South Sudan is among the worst countries when it comes to child labor. He personally said he started herding cattle at an early age of five, this is a practice many of South Sudan children go through due to culture or as a form of training them on work, however there must be a guide which tells when it is too much.

Alongside observation of world day against child labor, South Sudan Labor Market Report was launched. This report assesses labor market conditions in South Sudan.

Highlighting a number of key challenges it faces in ensuring adequate and livelihood opportunities for the population.

According to this report, majority of the workers remain in subsistence farming and animal husbandry.

The report also showed that levels of human capital in the work force are extremely low even among young workers.

It also revealed that child labor is at a very high rate in South Sudan which in most cases prevents the child from attaining quality education.

"Rates of child labor are very high, jeopardizing children's ability to acquire the human capital necessary for decent work in the future", said the report.

Deputy Minister of General Education Rebecca Joshua took the opportunity and urged the Arabic Pattern students to make an effort to learn English as the new official language of instruction in South Sudan.

She said that herself being a product of Arabic up to the end of her secondary school level, had to make an effort to learn English language which she now commands very well, so it is a matter of taking it upon oneself to make the change.

"It takes you also as children plus parents for them to make an effort to learn, if they are going on the streets and it's a policy of the government to have the language of instruction as English, they have to make an effort, their parents have to make an effort and then the government will make an effort", she said.