

ILO and Mozambican Government Hold High-level Meeting on Employment



Mr. Eduardo Viera (ILO), Mr. Oswaldo Petersburgo (SEJE) and Ms. Hanna Marsk (Embassy of Sweden), during the High Level Meeting on Employment in Mozambique

With the support of the International Labour Organization (ILO) through its Swedish funded project 'MozTrabalha', the Secretariat for Youth and Employment (SEJE) on 20 May 2021 held a High-Level Meeting on Employment in Mozambique at the Joaquim Chissano International Conference Centre in Maputo, where the Promotion of Economic Growth, Productivity and Employment Generation were discussed.

The semi-virtual meeting was chaired by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Mozambique, Mr. Carlos Agostinho do Rosário with the special participation of the Director-General of the International Labour Organization, Mr. Guy Ryder.

The first-ever high-level meeting on employment drew participation from over 600 people across the country, representing public and private institutions, amongst them the Embassy of Sweden, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MIC), the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADER), the Confederation of Economic Associations (CTA), the National Institute of Statistics (INE), and the Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MITSS).

The main objective of the meeting was to commemorate the launch of the National Employment Policy Implementation Plan 2021-2024 envisioned to create and stimulate employment creation for Mozambican women and men. During the meeting, various macroeconomic and sectoral policy measures being undertaken by the Government of the Republic of Mozambique were discussed.



The International Labour Organization (ILO) Director General, Mr. Guy Ryder's opening remarks during the High Level Meeting on Employment in Mozambique

As part of the opening remarks of the event, Mr. Guy Ryder, Director General of ILO, expressed satisfaction on the the National Employment Policy Implementation Plan, stating that it will promote economic growth, productivity and job creation in Mozambique. "The ILO is pleased to be providing technical and policy support to our friends in Mozambique in the areas of employment creation, infrastructure development and social protection. Recently we have been able to contribute to the reconstruction of Technical and Vocational Education and Training Centers (TVETs) which have benefited many students employed in rehabilitation work and enabled many more to resume their education," he said.

Mr. Ryder observed that almost 80 percent of the labour force in Mozambique was in the informal economy with limited or no access to social protection, adding that Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) had not been spared by the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"...I note that in Mozambique, your National Statistical Institute estimated over 80,000 enterprises employing 3,300,000 workers have been affected by the pandemic. The revenue loses of those enterprises have reached 41 percent, just by the end of the first semester of 2020," said Mr. Ryder."



The Prime Minister of the Republic of Mozambique, Mr. Carlos Augustinho do Rosário

The Prime Minister of Mozambique, Mr. Carlos Augustinho do Rosário, who officially inaugurated the event expressed his hope that the 2021 – 2024 National Employment Policy Implementation Plan would create more employment opportunities for young Mozambican men and women.

“This Action Plan contains guidelines for employability, stimulating job creation, the formalization of the informal economy, the promotion of entrepreneurship, green jobs creation, youth inclusion and matters of decent work and the fight against child labor, amongst others,” said the Prime Minister, who represented the President of Mozambique.



Ambassador of Sweden in Mozambique, Ms Mette Sunnergren

Speaking at the event, Swedish Ambassador to Mozambique, Ms. Metter Sunnergren commended the ILO and the Mozambican Government for organizing the high-level meeting, stating that the meeting would help in the promotion of decent employment opportunities for all men and women. The Swedish Government through its international development agency (SIDA) is a major donor of MozTrabalha, ILO's flagship programme in the country dedicated to creating decent work opportunities for Mozambicans, particularly women and youth in rural areas.