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VICTIM PROTECTION BOARD


ANNUAL REPORT

Financial Year 2023/2024

PREPARED AND ISSUED PURSUANT TO
SECTION 33 OF THE VICTIM PROTECTION ACT, CAP 79A

SEPTEMBER 2024



 THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PAPERS LAID	
DATE: 05 NOV 2024	DAY: Tuesday
TABLED BY:	Hon. Owen Baya, MP Dep. leader, Majority Party
PREPARED BY:	Moses Lomale

MISSION

To protect, rehabilitate and compensate victims of offences through formulation and implementation of comprehensive and integrated programmes.



VISION

To be the lead institution in the protection of rights and welfare of victims of crimes in Kenya.



VALUES

- Victim centred
- Confidentiality
- Collaboration
- Professionalism and Integrity
- Teamwork and Courtesy
- Equity and Fairness/ Social justice
- Efficiency and Effectiveness

FOREWORD BY THE SOLICITOR GENERAL & VPB CHAIRPERSON



It is with great honor that I present the Annual Report for the Victim Protection Board (VPB) for the financial year 2023-2024. This year has been marked by significant strides in enhancing the protection and support of victims across Kenya. The Board has continued to work diligently to fulfil its mandate of ensuring that victims of crime receive the necessary support and are treated with dignity and respect throughout the justice process.

This report highlights the progress we have made, the challenges we have encountered, and the strategic steps we plan to undertake in the coming years to further strengthen our efforts. The Financial Year 2023-2024 has been a transformative period for the Victim Protection Board (VPB). Our commitment to safeguarding the rights and welfare of victims has driven significant progress across our core mandates. This report outlines our key achievements, challenges faced, and strategic priorities for the future.

The Victim Protection Act, CAP 79A (herein after the Act) establishes the Victim Protection Board, mandated to advise the Cabinet Secretary responsible for matters relating to Justice (The Attorney General) on inter agency activities aimed at protecting victims of crime. The Act further provides for a suitable platform to facilitate the protection of victims of crime and abuse of power.

In Africa, Kenya has made significant strides in policy, legislative and administrative framework in the protection of Victims of crimes and abuse of power. I am delighted to acknowledge the strides made by the Victim Protection Board (VPB) during the period under review towards the implementation of the Article 50(9) of the Constitution of Kenya and provisions of the Act. Kenya being a party to international instruments has complied with the international principles on victim protection, the 1985 Declaration of Basic Principles for Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power and the 2006 Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law by enacting the Victim Protection Act No. CAP 79A and based on the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review 2020, is committed operationalize the Victim Protection Act.

The Victim Protection Board and the Secretariat in conjunction with key stakeholders have been working tirelessly to set up the requisite structures and legal frameworks that will operationalise the Act, which will enhance proper promotion and protection of the victims of crime. This will see Kenya take a new route in upholding best practices in protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms.

During the year 2023/2024, the Board finalized the development the Victim Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2024, the Public Finance Management (Victim Protection Fund) Regulations, 2024 and Victim Protection General Regulations, 2024 as a step towards the operationalization of CAP 79A. The next steps would be public participation for the two sets of legislation which will be conducted in the next financial year. This move will consequently bring the Board a step closer towards achieving a remarkable milestone of protecting victims of crime during pre-trial, trial and post-trial stages, with the aim of minimizing revictimization and victimhood by providing an environment that empowers the victim in the criminal justice system.

As the chair of the Victim Protection Board, I am committed to ensuring that the objectives of the board are fully achieved. I commend the will and determination of the Board and the Secretariat on the remarkable progress made so far. For this reason, I thank the team for always looking beyond the challenges and offering their unwavering support and expertise. I urge the Board and the various stakeholders to work in the same spirit to ensure that the rights of the victims of crime are fully realised.



Hon. Shadrack J. Mose

Solicitor General & Chairperson
Victim Protection Board

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY, VICTIM PROTECTION BOARD



The Financial Year 2023-2024 has been a pivotal period for the Victim Protection Board. During this year, we have focused on enhancing our legal and policy frameworks, building capacity among stakeholders, improving victim support services, and increasing public awareness about victims' rights. Despite facing several challenges, including limited resources and operational constraints, the Board has successfully managed to make significant

progress in its mission.

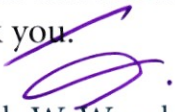
I am delighted to present the report on the performance of the Victim Protection Board during the Financial Year 2023/2024. Despite the challenges, the Board achieved the set-out targets as projected in the financial year under review.

The Victim Protection Board is established under section 31 of the Victim Protection Act CAP 79A with a composition of actors in the criminal justice sector. The Board is the only government agency mandated by law to coordinate the victim services, and has made considerable milestones in developing legal instruments to see the operationalization the Act.

In accomplishing this, the Board has collaborated with key partners both state and non-state in the furtherance of the objects of the Act including; the National Treasury, Judiciary, State Department for Correctional Services, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, National Police Service, Witness Protection Agency, National Gender and Equality Commission, Kenya Law Reform Commission, Kenya National Human Rights Commission, Commission on Administrative Justice, Law Society of Kenya, Independent Medico Legal Unit, FIDA Kenya, and International Justice Mission (IJM).

The Board continued to sensitize the members of the public on Victim Protection Act CAP 79A and Victim rights. We are happy to announce that during the period under review, the Board conducted civic education in 12 counties namely; Isiolo, Meru, Embu, Laikipia, Vihiga, Bungoma, Kakamega, Trans- Nzoia, Muranga, Makueni, Kitui and Machakos. During this civic education programmes, the Board was able to reach out to 1200 members of the public and 1200 members of the National Government Administrative officers who are cut across different ranks. Finally, I would like to appreciate the Acting CEO and the Secretariat for their dedication, invaluable support, and zeal during the year under review in driving the mandate of the Board towards its success.

Thank you.


Jedidah W. Waruhiu
Director-WPA, Secretary
Victim Protection Board

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AG	Attorney General
FIDA	Federation of Women Lawyers (Kenya)
CAP	Chapter
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CPD	Continuous Professional Development
IJM	International Justice Mission
IMLU	Independent Medico-Legal Unit
NCAJ	National Council on the Administration of Justice
NCCJR	Committee on Criminal Justice Reforms
NGEC	National Gender and Equality Commission
NPS	National Police Service
OAG&DOJ	Office of the Attorney General and Department of Justice
ODPP	Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions
PFM	Public Finance Management Act, CAP 412A
SCAC	State Corporation Advisory Committee
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SG	Solicitor General
SGBV	Sexual Gender Based Violence
VPA	Victim Protection Act, CAP 79A
VPB	Victim Protection Board
VRC	Victim Rights Charter
WPA	Witness Protection Agency

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The VPB has made significant strides in enhancing the protection and support services available to victims of crime. This year, we focused on expanding access to our services, improving the quality of victim support, and fostering partnerships with relevant stakeholders. Our efforts have resulted in increased victim satisfaction, greater awareness of victims' rights, and strengthened institutional capacity.

This report captures the overall performance of the Victim Protection Board and the progress made in the execution of its statutory mandate during the financial year 2023/2024. The report was prepared in observance and compliance with Article 1, Article 3(1) Article 28, Article 47, Article 50(7) and Article 50(9) of the Constitution and Section 33 of the Victim Protection Act CAP 79A. The Act prescribes the Board to submit to the Cabinet Secretary and the National Assembly every financial year, an Annual Report of the policies, programmes and activities relating to the implementation of the Act.

The annual report is also based on the OAGDOJ Strategic Plan (2023-2027) which highlights the Board's implementation plan. The Plan is set out to achieve a number of remarkable milestones aimed at realizing the Board's Vision. These include; (i) developing and implementing guidelines and toolkits on victim protection, victim rights enforcement; (ii) compliance with the Constitution, and the Victim Protection Act; and (iii) building internal staff capacity. This Plan is anchored on Kenya's development blueprints; the Constitution of Kenya, Bottom-Up Economic Agenda (BETA), MTP IV, Kenya Vision 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Annual Report was prepared by the Victim Protection Board (VPB) under the leadership of the Honourable Attorney-General and Solicitor General, the Chairperson of VPB. The Office of the Attorney General & Department of Justice (OAG &DOJ) would like to express its sincere appreciation to the Board Members and the Secretariat seconded to the Board from the OAG-&DOJ and Witness Protection Agency (WPA) whose unwavering efforts and long hours led to the development of this Annual Report.

Finally, we are grateful to all the stakeholders who participated in the preparation of the report in various stages and their invaluable input received to enrich it.

Mary M. Wairagu
Chief State Counsel & Ag. C.E.O
Victim Protection Board

VICTIM PROTECTION BOARD COMPOSITION



Hon. Shadrack Mose
Solicitor General & Chairperson VPB



Jedidah W. Waruhiu
Director WPA, Secretary VPB



Joseph Riungu
ODPP



Judy Ndung'u
Children's Services



Desire Njamwea
NGEC



Catherine Mugwe
NPS



Hitler Ogenche
Correctional Services



Geoffrey Momanyi
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Anne Ireri
Director, FIDA



Peter Kiama
IMLU