



Date: 3rd December 2020

The Director
Orione Community Training Centre – Kenya
KANDISI

Attention: Fr Alejandro Ruiz Yanez

Dear Father,

**RE: INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES - SPECIAL
RECOGNITION OF ORIONE COMMUNITY TRAINING CENTRE - KENYA**

Invited guests, ladies and gentlemen, good morning. Greetings from the people of the Republic of Chile!

I am honoured to have this opportunity to address you on this relevant occasion. Today the whole world observes the International Day of Persons with Disabilities with the special theme of *“Building Back Better: toward a disability-inclusive, accessible and sustainable post COVID-19 World”*.

I understand that the observance of this day has been a tradition since the year 1992, when the United Nations set aside the 3rd of December as a day to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities. I am happy that you have chosen to mark this day at the Orione Community Training Centre.

The Orione Community Training Centre holds a special place in my heart – and for the people of Chile – not only because the Director, Fr Alejandro Ruiz Yanez is a citizen of Chile. The Centre is dear to us because it is a testimony of empowerment and promotion of the dignity of persons with disabilities, I have seen this job for many years. The work the Centre has done in the promotion of the rights of persons with intellectual disability is very clear for everyone to see. Through the work of the administration and staff of the Centre, children and youth with intellectual disability have received education, vocational training and rehabilitation. They have been empowered to be more independent and live a better life in the community.

During these extra-ordinary times of Covid-19, I am aware that the Centre has been a source of hope and support to the community by maintaining a feeding programme to members of community in need and having community sensitization exercises on prevention of Covid-19. I am also aware that through the Centre, support has been given to local health facilities in the form of equipment and supplies.

My hope is that as we celebrate this occasion today, every single one of us becomes aware that we can all do something to make the world a better place for people in need. I call upon elected leaders and other persons in authority to support the good work the Orione Community Training Centre and Son of Divine Providence is doing in Kenya.

With these few remarks, I wish you all a memorable International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

Yours faithfully,


Hernán Larraín
HERNÁN LARRAÍN
Minister of Justice and Human Rights
Republic of Chile