

## Nigerian govt will protect rights of albinos, minister pledges

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APA - Lagos (Nigeria) Nigeria's Minister of Labour and Productivity, Chief Emeka Wogu said the Nigerian government will protect the rights of albinos and other vulnerable groups in their workplace.

Receiving Alhaji Attahiru Muhammad, the Emir of Anka in Zamfara, who led a delegation of the Albino Foundation to the minister's office on Friday in Abuja, Wogu expressed government's dissatisfaction at the discrimination against the "estimated two million albinos in Nigeria".

"I promise to make sure that the government cover is brought to protect the wellbeing of albinos in the workplace.

"We will pursue it because we have a department that ensures that the health, safety and environment of the workplace are sustained.

"The department will immediately swing into action to go out to the streets and find out under which condition the albinos work "The ministry and I are particularly interested in those challenges militating against albinos and the set of people who are deliberately being discriminated against by the Nigerian society," Wogu said.

He confirmed that the ongoing measures to improve the dignity of Nigerian workers would apply to albinos, who he said, enjoyed the same constitutional protection as other workers.

Wogu promised to facilitate the employment of some qualified albinos in parastatal agencies under the ministry.

Earlier, Muhammad said the delegation was in the ministry to solicit the administration's partnership with the foundation in some of its programmes aimed at enhancing the wellbeing of albinos.

Among the programmes, he said, was Sunshade, designed to assist albinos to stay out of the sun and wear protective elements in their work environment.

"It is obvious that the tropical nature of our climate makes it difficult for albinos to stay in the open to do what every other person does.

"This has affected the way society looks at albinos as people who are not sufficiently endowed to work like every other person.

"The foundation has been trying within the limits of its resources to help improve the wellbeing of albinos and make them self-reliant," Muhammad said.

He also solicited for assistance to the foundation's skills acquisition and economic empowerment programmes.

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