



## THE JUDICIARY

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE AND PRESIDENT  
OF THE SUPREME COURT OF KENYA

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**ADDRESS BY THE HONOURABLE CHIEF JUSTICE DURING THE LAUNCH OF THE COUNCIL  
OF LEGAL EDUCATION (CLE) STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-2027 - SERENA HOTEL -NAIROBI,  
19<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024**

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**THE HON. JUSTIN MUTURI, ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA  
PROF. COLLINS ODOTE, CHAIRMAN COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION  
HON. GEORGE MURUGARA, CHAIRMAN THE JUSTICE AND LEGAL AFFAIRS  
COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
MS. FAITH ODHIAMBO, PRESIDENT OF THE LAW SOCIETY OF KENYA  
DR. HENRY MUTAI, THE CEO, KENYA SCHOOL OF LAW  
MS. JENNIFER GITIRI, THE ACTING CEO OF THE COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION  
LAW LECTURERS AND ADVOCATES PRESENT  
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,  
GOOD MORNING!**

1. ON BEHALF OF THE HON.CHIEF JUSTICE, LADY JUSTICE MARTHA KOOME, AM HONOURED TO JOIN YOU THIS MORNING AS WE MARK A SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE IN THE JOURNEY OF LEGAL EDUCATION IN KENYA WITH THE LAUNCH OF THE COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION'S STRATEGIC PLAN, 2023-2027. THIS STRATEGIC PLAN IS A BLUEPRINT AND ROADMAP FOR TRANSFORMING LEGAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN OUR NATION AS IT ADDRESSES THE CORE CONCERNS AND ASPIRATIONS OF LEGAL EDUCATION IN KENYA.

2. LET ME THEREFORE START BY CONGRATULATING THE COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION FOR DRAFTING A STRATEGIC PLAN THAT WILL SERVE AS A BEACON OF INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN LEGAL EDUCATION. THE VISION SET FORTH IN THIS PLAN, WHICH IS **“INNOVATIVE LEGAL PROFESSIONALS TRANSFORMING SOCIETY,”** IS NOT JUST A STATEMENT OF INTENT; IT IS A CLARION CALL FOR ACTION. IT CHALLENGES US TO ENVISION A FUTURE WHERE LEGAL EDUCATION IS NOT ONLY ABOUT IMPARTING KNOWLEDGE BUT IS AN ACTIVE PLAYER IN SOCIETAL TRANSFORMATION.
  
3. BY SEEKING TO USE LEGAL EDUCATION TO PRODUCE **“INNOVATIVE LEGAL PROFESSIONALS TRANSFORMING SOCIETY,”** WE ARE IN EFFECT ACKNOWLEDGING THE TRUISM THAT AS THE WORLD EVOLVES, SO TOO MUST THE LEGAL PROFESSION BECAUSE WE ARE THE GUARDIANS OF THE RULE OF LAW AND CUSTODIANS OF JUSTICE. THIS PLAN THEREFORE EMBODIES A COMMITMENT TO NURTURING A GENERATION OF LEGAL PROFESSIONALS WHO ARE NOT ONLY ADEPT AT NAVIGATING THE COMPLEXITIES OF THE LAW BUT ARE ALSO EQUIPPED TO LEAD SOCIETAL TRANSFORMATION.

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

4. WE ARE ALSO LAUNCHING THIS STRATEGIC PLAN AT A PIVOTAL MOMENT. GLOBALLY, THE LEGAL LANDSCAPE IS UNDERGOING RAPID CHANGES, INFLUENCED BY GLOBALIZATION, TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS, AND SHIFTING SOCIETAL NORMS. THE PRACTICE OF LAW TODAY IS NOT CONFINED TO THE COURTROOM OR THE PAGES OF A STATUTE BOOK; IT IS AN EVER-EXPANDING FIELD THAT INTERSECTS WITH VARIOUS ASPECTS OF HUMAN LIFE. AS SUCH, OUR APPROACH TO LEGAL EDUCATION MUST BE DYNAMIC, INNOVATIVE, AND RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF A TRANSFORMING SOCIETY.
5. MOREOVER, THE DYNAMISM OF TODAY’S LEGAL PRACTICE LANDSCAPE, INFLUENCED BY RAPID TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS SUCH AS ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, PRESENTS BOTH CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE

LEGAL PROFESSION. OUR RESPONSE TO THESE CHANGES MUST BE PROACTIVE AND FORWARD-THINKING. I THEREFORE COMMEND THE FACT THAT THIS PLAN RECOGNIZES THAT THE OLD PARADIGMS OF LEGAL TRAINING ARE INADEQUATE FOR THE DEMANDS OF TODAY'S AND TOMORROW'S LEGAL CHALLENGES.

6. THE URGENCY FOR A TRANSFORMATIONAL APPROACH IN LEGAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING IS ALSO MADE MORE URGENT BY THE EVOLVING JOB MARKET AND THE SOCIETAL ROLES THAT LEGAL PROFESSIONALS ARE EXPECTED TO PLAY IN THE COMMUNITY. THE MANDATE OF THE CLE, WHICH FOCUSES ON SETTING AND MAINTAINING STANDARDS IN LEGAL EDUCATION AND ADMINISTERING THE BAR EXAMINATION, IS CRITICAL. HOWEVER, THIS STRATEGIC PLAN GOES BEYOND THESE FUNDAMENTAL ROLES AND ADDRESSES HOW LEGAL EDUCATION CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE BROADER SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION GOALS ENSHRINED IN THE CONSTITUTION OF KENYA, 2010.
7. THE ROLE OF LEGAL EDUCATION IN PROMOTING THE SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION IDEALS OF THE CONSTITUTION OF KENYA, 2010, CANNOT BE OVERSTATED. WE MUST EQUIP THE NEXT GENERATION OF LAWYERS WITH THE TOOLS TO ADVANCE AND CHAMPION THE IMPERATIVES OF THE CONSTITUTION. THEY MUST BE THINKERS, INNOVATORS, AND LEADERS WHO CAN INTERPRET THE LAW WITHIN ITS BROADER SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, CULTURAL, AND TECHNOLOGICAL CONTEXTS.
8. OUR CURRENT CURRICULA MUST EVOLVE TO MEET THE DEMANDS OF CONTEMPORARY PRACTICE. THE CLE STRATEGIC PLAN IS GEARED TOWARDS THIS EVOLUTION, ENSURING THAT OUR LEGAL EDUCATION IS RELEVANT, PRACTICAL, AND IN TUNE WITH THE REALITIES OF TODAY'S WORLD.
9. OUR APPROACH TO LEGAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING MUST BE FORWARD-THINKING, VERSATILE, AND DEEPLY INTEGRATED WITH ETHICAL PRACTICES AND

TECHNOLOGICAL ADEPTNESS. I AM THEREFORE HAPPY TO SEE THIS STRATEGIC PLAN'S COMMITMENT TO PROMOTING A MULTICULTURAL, MULTIDISCIPLINARY, AND TECHNOLOGICALLY SAVVY LEGAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING FRAMEWORK. IT REFLECTS A DEEP UNDERSTANDING OF THE GLOBAL NATURE OF LAW AND ITS PRACTICE TODAY, WHERE LEGAL PROFESSIONALS MUST BE COMPETENT TO OPERATE ACROSS DIFFERENT LEGAL SYSTEMS AND CULTURAL ENVIRONMENTS. IT IS AN EDUCATION THAT TRANSCENDS THE BLACK LETTER LAW AND PLACES CONTEXT AT THE CENTRE OF THE APPLICATION AND INTERPRETATION OF THE LAW.

10. IN FOSTERING THIS NEW EDUCATIONAL PARADIGM, THE CLE IS CHARTING A COURSE TOWARDS PRODUCING NOT ONLY SKILLED LAWYERS BUT VISIONARY LEADERS WHO ARE CAPABLE OF DRIVING SOCIAL CHANGE. THIS IS ESSENTIAL, AS THE ROLE OF THE LEGAL PROFESSIONAL CONTINUES TO EVOLVE. THEREFORE, THE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES OUTLINED IN THIS PLAN DO NOT MERELY SEEK TO ADAPT LEGAL EDUCATION TO THE PRESENT BUT TO ACTIVELY SHAPE ITS FUTURE.

11. BY IMPLEMENTING THIS PLAN, WE WILL BE CREATING AN ENVIRONMENT THAT ENCOURAGES CRITICAL THINKING, ETHICAL GROUNDING, AND A COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE AND EQUITY. THESE ARE THE PILLARS UPON WHICH A FORWARD APPROACH TO LEGAL EDUCATION SHOULD BE GROUNDED. BY EMBEDDING THESE PRINCIPLES INTO THE CORE OF OUR TRAINING PROGRAMMES, WE WILL BE PREPARING A NEW CADRE OF LEGAL PROFESSIONALS WHO ARE NOT ONLY ADEPT AT LAW BUT ARE ALSO CHAMPIONS OF CONSTITUTIONAL VALUES AND SOCIETAL PROGRESS.

12. THIS STRATEGIC PLAN ALSO PLACES SIGNIFICANT EMPHASIS ON THE USE OF INNOVATIVE TOOLS AND RESOURCES. THIS IS NOT JUST ABOUT INCORPORATING TECHNOLOGY INTO OUR CURRICULUM, BUT ABOUT TRANSFORMING THE MINDSET WITH WHICH WE APPROACH LEGAL EDUCATION. WE MUST FOSTER A CULTURE OF CONTINUOUS LEARNING, CRITICAL ANALYSIS, AND ADAPTABILITY AMONG OUR STUDENTS.

13. AS WE LAUNCH THIS STRATEGIC PLAN TODAY, LET US COMMIT TO ITS FULL AND FAITHFUL IMPLEMENTATION. LET IT BE A LIVING DOCUMENT, ONE THAT ADAPTS TO THE CHANGING REALITIES OF OUR WORLD WHILE REMAINING STEADFAST IN ITS CORE OBJECTIVES. THE COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION, TOGETHER WITH ALL STAKEHOLDERS, INCLUDING THE KENYA SCHOOL OF LAW, THE UNIVERSITIES, THE BENCH, THE BAR, THE ACADEMIA, AND THE GOVERNMENT, MUST WORK HAND IN HAND TO ENSURE THAT THE STRATEGIC VISION ARTICULATED IN THE PLAN BECOMES A REALITY.

14. IN CONCLUSION, I AM OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE FUTURE OF LEGAL EDUCATION IN KENYA. WITH THIS STRATEGIC PLAN, THE CLE HAS LAID DOWN THE FOUNDATION FOR A REVOLUTIONARY CHANGE IN HOW WE TRAIN OUR LEGAL PROFESSIONALS. IT IS NOW UPON US TO BUILD UPON THIS FOUNDATION WITH COMMITMENT, CREATIVITY, AND COLLABORATION.

15. THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR ATTENTION.

16. WITH THOSE REMARKS, I AM NOW HONOURED TO DECLARE THE COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION'S, STRATEGIC PLAN, 2023 -2027 OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED.

THANK YOU, GOD BLESS YOU.

**HON. JUSTICE MARTHA KOOME, EGH  
CHIEF JUSTICE AND PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME COURT OF KENYA**

DELIVERED BY:

**HON. JUSTICE ISAAC LENAOLA, CBS  
JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT OF KENYA**