



REPUBLIC OF KENYA



COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION

NEWSLETTER



A publication of CLE
24th Edition | Aug 2026



Featuring

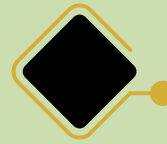
- ✓ ATP Examination Stage One Explained
- ✓ ATP Candidates FAQs
- ✓ CLE News Bulletin
- ✓ Annual Service Providers Training
- ✓ How to Report Corruption





COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION

EDITORS NOTE



A publication of CLE
24th Edition | Aug 2026

Welcome to the 24th Edition of the CLE Newsletter.

CLE continues to advance its mandate and remains focused on building a legal education and training system that is responsive, credible, inclusive and grounded in excellence. This edition captures important milestones and engagements that reflect our continued commitment to quality service delivery, innovation, accountability and meaningful stakeholder engagement.

In this edition, you will find highlights on key developments in the administration of the Advocates Training Programme Examination, including the introduction of the two-stage registration process and continued efforts to improve candidates' access to information and services. We also highlight engagements with the ATP cohort, capacity-building initiatives for examination service providers, and the growing role of digital platforms in supporting efficient service delivery.

This Newsletter further reflects CLE's commitment to strengthening institutional systems. From quality management and continuous improvement to integrity, accountability and good governance, these initiatives demonstrate our collective responsibility to uphold the highest standards in the delivery of our mandate.

CLE progress is made possible through the dedication and collaboration of Council Members, staff, legal education providers, candidates, professional bodies and all stakeholders. We sincerely appreciate your continued support and contribution to the advancement of legal education and training in Kenya.

As we look ahead, we remain inspired by the opportunities before us and committed to embracing innovation, strengthening partnerships and continuously improving the services we provide.

Thank you for being part of this journey. We hope you enjoy the read.

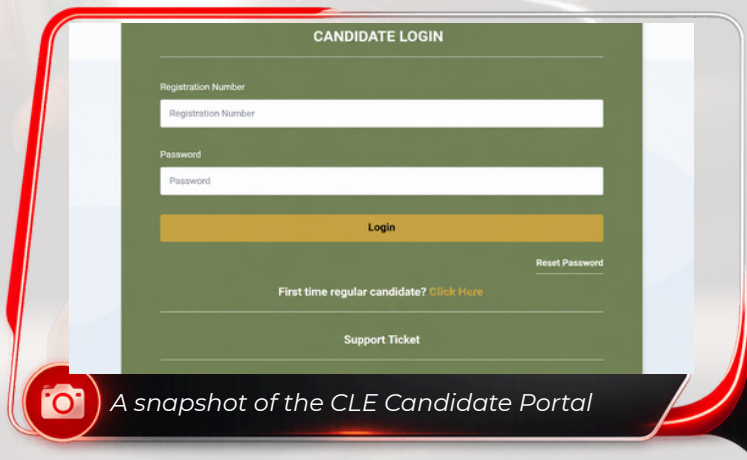
CLE News Bulletin

CLE at CAJ Meeting

CLE participated in the Commission on Administrative Justice (CAJ) High-Level Consultative Engagement on complaints resolution and access to information, bringing together 54 public institutions. Represented by the Chief Executive Officer, CLE reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening institutional accountability, effective complaints resolution and responsive public service delivery.



Prof. Jack Mwimali during the CAJ High-Level Consultative Meeting.



A snapshot of the CLE Candidate Portal

ATP Examination Stage One Registration Now Open

CLE has opened registration for Stage One of the ATP Examination. Eligible candidates are invited to register online, submit the required documents and complete the payment process ahead of the November 2026 ATP Examination.

CLE CEO Featured on Radio Jambo

Prof. Jack Mwimali participated on Radio Jambo's Mazungumzo Wazi Wazi programme, where he discussed matters relating to legal education and the Council's mandate. The discussion provided an opportunity to engage the public on the role of CLE in regulating and advancing legal education in Kenya.



Prof. Jack Mwimali on Radio Jambo during an interview session



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ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN KENYA



Cabinet Secretary for Education, Hon. Julius Migos Ogamba, Prof. Collins Odote, Council Chairperson, Prof. Jack Mwimali, the Secretary/CEO, Council Members, and stakeholders pose for a group photo during the Inaugural Conference on the Future of Legal Education and Training in Kenya. COURTESY

Safeguarding the Future of Justice: Why Rigorous Accreditation Matters for Legal Education in Kenya

By Gilbert Koeh

As Kenya's economy continues to grow and diversify, so does the demand for highly qualified legal professionals. From commercial transactions and constitutional governance to environmental protection, digital technology and international trade, lawyers are playing an increasingly vital role in shaping the country's future. Behind every competent advocate, magistrate, judge or legal adviser lies a legal education system built on quality, integrity and accountability.

In a bid to ensure that quality of the law graduates meet the set standards, the Council of Legal Education (CLE), a statutory body mandated to regulate, supervise and license legal education providers in Kenya. Through a rigorous accreditation framework, CLE ensures that only institutions capable of delivering quality legal education are authorised to train the nation's future legal practitioners.

According to Prof. Jack Mwimali, CLE's Chief Executive Officer and Secretary, the licensing process is intentionally demanding because the legal profession serves as a cornerstone of justice, constitutionalism and the rule of law.

"CLE serves as the eyes of the public. Our responsibility is to ensure that institutions offering legal education meet both national and international quality standards before they admit students," says Prof. Mwimali.

Legal education is unlike most university programmes and has such a significant impact on societies globally. In this profession, graduates eventually become judges, advocates, prosecutors, legal advisers, legislators and corporate counsel whose decisions affect individuals, businesses and government institutions.

For that reason, institutions seeking to offer legal education undergo a comprehensive evaluation before receiving a practising licence. CLE assesses far more than lecture halls and classrooms, their review covers governance structures, curriculum design, academic staff qualifications, financial sustainability, library resources, ICT infrastructure, moot court facilities, legal aid clinics, student support services and strategic partnerships.

"Quality legal education cannot be compromised because the quality of legal

practitioners ultimately determines the quality of justice delivered to society," Prof. Mwimali explains.

Among the institutions that have successfully completed this rigorous process is Tharaka University School of Law in Tharaka Nithi County.

Officially launched in June 2026, the school became one of Kenya's newest accredited providers of legal education after meeting the Council's stringent licensing requirements.

Its Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) programme focuses on specialised areas including Environmental Law and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)—fields that are becoming increasingly important as climate change, natural resource governance and commercial dispute resolution reshape the legal landscape.

Before receiving approval, however, the university underwent months of detailed assessment. CLE evaluated whether it had sufficient qualified lecturers, appropriate teaching facilities, adequate accommodation, a modern curriculum, robust ICT systems, comprehensive library resources and sustainable financial capacity.

Importantly, the institution's geographical location was never a determining factor. The Council's focus remained firmly on academic quality and institutional capacity.

"We wanted to establish where lecturers would come from, whether they possessed the necessary qualifications and whether the institution had the infrastructure needed to support quality legal education," Prof. Mwimali says.

Incorporating Artificial Intelligence in the legal system in Kenya

Globally, legal profession is evolving rapidly. Artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, digital finance, cross-border commerce, environmental governance and international investment are transforming legal practice.

As a result, law schools can no longer rely on teaching methods developed decades ago.

Prof. Mwimali notes that when he studied law between 1998 and 2003, technologies such as artificial intelligence and sophisticated digital legal research platforms were virtually non-existent. Today's graduates require a far broader and more practical set of skills.

"We cannot continue teaching law using

yesterday's methods while preparing students for tomorrow's challenges," he says.

To ensure institutions remain relevant, the Council evaluates how innovation is integrated into teaching and learning. Universities are encouraged to embrace digital legal research tools, technology-enabled instruction, clinical legal education, advocacy simulations, moot courts and emerging areas of legal practice.

CLE also places significant emphasis on producing graduates who can compete successfully within Kenya, across East Africa and in the wider international legal market.

Strengthening Higher Education Through Collaboration

The Council of Legal Education works closely with the Commission for University Education (CUE) to strengthen Kenya's higher education system. While the Commission is responsible for accrediting universities and academic programmes, the Council oversees the specialised professional standards required for legal education.

This partnership ensures that law programmes meet both university education requirements and the professional expectations of the legal profession.

CLE's evaluations examine curriculum quality, governance, staffing, quality assurance systems, research capacity, legal clinics, practical training opportunities and physical infrastructure.

The goal is to produce graduates who combine sound legal knowledge with ethical values, professional competence and practical skills.

The State of Legal Education in Kenya

Kenya continues to expand access to legal education while maintaining strict quality controls.

According to the Council's public notice issued on 30 June 2026, only four universities were licensed to offer the Master of Laws (LL.M.) programme:

- Kenyatta University School of Law
- Strathmore Law School
- Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA)
- Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT)

The Council of Legal Education had also licensed 16 institutions to offer the Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) degree, demonstrating measured and carefully regulated growth within the sector.

In addition, four institutions were authorised to offer the Diploma in Law, while several universities, including:



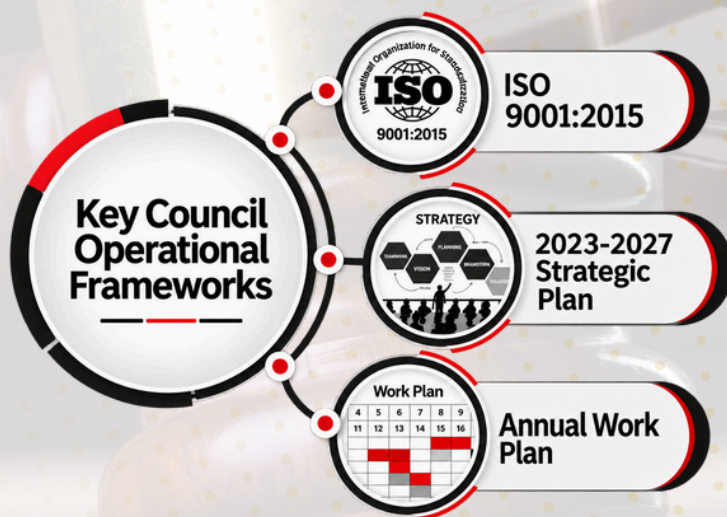
Prof. Jack Mwimali, CEO Council of Legal Education during an engagement with Kenya School of Law Advocates Training Programme Candidates. COURTESY

COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION

TWO-STAGE REGISTRATION FOR THE ADVOCATES TRAINING PROGRAMME (ATP) EXAMINATION

By Peter Kipyegon

Council of Legal Education, being a public institution certified to the ISO 9001:2015 standard, is committed to continually improving the administration and management of the Advocates Training Programme (ATP) Examination. This commitment is anchored in the 2023–2027 Strategic Plan, which recognises continual improvement not merely as a process but as an institutional philosophy that calls for a continuous search for better, more efficient and more effective ways of delivering CLE's mandate



It is against this backdrop that Council is undertaking a deliberate shift in the way ATP Examination registration is administered. With a view to making the registration process more efficient, orderly and responsive to the needs of candidates, Council will, for the first time, introduce a two-stage registration process. The new approach is designed to move registration from a single point-in-time exercise to a more structured and progressive process, allowing for the early capture, review and verification of candidates' information before completion of the final registration requirements.

STAGE ONE — INITIAL REGISTRATION, CAPTURE AND VERIFICATION

Stage One shall constitute the entry point into the new registration process. At this stage, candidates pay Kenya Shillings one thousand and provide the requisite information and documentation to facilitate the preliminary assessment of their eligibility and verification of their particulars.

-  **01** Candidates to Fill in Personal Biodata
-  **02** Candidates to Upload Academic Certificates and other Supporting Testimonials
-  **03** Candidates to pay a one-off, non-refundable examination application fee of Kenya Shillings One Thousand (Ksh. 1,000) only.

Successful completion of Stage One shall not constitute full registration for the examination. Candidates whose information has been duly submitted, verified and approved shall be eligible to progress to Stage Two, which shall constitute the final stage of registration.

STAGE TWO — FINAL REGISTRATION

Candidates approved for progression from Stage One shall proceed to Stage Two to complete the registration for the examination.

-  **01** Candidates Select the units
-  **02** Candidates Make the Requisite Payments
-  **03** Candidates Submit their Examination Registration Details



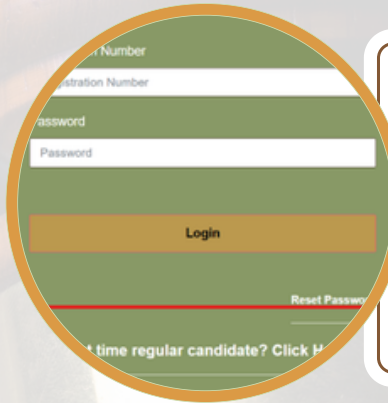
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STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

ATP Stage One Registration - First-Time Candidates



1

Log in to the candidate portal, first time candidates

2

Enter KSL Number
> Click Proceed



3

Fill in your Biodata and other information



4

Select the payment mode and make payment



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FAQS ON STAGE ONE REGISTRATION

What is Stage One Registration?

This is the first stage of registration for the ATP Examination. It involves capturing candidates' biodata and uploading academic certificates and other documents.



Who is eligible to undertake Stage One Registration?

- Stage One Registration is for first-time (regular) candidates, including candidates in the 2026 Cohort.

When does Stage One Registration open and close?

Stage One Registration commenced on 24th August 2026 and closed on 14th September 2026.

How much does Stage One Registration cost?

- Candidates undertaking Stage One Registration are required to pay a non-refundable fee of Kshs. 1,000.

How do I begin the Stage One Registration process?

- Log in to the ATP Examination portal and click on "First Time Regular Candidates." You will then be required to enter your KSL Number and click Proceed.

What information am I required to provide during registration?

- Candidates are required to complete their biodata and other required information. All fields marked with an asterisk (*) are mandatory.

What academic documents am I required to upload?

- Candidates are required to upload their Secondary School Qualifications and University Qualifications, including the University Certificate, University Transcripts combined from Year One to Year Four in one PDF file, and the KSL Admission Letter

How will I know that my registration has been successfully completed?

- Upon successful completion of the registration and payment process, you will receive a confirmation email containing your registration details.

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CLE ENGAGES THE 2026 ATP COHORT IN ONLINE SESSION

By Peter Kipyegon

The Council of Legal Education held an online engagement with the 2026 Advocates Training Programme (ATP) Cohort on 20th August 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The engagement provided an important platform for the Council to interact directly with candidates and address matters relating to the administration of the Advocates Training Programme (ATP) Examination. The session also provided candidates with an opportunity to seek clarification and engage with the Council on issues concerning the examination process.

A total of Eight Hundred and Fifty (850) candidates participated in the online engagement. Notable participants included members of the Student Council, officials from the Council of Legal Education Examination Staff, and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

The engagement forms part of the Council's continued commitment to strengthening stakeholder engagement and ensuring effective communication with candidates throughout the administration of the ATP Examination.

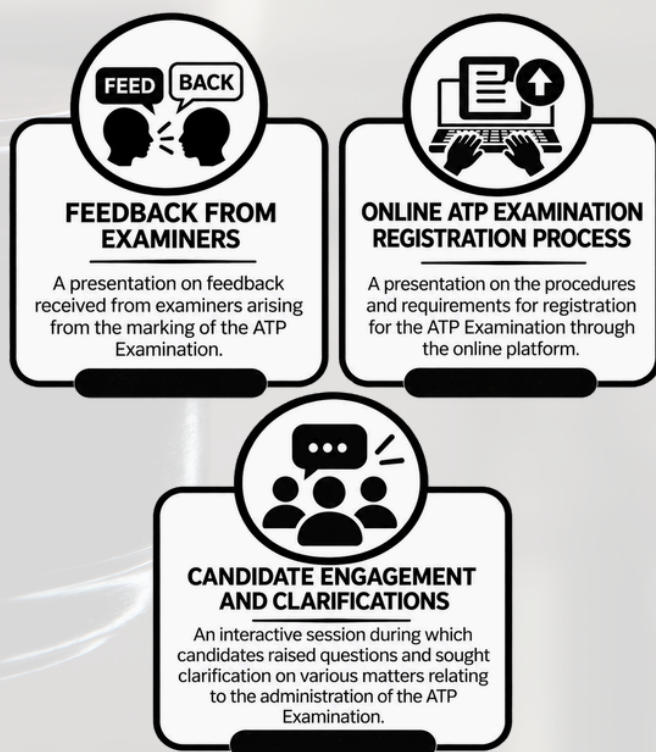


File photo of participants during an online engagement.

Engagement with the 2026 ATP Cohort



The engagement covered the following key areas:





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THE CLE CANDIDATE PORTAL EXPLAINED

CANDIDATE LOGIN

Registration Number

Password

Registration Number

Password

Login

[Reset Password](#)

What is the CLE Candidate Portal?

- The CLE Candidate Portal is an online platform that provides ATP Candidates with convenient access to essential ATP Examination services and resources.

Can I register for the ATP Examination through the portal?

- Yes. Candidates can register for the ATP Examination through the CLE Candidate Portal.

Can I upload my academic documents on the portal?

- Yes. The portal allows candidates to submit and upload their academic documents as part of the registration process.

Can I track my examination registration status?

Yes. Candidates can track the status of their examination registration and application through the portal.

What should I do if I forget my password?

- You can use the password reset feature available on the CLE Candidate Portal to regain access to your account.

Can I access ATP Examination Past Papers?

- Yes. ATP Examination Past Papers are available for access through the Candidate Portal.

What devices can I use to access the CLE Candidate Portal?

- The portal is accessible across multiple devices, including desktop computers, laptops, tablets and mobile phones.



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CLE CONDUCTS ANNUAL TRAINING FOR ATP EXAMINATION SERVICE PROVIDERS

The Council of Legal Education conducts an Annual Training for Service Providers to strengthen the capacity of stakeholders supporting the administration of the Advocates Training Programme (ATP) Examination.

For the 2026/2027 FY, the Council successfully conducted a three-day training that brought together key service providers to reflect on emerging issues in legal education and training, strengthen service delivery, and enhance the quality, integrity and credibility of the ATP Examination.

The training featured engaging sessions on Competency-Based Education and Training (CBET), assessment in legal education, integrity and public confidence in examinations. Participants also engaged in practical activities designed to enhance their capacity and professionalism in supporting the ATP Examination process.



Prof. Jack Mwimali, CEO, Council of Legal Education giving his remarks during the Annual Service Providers Training.

The programme provided an important opportunity for service providers to share experiences, deepen their understanding of their roles and responsibilities, and reinforce the importance of professionalism and accountability throughout the examination process.

The annual training is part of CLE's commitment to continuous capacity building and professional development and supports the implementation of the CLE Strategic Plan 2023–2027. It also advances the national values of integrity, accountability, professionalism and good governance.

Through such initiatives, CLE continues to strengthen the systems and people supporting the administration of credible, fair and high-quality ATP Examinations.



Dr. Felix Odhiambo, Director of Examination, Council of Legal Education giving his remarks during the Annual Service Providers Training.



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AUGUST PHOTO GALLERY



Mr. Zadock Amboko from the Directorate of Examination giving his remarks during the Annual Service Providers Training



Prof. Jack Mwimali during a media interview with Radio Jambo on key developments in legal education and training.



Florence Shako, Legal Academic, Advocate of the High Court of Kenya, Arbitrator, Mediator and Consultant, during the Annual Service Providers Training.



A light moment as Dr Felix Odhiambo shares a cheerful exchange with a trainer during the Annual Service Providers Training.



Prof. Jack Mwimali with Prof. Robert Gateru and a Team from Riara University, at the Council of Legal Education offices.



Prof. Jack Mwimali during the 38th NCAJ meeting



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BUILDING A CULTURE OF INTEGRITY AT CLE



Prof. Jack Mwimali with members of the Corruption Prevention Committee during an Integrity Retreat.

The Council of Legal Education continues to strengthen its commitment to integrity, accountability and good governance through capacity building for members of the Corruption Prevention Committee.

The Committee recently participated in a training aimed at strengthening members' understanding of corruption prevention, institutional controls and their role in promoting transparency and ethical conduct across the institution.

The training provided an opportunity for members to review corruption prevention measures, assess existing systems and identify areas for continuous improvement in the prevention and management of corruption risks.

Through strengthened capacity and proactive prevention measures, the Council continues to uphold the national values and principles of governance while building confidence among its stakeholders.

REPORT CORRUPTION

SPEAK UP • STAND FOR INTEGRITY • MAKE A DIFFERENCE

An external whistleblower may raise concerns through email, verbally, or physical presentation of a written submission (this can be done either by declaration or in confidence/ anonymously).

*A
CORRUPTION FREE
CLE BEGINS
WITH YOU*



EMAIL

Report via our
dedicated email address

corruptionreporting@cle.or.ke



CALL

Report by phone

**0719150000
0111056130**



WHATSAPP

Send a WhatsApp
message

0719150000



IN PERSON OR VERBALLY

Make a written submission
or raise your concerns
verbally at our offices.



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CLE STRENGTHENS QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS



Prof. Jack Mwimali with members of the ISO Steering Committee

The Council of Legal Education (CLE) continues to strengthen its commitment to quality service delivery and institutional excellence through the work of the ISO Steering Committee.

The Committee recently held a retreat focused on reviewing and updating key ISO processes and the Council's Quality Management System (QMS). The engagement brought together members to reflect on the effectiveness of existing systems and deliberate on measures aimed at ensuring that the Council's processes remain responsive to its operational and strategic needs.

The retreat provided an important platform for members to review the implementation of the Quality Management System and identify opportunities for continuous improvement. Through the discussions, members assessed existing processes and considered areas that require strengthening to enhance efficiency, consistency and effectiveness across the institution. The engagement also reinforced the importance of maintaining well-defined systems that support the delivery of quality services to stakeholders.

Key discussions focused on updating ISO processes and strengthening compliance with established quality management standards. Members deliberated on ways of improving institutional procedures, streamlining processes and ensuring greater consistency in service delivery.

The discussions underscored the importance of regularly reviewing systems to ensure that they remain relevant and capable of supporting the Council's evolving mandate.

The retreat further emphasised the role of every member of staff in supporting the effective implementation of the Quality Management System. Members reflected on their respective roles and responsibilities in maintaining quality standards and promoting a culture of continuous improvement throughout the institution. The engagement reinforced the importance of collective responsibility, accountability and commitment in ensuring the success of the QMS.



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REPAY YOUR BEL LOAN, EMPOWER ANOTHER CANDIDATE



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BAR EXAMINATION LOAN REPAYMENT

The Bar Exam Loan [BEL] is available for the Advocate Training Program Examination Registration fees only. It earns an interest rate of 4% per annum and matures 1.5 years after disbursement.

BEL Repayment

1. Repay BEL using USSD Code *642#, HELB Mobile App, Loanee Self-Serve Portal, and
2. Employers Portal for those being deducted through payroll deductions.
3. For Kenyans in diaspora, repay through Sendwave, World Remit and/or Bank deposit.
4. Upon completion of loan repayment, clearance is done by HELB.

For inquiries and repayment support:

1. **HELB Portal:** www.helb.co.ke
2. **Call:** 0711052000
3. **Email:** support@cle.orke
4. **Visit:** www.cle.orke
5. **Email:** contactcentre@helb.co.ke

EMPOWERING DREAMS

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THIRTY- ONE ORANGE DAYS

by Peter Kipyegon

As we wave bye to August,
And welcome September,
We remember,
The importance and high regard
Of the month that was.
August,
The month of reverence;
The eighth month
In the Gregorian calendar,
With thirty-one days,
With sunsets painted orange—
a colour representing
warmth, joy and vigour.

As nostalgic-
As it may get,
We bid August farewell
And welcome September,
With its sapphire-blue hue—
A colour of calm,
Clarity and renewed hope.

May the new month
Bring fresh beginnings,
Renewed purpose,
Bumper harvest,
And brighter horizons.



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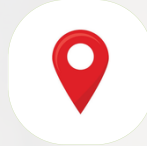


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