



**ADDRESS BY CHAIRPERSON, COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION,
DURING THE LAUNCH OF THE 2023-2027 STRATEGIC PLAN ON 19TH APRIL 2024 AT THE
SERENA HOTEL, NAIROBI**

- OUR CHIEF GUEST, HON. JUSTIN MUTURI, EBS, ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA
- HON. JUSTICE ISAAC LANAOLA, JUDGE OF THE SUPREME COURT
- HON. GEORGE MURUGARA, CHAIRPERSON, JLAC
- *[OTHER DISTINGUISHED GUESTS PRESENT]*
- COUNCIL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION
- DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

GOOD MORNING! A VERY WARM WELCOME TO YOU ALL!

WE ARE HONOURED TO HAVE YOU ALL HERE THIS MORNING!

AS A COUNCIL, THIS LAUNCH MARKS A SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE IN THE JOURNEY OF THE COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION. IT IS OUR THIRD STRATEGIC PLAN. TODAY, WE LAUNCH OUR STRATEGIC PLAN, A ROAD MAP THAT WILL GUIDE US TOWARDS ACHIEVING OUR VISION AND FULFILLING OUR MISSION IN LEGAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN KENYA. YOUR PRESENCE HERE, THEREFORE, NOT ONLY REMINDS US OF THE DUTY BESTOWED UPON US AS COUNCIL BY KENYANS THROUGH THE LEGAL EDUCATION ACT, BUT ALSO

OF OUR PARTNERSHIP. THIS IS BECAUSE WE ARE AWARE THE JOURNEY AHEAD IS NOT ONE WHICH ANY INSTITUTION CAN WALK ALONE IN.

AS DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING SAID, *'OUR SURVIVAL DEPENDS ON OUR ABILITY TO STAY AWAKE, TO ADJUST TO NEW IDEAS, TO REMAIN VIGILANT, AND TO FACE THE CHALLENGES OF CHANGE'*. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THESE WORDS HAVE REMAINED A SOURCE OF INSPIRATION AND REASSURANCE TO US AT THE COUNCIL AS WE DEVELOPED THIS STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-2027.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

THE STRATEGIC PLAN ARTICULATES BETTER THAN EVER BEFORE HOW OUR MANDATE OF REGULATING, SUPERVISING AND LICENSING LEGAL EDUCATION AND LEGAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS, ADVISING THE GOVERNMENT ON MATTERS GERMANE TO LEGAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING AND IMPORTANTLY, ADMINISTERING THE ADVOCATES TRAINING PROGRAMME (BAR) EXAMINATION CAN BE IMPLEMENTED IN A COORDINATED MANNER AND OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES THAT CAN BE UNDERTAKEN FOR GREATER IMPACT.

AS WE EMBARK ON THIS JOURNEY, IT IS ESSENTIAL TO REFLECT ON THE VISION THAT UNDERPINS OUR JOURNEY AHEAD: *"INNOVATIVE LEGAL PROFESSIONALS TRANSFORMING SOCIETY"*. THE COUNCIL IS AWARE OF THE NEED TO BE INNOVATIVE AND ALIGN WITH THE EVER-CHANGING LEGAL LANDSCAPE. FURTHER THAT ITS WORK IS A BRIDGE BETWEEN EDUCATION AND THE PROFESSION, WITH WHAT IT DOES PLAYING A CRITICAL PART IN INFLUENCING THE QUALITY OF PROFESSIONALS THAT ENTER INTO AND OCCUPY THE LEGAL PROFESSION. CONSEQUENTLY, THE COUNCIL'S MISSION WILL BE *"TO ENSURE QUALITY LEGAL EDUCATION THROUGH RESPONSIVE REGULATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF BAR EXAMINATION."*

WE LIVE AT A TIME OF TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE UNPRECEDENTED IN ITS PACE, SCOPE AND DEPTH OF IMPACT. THE FIVE (5) YEAR PLAN AIMS TO TRANSFORM LEGAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN KENYA. IT FOCUSES ON STRENGTHENING INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO LEGAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING THAT RESPOND TO THE DYNAMISM IN THE PRACTICE

OF LAW TODAY AND THAT SEEKS TO INTEGRATE TECHNOLOGY IN TRAINING OF LAWYERS TO BETTER PREPARE THEM FOR THE TECHNOLOGICAL WORLD.

THIS STRATEGIC PLAN RECOGNISES THAT THE EDUCATION LANDSCAPE IS FAST CHANGING AS EVIDENCED BY THE ADOPTION OF THE COMPETENCE BASED CURRICULUM A FEW YEARS BACK. THERE IS, THEREFORE, NEED FOR TRANSFORMATIONAL LEARNING TO RESPOND TO THIS DYNAMISM.

THE WORLD HAS BECOME ONE GLOBAL VILLAGE WHERE EVENTS IN ONE COUNTRY IMPACT OTHERS. INNOVATIONS ARE ALSO SPREADING RAPIDLY. SOCIAL MEDIA AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) CONTINUE TO DISRUPT THE OLD ORDER. LEGAL EDUCATION FOR TODAY'S WORLD MUST ALIGN TO THIS NEW WORLD ORDER. IT MUST BE BOLD ENOUGH TO EXPLORE INNOVATIVE TOOLS AND RESOURCES TO ENABLE THE GRADUATES TO NAVIGATE LEGAL ISSUES WITH GREATER EASE AND CONFIDENCE.

CLE IS, THEREFORE, COMMITTED UNDER THE STRATEGIC PLAN THAT WE LAUNCH TODAY TO A REVIEW OF ALL CURRICULA UNDER ITS REGULATORY PURVIEW TO ENSURE THAT THEY MEET THE NEEDS OF THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEGAL PROFESSIONALS. THIS PHENOMENON IS ONGOING THE WORLD OVER. THOSE WHOSE LEGAL EDUCATION FOCUSES ONLY ON COMMON LAW ARE SLOWLY PROVIDING BASIC TOOLS ON CIVIL LAW TO EQUIP THEM WITH APPROPRIATE SKILLS FOR THE NEW CHALLENGES. AS SOME GUIDING PRINCIPLES DEVELOPED BY THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION IN 2020 OUT OF THE WORK OF ITS COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF LEGAL EDUCATION QUIPPED *“OUR PROFESSION CANNOT SERVE CLIENTS EFFECTIVELY UNLESS OUR EDUCATION AND LICENSURE ACKNOWLEDGES THE SWEEPING CHANGES WROUGHT BY TECHNOLOGY, GLOBALISATION, AND MOBILITY. SIMILARLY, WE CANNOT IMPROVE ACCESS TO JUSTICE UNLESS WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT CHANGES ON IN HOW WE EDUCATE AND LICENSE THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEGAL PROFESSIONALS.”*

IN KENYA AND MANY OTHER COUNTRIES, THERE IS GROWING CONCERN THAT THE PRESENT CURRICULA FOR LEGAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING DO NOT ADEQUATELY

PREPARE STUDENTS TO PRACTICE LAW IN THE CURRENT AND EMERGING FIELD OF PRACTICE. THE PRACTICE OF LAW TODAY REQUIRES AGILITY, IN THE LEGAL SKILLS, ETHICS, PROFESSIONALISM, TECHNOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE, AND SKILLS, WHICH MUST BE PERCEIVED AS A CORE OUTCOME OF ANY LEGAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMME.

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

ACHIEVING OUR STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES WILL REQUIRE COLLECTIVE EFFORT AND COLLABORATION. I CALL UPON OUR STAKEHOLDERS- THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (OAG), THE JUDICIARY, THE NATIONAL LEGAL AID SERVICE (NLAS), THE COMMISSION FOR UNIVERSITY EDUCATION (CUE), THE NATIONAL TREASURY, THE LAW SOCIETY OF KENYA (LSK), LEGAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS, FACULTIES, STUDENTS, LEGAL PRACTITIONERS AND THE BROADER COMMUNITY TO WALK WITH US ON THIS EXCITING FIVE YEAR JOURNEY AHEAD.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

ALLOW ME TO SHARE MY SINCERE GRATITUDE TO THE STAFF LED BY THE ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MS JENNIFER GITIRI AND THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL FOR WORKING TIRELESSLY AND FOR THEIR COMMITMENT TO ENSURE THIS DAY BECOMES A SUCCESS. ALLOW ME TO ALSO THANK OUR PARTNERS, THE KENYA DEVOLUTION PROGRAMME OF ACT CHANGE TRANSFORM AND THROUGH THEM FCDO FOR SUPPORTING THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING THIS PLAN.

IN CLOSING, WE EMBARK ON THIS JOURNEY WITH OPTIMISM, PRIDE, DETERMINATION, AND A SHARED SENSE OF PURPOSE. WE COMMIT TO ENSURING WE ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVES WE HAVE SET OUT TO ACHIEVE AND LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.

THANK YOU ALL ONCE AGAIN AND MAY GOD BLESS US AND BLESS OUR COUNTRY KENYA.

IT IS NOW MY PLEASURE TO WELCOME OUR CHIEF GUEST, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA, HON. JUSTIN B. MUTURI TO OFFICIALLY LAUNCH THE COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-2027.

**PROF. COLLINS ODOTE
CHAIRPERSON
COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION**