

## WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE KENYA LAW REFORM COMMISSION DURING THEIR INDUCTION AT SAWELA LODGE NAIVASHA ON 9TH JUNE 2026

**Chairperson and Honourable Commissioners,**

On behalf of the Secretariat of the Kenya Law Reform Commission, I extend a warm and sincere welcome to you on your appointment as Commissioners of the Kenya Law Reform Commission.

Your appointment comes at an important moment as Kenya continues to navigate complex social, economic, technological, and governance challenges, that demand for responsive, evidence-based, and forward-looking law reform solutions. The Commission therefore has a unique opportunity not only to fulfil its statutory mandate but also to redefine its role as a strategic institution at the centre of national development and social justice.

In discharging your mandate, you will be supported by a dedicated secretariat comprising professionals drawn from diverse disciplines, including legislative drafting, legal research and development, policy and legislative analysis, public administration, finance, human resource management, information technology, communications, and corporate services. While our expertise is multidisciplinary, we are united by a common belief in the transformative power of law as an instrument of social progress, good governance, economic development, and the protection of rights and freedoms.

The Secretariat stands ready to support the Commission in the effective discharge of its responsibilities. In the Secretariat you will find a competent, diligent, innovative, and resourceful team committed to excellence in service delivery and to advancing the Commission's mandate.

Our performance evaluation outcomes over recent years demonstrate a culture of accountability, institutional discipline, and continuous improvement. These achievements provide a strong foundation upon which we can build an even stronger and more influential law reform institution.

**Honourable Chairperson, Commissioners,**

As we look to the future, I invite us to consider a broader and more ambitious vision for the Commission. Across the world, Governments and Parliaments place trust in law reform bodies to continuously monitor law to establish its efficacy and desirability on account of their technical expertise, authoritativeness and impartiality. Successful law reform agencies are increasingly measured not merely by the number of legislation they have reviewed, but by the quality, relevance, and impact of their recommendations. For law reform to be

effective, it must be impactful and informed by intensive consultation, rigorous research, responsiveness to stakeholders, and a commitment to evidence-based decision-making. It is for this reason that I believe the Kenya Law Reform Commission should position itself as a model law reform agency and, ultimately, as one of the leading law reform institutions in Africa.

The first pillar of this transformation is the development of a National Law Reform Programme. Honorable Chairperson, Commissioners,

The establishment of the Kenya Law Reform Commission as an independent agency to spearhead the law reform agenda has been a significant step to the establishment of an institutional framework for the continuous review of the law in Kenya to ensure that the law is harmonious, technically sound, cost-effective in application and responsive to the needs of the society.

Despite contributing significantly to the development of a legal system that is society oriented and one that creates an enabling environment for development in Kenya, the Commission has noted a gap in the establishment of a strategic approach to the policy and legal reform interventions required to effectively address the needs of the Kenyan people. Law reform in Kenya is often undertaken in a fragmented and reactive manner, resulting in duplication of effort and missed opportunities for strategic reform.

The National Law Reform Programme seeks to establish a coordinated, evidence-based, and forward-looking framework for identifying, prioritising, implementing, and monitoring law reform interventions. Through a rolling five-year reform agenda informed by government priorities, judicial decisions, stakeholder recommendations, and public participation, the Commission will identify areas of law that require review, modernisation, or improvement in response to social, economic, political, and technological change, prioritise the issues for reform based on an established criterion, examine the identified laws or issues and make recommendations for improvement of the law.

One of the key legal issues that should be considered under the National Law Reform Programme is the establishment of a penalty and fee units system in Kenya. Currently, many Kenyan statutes prescribe fixed monetary penalties and fees that lose their effectiveness over time due to inflation and changing economic conditions, by introducing a standardised system of penalty and fee units, Kenya can create a more coherent, flexible, and efficient framework for updating statutory penalties and charges while promoting consistency across legislation. This is an example of practical law reform that can improve both the effectiveness and efficiency of our legal system

The National Law Reform Programme (NLRP) is a strategic intervention because it provides an organised, forward-looking framework that guides how the Commission identifies, prioritises, and undertakes law reform in Kenya. Instead of responding to legal problems in an ad hoc or reactive way, the programme enables the Commission to work in a structured, coordinated, and goal-oriented manner. The attendant law reform reports prepared after every law reform project will additionally provide a critical resource on the legal analysis, constitutional considerations, comparative research, stakeholder consultation findings, implementation planning, and draft legislation recommended to resolve the issue.

Secondly, I propose that the Commission position itself as Kenya's National Centre of Excellence for Regulatory Impact Analysis. The future of law reform is not only about drafting better laws; it is about ensuring that laws deliver measurable social, economic, and governance outcomes. Regulatory Impact Analysis provides a structured methodology for assessing the likely costs, benefits, risks, and consequences of proposed laws before they are enacted.

The Commission is uniquely placed to lead this agenda because it already possesses the essential foundations: a statutory mandate for law reform, expertise in legislative drafting and legal analysis, extensive experience in stakeholder engagement, and established relationships with Parliament, ministries, regulators, county governments, and development partners.

By establishing a dedicated Regulatory Impact Analysis function, the Commission can help improve the quality of legislation, reduce unintended consequences, lower compliance costs, strengthen public participation, enhance investor confidence, and improve implementation outcomes. Over time, this capability could position the Commission as the national custodian of regulatory quality and evidence-based legislative development.

Lastly, at the secretariat level, we are proposing the establishment of a Strategic Law Reform Committee to provide leadership in identifying future reform priorities, monitoring implementation of recommendations, and ensuring alignment between law reform initiatives and national development objectives will be crucial. Such a mechanism would strengthen institutional coordination and provide a structured platform for long-term thinking on legal and regulatory reform. The recommendations of the SLRT will then feed into the Commission's Law Reform Programme's Committee.

Honourable Chairperson, Commissioners,

Achieving this vision will require investment in multidisciplinary capabilities, including legal research and analysis, economics, public policy analysis within the Secretariat. It will also require investment in research infrastructure, stakeholder engagement mechanisms, digital

consultation platforms, and knowledge management systems. This need not occur through a large and immediate expansion of resources. A phased approach based on staff development, strategic partnerships, pilot projects, and gradual institutional strengthening will allow the Commission to build these capabilities sustainably.

I believe we have the opportunity to position the Kenya Law Reform Commission as a model law reform agency—one that anticipates future challenges, responds to emerging opportunities, strengthens democratic governance, and contributes meaningfully to national development. By strengthening our methodology, deepening stakeholder engagement, institutionalising regulatory impact analysis, and producing world-class law reform reports, we can significantly enhance the quality, influence, and implementation of our work.

In conclusion Honourable Chairperson, Commissioner, allow me to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for the opportunity to step in to perform the functions of the office of the Secretary/ Chief Executive Officer. I also wish to acknowledge and thank those who previously performed these responsibilities, some of whom continue to serve the Government in different capacities, for the valuable contributions they have made to the Commission's growth and success.

I fully appreciate that the responsibilities are significant and demanding, carrying with them profound obligations and expectations. I wish to assure that I am prepared and committed to meeting these responsibilities, with diligence, integrity and dedication.

As we are in a football season, allow me to borrow the words of the Arsenal Football Club's Head Coach, Mikel Arteta, who once urged the supporters to "trust the process". In the same spirit, honorable Chairperson, Commissioners, I respectfully urge you, to trust the process and together we are going to strengthen the Kenya Law Reform Commission and make it a model law reform institution, in East and Central of Africa, across the African Continent, and throughout the Commonwealth.

I look forward to working closely with all of you in advancing the Commission's mandate and achieving our shared vision.

Thank you.