



JUDICIARY

**SPEECH BY HON. DAVID K. MARAGA,
EGH, CHIEF JUSTICE AND PRESIDENT
OF THE SUPREME COURT OF KENYA
AT THE HANDING-OVER OF LAW
BOOKS AT THE MILIMANI LAW COURTS
ON OCTOBER 4, 2017**

Honorable Judges,

Ms. Nancy Kanyago, Co-ordinator, JPIP

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good afternoon!

It gives me great pleasure to preside over this event, which brings great joy to our work as Judges and Magistrates. Books, as you know, are a central feature in the life of a Judicial officer. The legal profession is, after all, a learned profession. That is partly why the Judiciary Transformation has invested heavily in deepening intellectual inquiry through the revival of the Judiciary Training Institute and establishing relationships with leading universities. Equipping and modernizing our libraries is part of this programme. And when the books come in as big a number as what we have today, it becomes a big celebration for which we are most grateful.

The process of procuring these books started in March 2016. It has taken well over one and a half years of painstaking effort to acquire the 1,688 copies of legal books, which comprise 24 different titles. The total value is Ksh.159 million, and they will be distributed to different courts across the country. The books comprise some of the most important studies in Criminal Law, Civil Procedure, Law Reports and a host of other titles that are instrumental in equipping judicial officers and other legal practitioners.

Our librarians have already packaged the books for dispatch to the Court of Appeal, High Courts and Magistrate Courts at Milimani, Eldoret, Nakuru, Kisumu, Nyeri, Kakamega, Mombasa, Kericho, Machakos, Garissa, Marsabit, HomaBay, Migori, Naivasha, Kapenguria, Lodwar, Kabarnet, Voi, Tanariver, Nanyuki, Nyamira, Kitui, Bomet, Kajiado, Oyugis. Moyale, Makueni. Kapsabet, Wajir, Limuru, Kwale, Maralal, Vihiga and the Keroka Law Courts.

Distinguished Guests,

I wish to extend my gratitude and that of the entire Judiciary and the larger legal fraternity to the World Bank for their support, through the Judicial Performance Improvement Project (JPIP), in purchasing these publications. It was undertaken under the “Access to Courts and Legal Information Support” component of JPIP.

I acknowledge with great appreciation the immense support we continue to receive from JPIP, which has worked with the Judiciary since 2012 in four distinct areas: Access to Court and Legal Information; Improving Timeliness of Judiciary Services; Enhancing Performance and Quality of Decision Making and Project Management Unit. This

support has boosted our efforts to strengthen the Judiciary in order to make it more effective in the dispensation of justice through enhanced accountability, transparency and universal access. It is a key plank in the Sustaining Judiciary Transformation (SJT) agenda and the Judiciary Strategic Plan (2013-2018) which are premised on creating a world-class judicial infrastructure that is focused on exceptional service delivery to the people of Kenya.

This transformation continues to impact positively on the quality of our work, and I wish to thank the World Bank and other donors who have done so much to help us reach where we are today. Wherever you are, please accept our appreciation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In line with the SJT blueprint, the Judiciary envisages **Access to justice** and **the clearance of case backlog** as important elements of its agenda. These books will make it easier to carry out research for the effective dispensation of justice while enhancing the development of jurisprudence. The Judiciary recognizes that legal books and publications are essential tools in all court stations. We will ensure that the distribution begins immediately.

The Judiciary is continuing with the process of building new courts across the country, which will have spacious libraries, among other modern facilities. These will be used by judicial officers, staff and other legal practitioners, therefore becoming an invaluable resource in our work.

But I am aware that the provision of good libraries, even when they overflow with beautiful publications, do not automatically add to our knowledge. We must cultivate a desire to learn and to be knowledgeable. This is integral to our work as Judicial officers, and is indeed a necessary condition for our continuing to function as competent members of the bench. And it does not stop at being knowledgeable in what is contained in our law books. The need for a multi-disciplinary approach to issues means that Judicial officers must draw from a broader foundation of knowledge that will often cut through several disciplines.

And now ladies and gentlemen, it is with great pleasure that I receive and handover the 1688 copies of the Legal Books and Publications. I wish you all good reading.

**HON. DAVID K. MARAGA, EGH
CHIEF JUSTICE AND PRESIDENT OF THE
SUPREME COURT OF KENYA.**