

**WELCOMING REMARKS BY DR ALICE OTWALA, CBS, SECRETARY/CEO  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION DURING THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE  
STAKEHOLDERS VALIDATION WORKSHOP ON THE DRAFT PUBLIC  
SERVICE COMMISSION REGULATIONS 2018 AT THE KENYA SCHOOL OF  
GOVERNMENT, NAIROBI ON 7<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2018**

Prof Margaret Kobia, Chairperson of the Public Service Commission,  
Vice Chairperson, Mr Peter Ole Nkuraiya,  
Commissioners of the Public Service Commission,  
Chairpersons and members of Constitutional Commissions and  
Independent Offices,  
Principal Secretaries present,  
Secretaries of Constitutional Commissions and Independent Offices,  
Representatives of Unions,  
Representatives of professional bodies,  
Fellow public servants,  
Distinguished participants,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

**Good morning,**

Today is a great day in the history of the Public Service Commission. It is a defining moment in our journey towards aligning our operating regulations with the Constitution of Kenya 2010 and the recently enacted Public Service Commission Act 2017.

We are a few steps away from concluding this journey that will deliver new regulations to replace the current PSC Regulations of 2005. In this journey, we have worked very closely with various stakeholders most of who are here with us today. They include Ministries, state corporations and agencies, constitutional commissions and independent offices, employee unions and professional bodies among others.

I therefore wish to assure you that what you have before you is a rich document that has gone through a rigorous and painstaking process and that what remains to be done is a lot lighter.

## **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am very excited for this far we have come and for the role that you as stakeholders have played in the runner-up to this day. On behalf of the Commission, I welcome you all and thank you for honoring our invitation to participate in this validation workshop. We do not take it for granted that you made it here.

We are clearly aware that you have sacrificed other pressing demands elsewhere to make your participation in this forum a priority. This demonstrates that you have a keen interest in ensuring that the public service complies with the new constitutional order and that it is positioned to provide quality services to the citizens.

I urge you to do justice to these draft regulations during the two days that you will be here in order that we may bequeath the public service new regulations for which history will judge us fairly and posterity will remember us.

It certainly has not been a walk in the park. It has taken commitment, resources and energy to get to where we are. Behind this effort has been a dedicated team from the commission that has ensured we delivered on the assignment in record time and on a shoestring budget.

I particularly, and in a very special way, single out our Chairperson Prof Margaret Kobia for the meticulous manner she has steered the Commission and for the milestones the Commission has achieved over the last five years. On behalf of the secretariat, I wish to thank His Excellency the President for recognizing her abilities and potential to perform the duties of a higher calling and consequently nominating her to serve in his cabinet as Cabinet Secretary for Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs. We congratulate you Madam Chair and wish you great success in your new appointment.

I also commend the commissioners for their able leadership, guidance and involvement in the preparation of these regulations without which we probably would not have made as much progress as we have witnessed so far. I also thank the technical team that has worked tirelessly under my supervision for a job well done.

As you may have seen in the programme, we have a lot of ground to cover. This will require frugal time management. We have assembled for you a carefully selected team of professional and experienced resource persons from among the Commission secretariat who have been deeply involved in the preparatory stages of the proposed regulations to take you through the presentations. Their presentations will be moderated by our distinguished and well-grounded commissioners as session chairs.

At the end of these two days, the Commission will retreat to consider your feedback for inclusion as part of the new Regulations that we will be forwarding to the office of the Attorney General and Parliament. I therefore look forward to candid, frank and well thought out contributions that will make the final proposals to easily sail through parliament and eventually be gazetted as the Public Service Regulations 2018.

It is now my pleasure and honor to invite our chief guest and chairperson of the Public Service Commission, Prof Margaret Kobia to address us and officially open this workshop.

Thank you.