

Remarks by Mr. Abdi A. Mohamud, MBS during the occasion of his swearing-in as the Secretary/Chief Executive Officer of the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission

13th January 2025. Supreme Court Building.

- The Hon. Chief Justice and President of the Supreme Court of Kenya; Lady Justice Martha Koome, EGH
- **EACC Chairperson;** Dr. David Oginde, PhD.
- ➡ **Director of Public Prosecutions;** Mr. Renson Ingonga, CBS, OGW
- ➡ Director of Criminal Investigations; Mr. Amin Mohammed Ibrahim, CBS, OGW, 'ndc' (K)
- EACC Commissioners;
- Chief Registrar of the Judiciary
- **EACC** Directors
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning,

- 1. I am grateful for this opportunity and honor to serve in the Office of Secretary/Chief Executive Officer of the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission.
- I commend the EACC Commission, the National Assembly, Judiciary and everyone who played a role in the recruitment and assumption to Office. I humbly accept the appointment and thank you for entrusting me with this critical responsibility of promoting integrity and combating corruption for the benefit of our nation.
- 3. As I assume the Office today, I am acutely aware of the huge responsibility and expectations Kenyans bestow upon the Commission. Further, I am cognizant of the adverse effects of corruption to the well-being of a nation.

- 4. In that regard, I wish to offer my unequivocal commitment and fidelity to the oath of Office that I subscribed to, in combating corruption, economic crime and unethical conduct in the country.
- 5. As set out in the EACC Strategic Plan 2023-2028, the main strategies employed by the Commission in fighting corruption, include, law enforcement, prevention, public education, promotion of standards and practices of integrity, ethics and anti-corruption.
- 6. Whereas we will continue to enforce the law as mandated, going forward we will prioritize the following 3 strategies that we believe will yield better results:
 - 1. **Tracing and recovery of corruptly acquired assets**. Our reason for prioritizing this strategy is on realization that people engage in

corruption because of the gains that accure from it. We therefore must deny these people from enjoying what they stole. If public officers realize they will not enjoy proceeds of corruption, they will be dissuaded from stealing in the first place. The law is also settled in this area. From cases like Stanley Amuti, the courts have held that public officers must account for what they own. They must be able to explain how they acquired the assets they own. What they cannot explain is forfeited to the state.

On 11 September 2024 the commission handed over landed properties valued at 5 billion under cash assets worth 514,000,000, to H.E the president at state house Nairobi that were recovered as a result of the commissions action. We intend to enhance investigations in this area with a view to recovering more assets that have been corruptly acquired. The conflict-of-interest bill that is in parliament is expected to support the commission work in this area once the bill becomes law.

- 2. The second strategy that we will priorities is corruption prevention. We know that its better to prevent corruption from happening than to conduct investigations after the event. It is for that realization that we intend to expand our approach for corruption prevention. These will entail,
 - Disruption of corruption activities where the commission will intervene and stop certain procurement from being awarded when we have sufficient evidence that the public is likely to lose funds. In the past three years we disrupted corruption activities worth Ksh10.74 billion. We also intend to enhance this activity.
 - Systems review of public agencies.
 - Corruption risk assessment in counties.
 - Monitor Capital-intensive projects: The Commission will proactively monitor capital-intensive projects at various stages including project inception, budgeting and implementation. I intend to enhance our intelligence

<u>capabilities</u> and undercover operations in order to use information not only for reactive purposes but to improve knowledge on emerging threats and to identify proactive investigative lines.

- Enhance integrity testing at service points; In order to address low-value corruption, especially at the points of service, the Commission will regularly test the integrity of government processes and procedures to identify weakness and recommend remedial measures
- 3. The Third strategy is creating partnerships in the fight against corruption
 - Kenya leadership Integrity forum
 - Sectors
 - Youth
 - Faith based organizations

- Regulatory and oversight bodies
- Schools colleges and Universities
- 7. As I conclude, I recognize that the successful implementation of these anticorruption strategies will require close cooperation, collaboration and coordination of all stakeholders. I pledge to work closely with all the stakeholders - for together, we can ensure that corruption does not rob our nation of a bright future.

Thank you and God bless you all.

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Abdi A. Mohamud, MBS
<u>Secretary/Chief Executive Officer.</u>