

Remarks by David Oginde, PhD, FCS, Chairperson of the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission during the Launch of the Annual Report for the Financial Year 2023/2024

Date: Tuesday, 28th January, 2025

Venue: Integrity Centre

a) Salutations

- Vice-chairperson, Dr. Monica Muiru, MBS,
- EACC Commissioners
- Secretary/Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Abdi Mohamud, MBS
- Directors present;
- 4 Our friends from the media;
- \rm Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good morning,

1. May I join the CEO in thanking the media for attending this launch of the EACC Annual Report for the Financial Year 2023/24. This underscores our shared goal of pursuing transparency, accountability, and good governance in the country.

- 2. This Report is an **accountability statement** of the Commission on its activities and programs for the period under review and we call upon the media to disseminate its content to the public.
- 3. The launch provides a platform for the Commission to reflect on the **state of corruption in the country**, the **grave harm** it continues to do the citizens, and the **reform opportunities** available to strengthen the anti-corruption interventions.

- The fight against corruption requires the commitment and participation of all stakeholders including the media, state and other non-state actors.
- 5. **Each** of the stakeholders has a critical role to play:
 - Parliament: Needs to strengthen existing legal frameworks to address challenges that impede effective anti-corruption interventions. In this regard, we call upon Parliament to support the Anti-Corruption (Amendment) Bill 2025 published the Hon. Attorney General to address gaps and weaknesses in existing laws.

- The Public: We call upon the public to discharge their civic responsibilities and support anti-corruption initiatives. Do not engage in or encourage corruption. Instead refuse and report any incidence of corruption you encounter.
 - Media: We appreciate the media for their efforts to expose and stigmatize corrupt conduct. We note from our experience as a Commission, that the corrupt fear adverse publicity more than the law.
- Families and Corruption: We have observed an emerging pattern where public officials are enrolling close family members as conduits for theft of public funds thus negating the divine role of the family as the

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foundation of virtues. Call upon family members to refuse to be enlisted in corrupt deals. Instead parents should take up their roles in shaping morality in society.

Professionals: We note that most mega scandals in the country are planned and executed by professionals – architects, engineers, lawyers, accountants, procurement, HR, medics, etc. We want to *urge* them to desist from deploying their expertise to facilitate theft of public funds. Further, professional bodies should take proactive measures to enforce their codes of conduct to promote ethical conduct among their members.

- Religious organizations: Should rebuke corruption from the pulpit and intensify their role as custodians of morality in society. Refuse to be silenced by receiving proceeds of corruption as donations to your religious institutions.
- 6. We want to highlight the centrality of ethical leadership and condemn the emerging culture of leaders using foul and abusive language on social media, and public spaces. This sets a bad example to our younger generations.
- 7. **We want to assure** the country of our commitment to discharging our mandate in accordance with the law and we call upon all the stakeholders

to play their respective roles in the promotion of good governance and accountability.

8. May once again reiterate our collective responsibility as Kenyans in the fight against corruption. Together we will win this battle.

Thank you and May God bless you!

Dated this 28th January, 2025

David Oginde, PhD, FCS

Chairperson

ETHICS AND ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION