

ICJ KENYA GALA DINNER IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REMARKS

Good Evening,

Our Chief Guest, Mr. Mohammed Nyaoga, distinguished guest, honorable Judges present, Members of parliament, Members of County Assemblies, Civil Society leadership, development partner's representatives, the ICJ Kenya members distinguished guests Ladies and gentlemen

Thank you to each and every one of you for being here with us today. We are very pleased to be able to welcome those of you that have been with us for a long time now, our partners in the civil society, development partners, as well as our new members.

Today marks our 60th Diamond Jubilee Annual commemoration kick off and you will all concur that it is not easy to sustain a non-profit for 60 years and are proud to have made it to this point.

Before we get started, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all of you who generously helped us make this event and initiative come together to become a success. Join me in appreciating the **Open Society foundation** that has stood with us for close to a decade and also made a significant contribution towards this fundraiser, we appreciate our members, that have made donations since 2012, we should be proud of ourselves, allow me to purposely mention a number of corporates, Civil Society and Law Firms that heeded our clarion call and are this evening with us, **The Law Society of Kenya Sacco, Network of African Human Rights Institutions, Muriu Mungai & Company, Zed-Arch (K) Architects, Patrick Law Associates, Aegis Development Co. Ltd, Mohammed Muigai & Company Advocates, Journalists for justice, Kanyi Kimondo & Associates, Vanci Engineering Company Limited, Allen & Wamae Advocates, Mogeni & Co. Advocates, Munyao Muthama & Kashindi Advocates, ICJ Africa, Absolute Adventure Safaris, Discounts Tours and Travels, Commission for Administrative Justice, FIDA Kenya, Riara University, Lino typesetters, Palbina Travel, NIC Bank, The Institute of Social Accountability, Legal Resources Foundation, KHRC, IMLU, Strathmore University, Kenafric, KAPA oil limited and National Coalition for Human Rights Defenders**, welcome and thank you for joining us this evening. The Journey this far has had the sweat and blood of the members of my team, the ICJ Kenya Secretariat whom we acknowledge and celebrate. Before the eyes of the public, ICJ Kenya is seen through the CEO and I can share with you it is my team that makes things happen. We couldn't have done it without you!

The Story untold is that, a few courageous individuals appreciated the need for a professional association purposely to advance democracy, rule of law discourse long before independence and ever since, ICJ Kenya has made significant contributions both nationally and continentally the work of ICJ in the past was made possible by significant sacrifice, dedication and investments. As you sit there we are in an esteemed gathering of many of us that have made our various contributions that have left the institution much stronger than they found it.

In particular I would single out Mrs Kagwiria Mbogori, Mr. Samwel Kimeu, Mr. George Kegoro who are with us tonight and who at one point led the secretariat with their contributions being felt today, I cannot fail to mention the ICJ Kenya Council leadership of Justice Muthoga for incubating the secretariat when it was most in need, Mohammed Nyaoga led Council that conceptualized the need for ICJ Kenya to have a secretariat, the Albert Kamunde Led Council for the acquisition of land by ICJ Kenya, the Ken Nyaundi Council that started the conceptual idea of the development and finally the Njonjo Mue and the Kelvin Mogeni led council that finally embarked on the construction we shall always remain indebted.

The ICJ House initiative is almost a 25year wish that evokes inter-generational emotion amongst us in the room and we should celebrate how far we have thus come. We have passed on the baton to one another at various periods in the history of this institution and this being my very last major activity I shall also soon pass on the baton to a new CEO to remain as a member, this further demonstrates the solid nature of ICJ Kenya regenerative capacity.

The ICJ Kenya house initiative shall when complete be a 35 million shillings investment that shall afford us sustainability of our work for many years to come and I urge you to generously support us. Let's make this day as enjoyable as possible

Well, I don't want to take too much of your time, my role is to invite the Chairman of the ICJ KENYA governing Council Mr. Kelvin Mogeni.

Thank you for listening to me and join me in welcoming Mr. Mogeni.