



**REMARKS BY THE VICE CHAIRPERSON OF THE KENYA NATIONAL
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS**

DURING

**THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE NATIONAL POLICY AND ACTION
PLAN ON HUMAN RIGHTS**

TUESDAY 4TH OCTOBER, 2016

INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL, NAIROBI

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In 2005, we the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights with the then Ministry with the *super long name* and one that was charged with *super heavy* national responsibilities going by the name - The Ministry of Justice, National Cohesion and Constitutional Affairs; and together with a number of State and Non- State actors began a journey.

The ultimate goal of that journey was to develop a National Human Rights Policy (NHRP) and a National Action Plan for Human Rights (NAPHR).

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today marks the end of the first leg of that long journey. It has been an arduous journey but for a country famed for its prowess in the long distance races we have walked this journey with resilience and unwavering stamina.

Today, we have a very important document that we are launching, **The Sessional Paper No. 3 of 2014 on the National Policy and Action Plan on Human Rights.**

With the launch of this policy document, we bring to a close the first leg of our journey as we embark on the second phase; a five year journey of moving our country towards a human rights state as espoused in the Bill of Rights, Chapter 4 of our Constitution.

The policy we are launching here today is an extremely important and vital document for our country. This is especially so because this national human rights policy provides a comprehensive framework that will guide both State and Non-State actors in fulfilling their human rights obligations in line with our Constitution.

This policy will ensure the observance of human rights by allowing Kenyans especially the most disadvantaged; access to justice based on the well founded human rights principles of accountability, participation, transparency, equality and non-discrimination among others.

Another important milestone in this policy is its recommendation for the setting up of Human Rights Organisations in Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs). This is absolutely important since it requires all Ministries, Departments and Agencies to represent the Constitution by mainstreaming human rights priorities in all their projects and programmes.

Ladies and Gentlemen reading through the Human Rights policy document, I can sum it up in a few words *“We have a good, in fact I dare say, we have a great document.”* But now we need to ask ourselves *“how will it benefit us as a nation to have a great document which promises a great deal of human rights goodies if we do not transform the promises in the document into real benefits for the Kenyan people?”*

Ladies and Gentlemen, a great document must go hand in hand with great commitments both human and financial.

It is therefore, my hope that even as we launch this great document here today, all of us both State and Non-State actors will commit both human and financial resources that are necessary to make this document cover the next five years in a manner that is truly transformative for the Kenyan people.

Lastly **Ladies and Gentlemen,** allow me to most sincerely thank the Honourable Attorney General Professor Githu Muigai and his very able team at the

Department of Justice by Madam Maryanne Njau and Madam Emily Chweya for leading this steadily in our long walk to the Human Rights Policy that we are launching here today.

I also acknowledge our very able team at the KNCHR, led by the CEO Patricia Nyaundi, Head of Research and Compliance Dr. Benard Mogesa and the indefatigable Dominic Rono and indeed our most cherished and valued partners from both the State and Non State actors.

To you all I say **ASANTENI SANA!**

COMMISSIONER GEORGE MORARA

VICE CHAIRPERSON