

**SPEECH BY THE DEPUTY REGIONAL PRISONS COMMANDER, ON THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL CLOSING OF THE PARALEGAL TRAINING BY KITUO CHA SHERIA, AT ELDORET MAIN PRISON, ON 16<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2021.**

Representative of the Director Kituo cha Sheria, the officer in charges present, our able facilitators, course participants, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

It is a great pleasure to join you today as we mark the end of a week-long paralegal training, I wish to commend you all for having been fully engaged in this important training.

I am aware that you have taken through what it entails to offer basic legal services; the criminal trial process knowledge will assist the remands to be aware of the process and assist them in getting fair trial. In empowering your clients with good communication skills and aspects of self-representation, they shall be able to build on their confidence and effectively communicate with the courts during trial.

I am also aware that after this training, you will be able to offer sound advice to our clients on their individual cases. This is in terms of how to ask for better bond and bail terms and other instances how to enter into plea bargains. The remands will be able to be admitted to bond and bails terms and get non-custodial sentences thus assisting in decongesting our prisons.

You have also been taken through Alternative Dispute Resolutions (ADR) mechanisms as a way of assisting your clients as you provide the legal aid. This will come in handy in restoring broken ties and relationships with the complainants in the community.

This training has come at the right time because as you are all aware in our institutions, majority of remand prisoners come from poor backgrounds and do not have legal representation during the trial process. Thus the trained paralegals will help to bridge the gap.

Ladies and gentlemen, may I take this opportunity to recognize and appreciate the role played by Kituo cha sheria in building the capacity of our members of staff and inmates across the country in matters of provision of legal aid. On the same breath I thank the other stakeholders in the criminal justice system who continues to play critical role in the facilitation of administration of justice.

I would also like to thank our able facilitators for imparting the necessary knowledge and skills to the course participants throughout the week. To the participants, thank you for your patience and commitment throughout the training.

In conclusion, I urge the newly trained paralegals to now effectively discharge their mandate in providing legal aid to their clients and I am aware an office has been made available to you to effectively provide the services. To Kituo cha Sheria, continue partnering with us to have trained paralegals both staff and inmates across all the stations in the region.

With these few remarks, it is an honor and pleasant duty for me to declare the training on **paralegal** officially closed.

Thank you, God bless you.

LEAH MIKORO {ACP}

**FOR: REGIONAL PRISONS COMMANDER.**