

REMARKS BY DR ALICE OTWALA, CBS, SECRETARY/CEO PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION DURING THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE STAKEHOLDERS VALIDATION WORKSHOP WITH SCAC ON THE DRAFT PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION REGULATIONS 2018 AT KICC, NAIROBI ON 27TH MARCH 2018

The acting Vice Chairperson, Public Service Commission, Amb. Peter Ole Nkuraiya,

PSC Commissioners present,

Secretary, State Corporations Advisory Committee, Ms Jane Mugambi,

Representatives of State Corporations,

Representatives of Public Universities,

Distinguished participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today is a defining moment in our journey towards aligning our regulatory framework with the Constitution of Kenya 2010. We are a few steps away from concluding this journey that will deliver new regulations to replace the current PSC Regulations of 2005 and give effect to the Public Service Commission Act 2017.

In our endeavor to conclude this process, we are conscious of the fact that this journey cannot be complete without the active participation of state corporations especially at this critical validation stage of the document, considering that state corporations are a key stakeholder just as the mainstream civil service.

In developing the Draft PSC Regulations 2018, we worked very closely with various stakeholders such as Ministries, State Corporations and Agencies, Constitutional Commissions and Independent Offices, employee unions and professional bodies among others. That collaboration is what delivered the Draft Regulations that are now the reason for our being here today.

However, during the last Stakeholder Validation Workshop that we held at the Kenya School of Government in February this year, it

emerged that State Corporations needed a forum to ventilate and interrogate the proposals a little further considering that they will be subject to the regulations once they are gazetted.

This workshop is therefore a special one convened purposely to give opportunity to this very critical sector to review this document and make suggestions on what they would wish to see in the draft regulations. I am confident that at the end of this workshop today, we will have demonstrated that these draft regulations are a product of an exhaustive, inclusive and participatory process.

I am delighted and encouraged that state corporations under the umbrella of State Corporations Advisory Committee (SCAC) responded to a short notice request to convene this workshop and that you have all turned out in large numbers to demonstrate that you hold this exercise in high regard.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Stakeholders play a critical role in a process such as this one. They lend legitimacy, credibility and ownership to the final product, making it authentic and representative. Their involvement cannot be overemphasized, neither can it be ignored.

In the runner-up to this day and indeed during the earlier Validation Workshop held in February, stakeholders have been with us in what is clearly a commitment to ensuring that the public service complies with the new Constitutional order and that it is positioned to provide quality services to the citizens. We do not take this support for granted.

As we embark on today's exercise, I believe we have all had prior access to the draft that was posted on the Commission website and that you are all ready for the task ahead. I therefore urge you to scrutinize the proposals with keen interest, knowing that once they are gazetted, they will directly impact your sector as well.

As you may have seen in the programme, we have a lot of ground to cover. This will require frugal time management. We have assembled for you a carefully selected team of resource persons from among the Commission secretariat who have been deeply involved in the preparatory stages of the proposed regulations to

take you through the presentations. Their presentations will be moderated by our distinguished and well-grounded commissioners as session chairs.

At the end of this exercise, the Commission will retreat to consider your feedback for inclusion as part of the new Regulations that we will be forwarding to the office of the Attorney General and Parliament. I therefore look forward to candid, frank and well thought out contributions that will make the final proposals to easily sail through Parliament and eventually be gazetted as the Public Service Regulations 2018.

As I conclude, **Ladies and Gentlemen**, I wish to note that a lot of resources and energy have gone into this process. Behind this effort has been a dedicated team from the commission that has ensured we delivered on the assignment in record time and on a shoestring budget.

I especially wish to recognize and appreciate the Commission Board under the leadership of the acting Chairperson Amb. Peter ole Nkuraiyia for their commitment to this process. They have provided leadership and guidance in the preparation of these regulations without which we probably would not have made as much progress as we have done so far.

I also wish to appreciate the technical team that has worked tirelessly under my supervision for a job well done and also SCAC for facilitating this workshop at short notice.

It is now my pleasure and honor to invite our chief guest who is also the acting chairperson of the Public Service Commission, Amb. Peter ole Nkuraiyia to address us and officially open this workshop.

Thank you.