



LAW SOCIETY OF KENYA · 2026-28 COUNCIL

100 Days of Action

Protecting & expanding legal practice space in a challenging environment, a full report to every LSK member.

Charles Kanjama, SC & the 2026-28 LSK Council
Law Society of Kenya

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear fellow advocates,

One hundred days ago, you entrusted me with the leadership of the Law Society of Kenya. I accepted that mandate with a clear duty: to defend the independence of the Bar, advance the welfare of advocates, strengthen our institution and uphold the rule of law without fear, favour or compromise. This presidency was not elected to preserve the familiar. It was elected to act, to reform and to ensure that every member wherever they practise, can feel the presence and protection of their Society.

Today, I account for the progress made and the work that remains. We have begun restoring responsiveness, strengthening the voice of the Bar and placing members' welfare at the centre of the Society's agenda. But one hundred days are only the beginning. Hold this presidency to its word, judge us by measurable results, and continue demanding the leadership you elected us to provide. The direction is clear, the work is underway, and the mandate shall be delivered.

Charles Kanjama, SC
President, Law Society of Kenya

Rule of Law, Integrity & Member Welfare in the 1st 100 Days

The 2026-28 LSK Council came into office on a promise summarised as the #RIPE Agenda. The focus of the agenda is to enhance LSK Action in matters touching on the Rule of Law, to pursue Integrity & Independence of both the Bar and the Bench, to renew focus on Practice & Welfare matters, and to secure robust & continuing Engagement with Members & Stakeholders, so as to create a #StrongLSKForAll. Last week, we highlighted key developments on Practice Matters. This week, we address progress of the Council on the other aspects of the #RIPE Agenda, and the Plan going forward.



LSK leadership addressing members and the media on the Council's progress.

1 · Rule of Law. LSK assists Government, Courts and the public in upholding the rule of law and constitutionalism. **Engagements:** meetings with IEBC, CAJ, and CCIOs (NLC, EACC, JSC, PSC, CRA, KNCHR, NPSC); engagement with the Speakers of the National Assembly and Senate. **Achievements:** set up PIL, Rule of Law, Legal Aid, National Elections and Law Reform Committees; a PIL & Rule of Law retreat; implemented the LSK PIL Code; weekly PIL case reports; several strategic PIL cases initiated; observation of IEBC by-elections. **Plan:** robust strategic litigation, a Katiba Day commemoration, an Annual Rule of Law Report, a Constitution audit, advocacy to strengthen CCIOs, elections preparedness, a Judiciary Police Enforcement Division, and effective participation in law reform.

2 · Integrity & Independence. LSK is fighting the monster of corruption in the legal-justice sector and beyond. **Engagements:** meetings with the CJ, AG, CAJ, EACC and the Chief Land Registrar; internal engagement with Branch Chairs and members. **Achievements:** an Ethics & Integrity Committee; a Judiciary commitment to radically address corruption; announced boycott of courts of judges obstructing JSC processes. **Plan:** implement the boycott, pursue individual accountability, build a strong whistleblower system, and



A courtesy call with the Attorney General.



A courtesy call with the Public Service Commission.

3 • Member Welfare. LSK promotes welfare with Branches, the Advocates Benevolent Association (ABA), LSK Sacco and lawyers' groups. **Achievements:** new Demographic Committees (Young Lawyers, In-house, Special Interest, Legal Education); renewed focus on mental health and work-life balance. **Plan:** Sacco tax exemption & wider membership, streamlined ABA benefits, improved public-sector terms with PSC/JSC/CoG, private-sector employer sensitisation, and a strengthened Member Services & Welfare Committee.

100 DAYS AT A GLANCE

24 hrs

Certificates of urgency filed before 3pm now answered same day, a first written Judiciary commitment.

100

new Magistrates & extra ELRC judges pledged to cut backlog

Paused

Huduma Desk rollout, pending LSK concerns on Executive overreach

KES 50K

Proposed minimum pro-bono brief fee, up from KES 30,000

15 challenges to legal practice space

1. A philosophical attitude that treats Advocates as a hindrance to speedy, effective and accessible justice, sometimes manifested within some Judiciary structures and other Government offices.
2. Ongoing and persistent challenges that have led to practical exclusion or limits to the Advocates' role, e.g. under Work Injury Benefits Act (WIBA) liability and compensation, liquidity challenges in third-party insurance compensation, and the proliferation of undercutting and quackery.
3. Recent court decisions that have gradually torn down the efficacy of the Small Claims Court (SCC), including exclusion of arrest and garnishee proceedings, exclusion of personal injury claims despite statutory provision, and an attempt to set a meagre SCC remuneration scale.
4. Other court decisions and legislative initiatives introducing obstacles to court access and legal representation, e.g. wildlife-related injury & compensation, aggressive application of the doctrine of exhaustion, and the Nakuru Court ruling targeting external legal representation of public bodies.
5. The gradual proliferation, within Court-Annexed Mediation (CAM) and Alternative Justice Systems (AJS), of structures that treat lawyers as an irritant to access to justice and outsource justice to untrained or lay persons.
6. Perennial problems in the administration of justice in courts and tribunals, delays, backlog, corruption, registry inefficiencies, incompetence and inconsistency, inadequate enforcement of court orders and decrees.
7. Developments that will harm legal practice unless carefully thought through, outsourcing Judiciary access to the Executive under Huduma Desks, transferring the Judiciary Pro Bono Scheme to NLAS, and AML processes that must secure Legal Professional Privilege.
9. The blurring of boundaries in legal work due to unregulated proliferation of technology and AI, coupled with slow uptake by legal professionals, creating room for displacement by non-lawyers.
10. Perennial challenges facing commercial law practitioners in land and commercial registries, corruption, transaction delays, technology barriers, encroachment by quacks, and undercutting.
11. Growing challenges facing in-house lawyers, inadequate recognition and career progression, type-casting, delayed Non-Practice Allowance implementation, and poor working conditions among county legal counsel.
12. The overall challenge to the dignity of the lawyer in their workspace, bullying, harassment, toxic environments, Stress, Anxiety & Depression, and growing threats to lawyers' safety and security.
13. The growing need for capacity building and deliberate strategies to expand legal practice into emerging areas, Tribunals, corporate governance, ADR, taxation, IP, technology and data protection, and more.
14. Continuing gaps in LSK's own institutional structures, incomplete implementation of the LSK (General) Regulations 2020, no register of law firms, no CPD Training Institute, and inconsistent Committee performance.
15. The need for a well-structured stakeholder mapping framework and effective continuous engagement with Government, CCIOs, civil society, academia, media and development partners.

8. Under NLAS, an attempt to undermine LSK's regulatory role and the unity & independence of the Bar, accrediting pro bono lawyers, charging a KES 10,000 annual fee, disciplining lawyers, and replacing them with paralegals or in-house Public Defenders.



The LSK Council reviewing the challenges to legal practice space.

THE MARSHALL PLAN

Engaged. Achieved. Next.

Our Action Plan has three elements for each of the 15 challenges: engagements the Council has undertaken, achievements within the first 100 days, and the plan going forward.

1 • Enhancing the Dignity of Lawyers

This is the anchor focus of Council. **Engagements so far:** Meetings with the Chief Justice & Judiciary Leadership, the Attorney General, the Director of Public Prosecution, the National Assembly & the Senate. Focused media messaging.

Achievement so far: a) A strategy of heightened engagement with stakeholders and continued emphasis on the dignity of the legal profession, as the central theme motivating the focus on Practice & Welfare. b) The LSK Council has introduced "Practice & Welfare Matters" as a standing agenda item in Council meetings. **The Plan:** Implement the Marshall Plan herein.

2 • Basic Practice Challenges

These are ongoing concerns like WIBA, undercutting, quacks, and settlement of insurance claims. **Engagements so far:** LSK Branch Leadership. Office of Attorney General. Commission on Administrative Justice. Inspector General of Police. Chief Registrar Lands. Council Retreat formulating an action plan on amendments to the Advocates Act and Advocates Remuneration Order (ARO).

Achievements so far: Initial preparation of draft amendments to the Advocates Act, LSK Act and various Regulations. Action Plan for ARO revision process, after initial engagement with the Chief Justice and reviewing the feedback received.

Plan: a) Engaging the Director of Occupational Safety & Health on WIBA claims, and the Insurance Regulatory Authority on procedural issues and lawyer access in injury claims. b) Empowering LSK Branches & Chapters to fight quacks & undercutting. c) Partnering with the Police & DPP to investigate & prosecute quacks. d) Sealing loopholes in court & commercial registries and digital platforms that hinder Advocates and encourage quacks.



Council leadership hands over an official complaint to National Police Service leadership.

3 • Small Claims Court

This is an important arena of practice for several lawyers, promising speedy justice if well implemented.

Engagements so far: a) Robust involvement in the Small Claims Court Act amendment process, including sessions in Nairobi & Mombasa; mobilised lawyers to attend. b) Sensitisation on areas of concern. c) Prepared a memorandum with proposals including Court-Annexed Adjudicators to ease backlog. d) Liaison with the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CI Arb) on training Advocate Adjudicators.

Achievements so far: a) Several LSK-supported proposals considered in the reform process. b) The draft amendment Bill was returned to the drawing board for further refinement. c) The Chief Justice issued guidelines to secure consistency in already-filed small claims matters requiring handling in the Magistrates Court.

Plan: a) Continue to pursue the proposed amendments and advance the reform agenda. b) Prepare a 40-hour training curriculum for Adjudicators. c) Strategic litigation through appeals.

4 • Securing Lawyers' Roles in Dispute Resolution

Certain developments, the Nakuru Court decision, the Chief Justice circular on wildlife-related injury claims, and various rulings limiting access to court, continue to harm the promise of access to justice. **Engagements so far:** a) LSK highlighted key concerns in two meetings with the Chief Justice, and with the Attorney General and Speakers of both Houses. b) Engaged the Commission on Administrative Justice (CAJ / Ombudsman). c) LSK's Public Interest Litigation (PIL) Committee and Directorate engaged in strategic litigation on matters of concern.

Achievements: a) Strengthened working relationship with the AG and the CAJ. b) Enhanced sensitisation of Judiciary leadership on emerging concerns. c) Weekly reporting on LSK PIL matters, with several successes including on computer misuse & cybercrimes law and public health.

Plan: Pursue strategic public interest litigation, alongside heightened engagement with the Kenya Wildlife Service, County Wildlife Committees, and other administrative bodies and tribunals, plus deeper engagement with CCIOs, State Corporations and County Governments.



President Kanjama addresses the Court of Appeal on issues affecting the legal profession.

5 • Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) & Alternative Justice Systems (AJS)

ADR and AJS promise speedy accessible justice, but can mutate into unregulated fields where unqualified persons purport to practice as lawyers. **Engagement so far:** Engaged the Judiciary Steering Committee on Mediation (SCOM) and the Mediation Accreditation Committee (MAC), raising key concerns; also engaged membership and branch leadership for feedback.

Achievement: a) Sensitised SCOM & MAC on the need for greater scrutiny of lay mediators and training institutes. b) Negotiated economical mediation training courses with reliable partners. c) Secured party autonomy, including the right of parties & Advocates to select advocate-mediators. d) Approved a jointly developed 45-day SCOM–LSK action plan to clean up the mediation space.

Plan: a) Gradual reduction of lay mediators in CAM. b) Law reform to the Civil Procedure Act. c) Closer monitoring of CAM, Private Mediation and AJS, fighting masquerading by lay mediators. d) Rapid upskilling of lawyers in CAM. e) Engagement with the Kenya School of Law to incorporate CAM training in the ATP.

6 • Judiciary Challenges

16 years after the promulgation of the new Constitution, the promise of a transformed Judiciary has been gradually suffocated under recurring bad habits, new challenges and the ever-present monster of corruption, incompetence and delays. **Engagement so far:** The Council has repeatedly engaged the Chief Justice, the Chief Registrar of the Judiciary, and other Judiciary leadership, including the Supreme Court Bar-Bench, the Court of Appeal President and Registrar, Superior and Subordinate Courts, and LSK Branch Chairs. We have also engaged LSK Representatives in the Judicial Service Commission (JSC), the National Council on Administration of Justice (NCAJ), and the Inspector General of Police.



President Kanjama addresses the media outside the Supreme Court of Kenya.



President Kanjama engaging Judicial Service Commission leadership.



Sealing ties with JSC leadership at a Council engagement.

Achievement so far: a) Commitment to implement a regular feedback system for Advocates in relation to the Judiciary. b) Secured a commitment that, from July 2026, aspects of judicial performance will be publicised quarterly. c) Obtained a public commitment for the Judiciary to enhance integrity measures, including becoming a corruption-free zone through structured feedback, expedited disciplinary processes, and sustained public communication. d) Agreed on regular structured engagement between Judiciary leadership and LSK Council/Branch Chairs. e) All certificates of urgency filed before 3:00pm will be addressed within 24 hours. f) Delivered rulings & judgments must be uploaded on the CTS within 48 hours. g) Virtual proceedings to be transcribed and available within 48 hours, subject to expansion of the pilot at Milimani Law Courts nationwide. h) Timelines added to the Judiciary Service Charter for decrees and court orders. i) Dynamic allocation of caseloads from high-volume to lower-volume court stations (Mahakama Popote Initiative), expanded to the High Court and Court of Appeal. j) Commitment to publish contact details of registries, ethics committees, the Ombudsman and Judiciary leadership at station level.

Plan: a) An action plan to address staffing and infrastructure challenges across court stations. b) Recruit 100 new Magistrates plus extra ELRC Judges. c) Enhance CTS capacity to mitigate downtime. d) Harmonise cause lists for Judges and Judicial Officers with the version accessible to court users. e) Continued sensitisation of Judges and Judicial Officers on consistency and quality of rulings. f) Address persistent registry challenges, delays in extracting summons, court orders, typed proceedings, and unregistered CTS dates. g) Deal with evidence of incompetence or falling standards, including mismanagement, discourtesy, and absenteeism. h) Robust engagement to deal with corruption, evidence collection, LSK involvement in JSC processes, and, where other processes fail, surgical court boycotts and naming and shaming. i) Propose a Judiciary Police Enforcement Unit to assist enforcement of court orders and decrees.

7A • Huduma Desks

LSK is opposed to the Judiciary outsourcing access to judiciary services to the Executive, or to structures prone to proliferation of quacks and imposters. **Engagement so far:** LSK engaged the Judiciary on the proposed Huduma Desk initiative, raising substantive concerns regarding implementation and implications for access to justice.

Achievement: Secured agreement to pause further rollout of the Huduma Desks project pending further engagement and resolution of the issues raised.

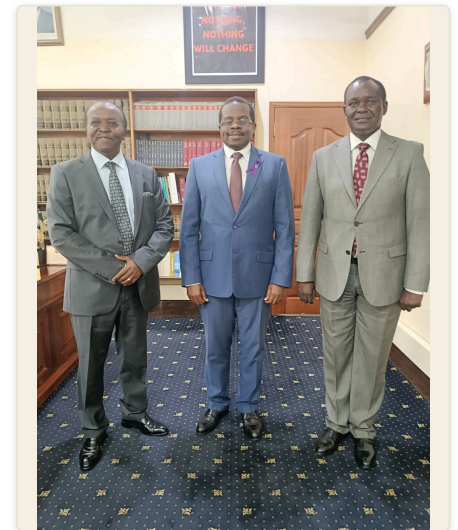
Plan: a) Advocate for and safeguard the independence of access to Judiciary services from Executive-managed infrastructure. b) Raise concerns on proposals to grant CTS access to non-parties. c) Critically engage on proposals to extend CTS access to lay mediators. d) Further entrench the role of advocates as the recognised agents of parties within digital court systems.

7B • Anti-Money Laundering (AML)

LSK is a Self-Regulating Body (SRB) under AML laws, requiring it to regulate the legal sector and receive Suspicious Transaction Reports (STRs) from law firms. **Engagement:** Engaged the Financial Reporting Centre (FRC) repeatedly on the role of the legal profession within the AML framework.

Achievements: a) Secured FRC commitment to support capacity building for LSK as an SRB. b) Commenced phased supervision of select law firms under a pilot scheme implementing LSK Act section 4A, POCAMLA and POTA. c) Developed a module under the LSK ERP to facilitate engagement with members on AML matters.

Plan: a) Address compliance concerns under the FATF monitoring regime, supporting Kenya's removal from the Grey List. b) Protect Legal Professional Privilege in STR reporting. c) Gradual capacity building and training of lawyers on AML obligations.



Engaging anti-corruption partners on judiciary integrity measures.

8 • Pro-Bono Legal Work

Pro-bono legal work often becomes an excuse to underpay lawyers, tolerate encroachment by unqualified persons, and undermine sustainable access-to-justice solutions. **Engagement:** Engaged robustly with the Judiciary Pro Bono Committee and the National Legal Aid Service (NLAS) on the proposed pro bono framework and transition arrangements for pauper briefs; also engaged the AG and the Speaker of the National Assembly.

Achievement: a) Sensitised the Judiciary, NLAS, the AG, the Speaker and LSK members on LSK's concerns. b) Achieved deferral of the direct transition of pauper briefs administration to NLAS scheduled for 1 July 2026, proposing a phased pilot instead. c) Requested an upward review of basic pro bono court fees to KES 50,000 from KES 30,000. d) Opposed the inclusion of paralegals as independent pro bono providers. e) Affirmed the unity and independence of the Bar, objecting to any dual licensing or parallel disciplinary regime.



Council engaging the Speaker of the National Assembly.

Plan: a) Continue engagement with the Judiciary and stakeholders. b) Pursue revisions to the transition plan, the Legal Aid Act, and related policy. c) If minimum thresholds are not met, consider all lawful options including withdrawal from the scheme.

9 • Legal Technology

Lawyers cannot become technology luddites, nor can we be aloof to the threat that slow uptake of technology becomes fertile ground for diversion of legal work to non-lawyers, including the spread of AI assistants.

Engagement so far: Engaged legal technology companies and the Judiciary on legal innovation, digital transformation, and integration of technology within the justice sector.

Achievements: a) Declaration of 2026 as the Year of Legal Technology and Innovation. b) Partnerships with legal technology companies. c) A Legal Technology Week, scheduled for September 2026. d) IT and A.I. as the central theme for the LSK Annual Conference 2026. e) An ICT and A.I. LSK Committee established. **Plan:** a) Accelerate upskilling of advocates in AI. b) Institutionalise regular CPD sessions on legal tech. c) Develop an LSK AI Policy aligned with the Judiciary's own.



Council in session with the Daystar team on legal-technology partnerships.



Collaboration with the Advocates Disciplinary Tribunal on digitising ADT matters.

10 • Commercial Legal Practice

Various persistent challenges affect conveyancing and commercial legal practice. **Engagement so far:** LSK engaged the Chief Land Registrar and the Business Registration Service on matters affecting land and business registration; also engaged the National Land Commission.

Achievement: a) Set up the LSK Real Estate and Conveyancing Committee. b) Established specialised practice committees for commercial law practitioners. c) A structured framework for regular engagement with Lands Registry leadership. d) A specialised CPD seminar on land management and transactions.

Plan: a) Address registry inefficiencies, Ardhisa challenges, land conversion processes, and encroachment by non-lawyers into reserved conveyancing work. b) CPD short courses on property and commercial transactions. c) Increased collaboration with CAJ on land registry issues. d) Joint Practice Notes with the Land Registries. e) Promote liaison committees between LSK Branches/Chapters and land registries.

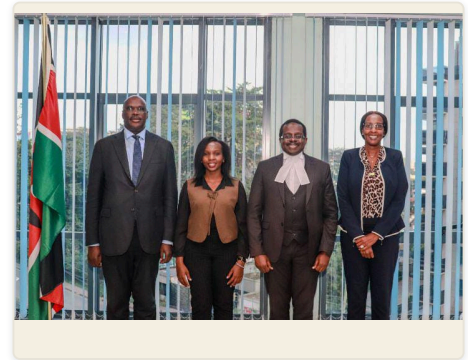


Courtesy call to the Chief Land Registrar.

11 • In-House Lawyers

In-house lawyers are fully members of the Law Society; LSK maintains robust focus on the challenges they face. **Engagement so far:** LSK engaged the Chief Justice, the Attorney General, the DPP, the Speakers of both Houses, the Justice and Legal Affairs Committee of the National Assembly, County Legal Counsel, Judiciary Researchers, and in-house counsel across the public and private sectors.

Achievements: a) Public Sector & Private Sector Sub-Committees under the In-house Lawyers Committee. b) Hosted the 1st ever 3-day specialised conference for in-house lawyers. c) Obtained career progression for Judicial Researchers. d) Engaged several state corporations on implementation of the Non-Practising Allowance. **Plan:** a) Strengthen engagement with the PSC and SRC on terms and conditions. b) Pursue enforcement of non-practice allowance. c) Develop collective labour relations strategies. d) Expand specialised training programmes. e) Continue engagement with the DPP and AG to facilitate active LSK membership of State and prosecution counsel.



Courtesy call to the Chairperson of the Commission on Administrative Justice.



Council with institutional leadership beneath portraits of past chairpersons, deepening ties with sister regulatory bodies.



Courtesy call to the Inspector General of National Police Service

12 • Terms & Conditions of Service, Advocates' Safety & Security

The Advocate must first secure dignified conditions of service to have the strength to fight for clients and the public. **Engagement so far:** Media sensitisation on terms and conditions of service; set up a Gender Committee to implement the LSK Sexual Harassment and Anti-Bullying Policy; the PIL and Lawyer Police Committees engaged robustly on arrests, intimidation and unexplained deaths.

Achievements: a) General sensitisation on gaps in employment and practice conditions. b) A network of advocates to assist colleagues in conflict with the law. c) Consistent engagement with Police leadership and Courts on specific incidents. **Plan:** a) Develop minimum recommended terms of service with Branches, applied mutatis mutandis to legal departments. b) Implement the Anti-Bullying and Sexual Harassment Policy. c) Strengthen the Disciplinary Tribunal and Complaints Commission. d) Promote work-life balance. e) Structured mentorship programmes. f) A merit-based points system recognising mentorship, pro-bono work and service. g) A robust Advocate Protection Protocol recognised by the Police Service.

13 • Emerging Practice Areas

The health of the legal profession will be measured by our ability to adapt, expand into non-traditional areas, and dynamically engage an evolving economy. **Engagement so far:** a) LSK engaged targeted lawyers, law firms and corporate stakeholders. b) Meetings with the IEBC, CAJ, National Construction Authority, Auctioneers Licensing Board and the Estate Agents profession.

Achievements: Establishment of specialised practice committees to support emerging areas. **Plan:** a) Enhance CPD in non-traditional areas. b) Strengthen links with the CMA, SCAC, CCIOs, CAK, CA, PPARB, National Immigration Service, NEMA, BRS and the Office of the AG. c) Engage KIPI, KECOBO, KEPHIS and ACA on Intellectual Property and Emerging Areas.

14 • LSK Capacity & Structures

Enhanced focus on Practice and Welfare requires capacity building within LSK itself. **Engagement:** a) Engaged Council, Secretariat, LSK Committees and Members, and LSK representatives in public bodies, on full implementation of the LSK Act and Regulations. b) A benchmarking review of professional bodies including NITA and TVETA.

Achievement: a) Approved set-up of the LSK Training Institute. b) Reviewed LSK finances and resources. c) Establishment of diverse LSK Committees. d) Resolution to fully implement the LSK General Regulations 2020 and the PIL Code. e) Engaged the ACC and ADT on capacity building. **Plan:** Operationalise the Training Institute; develop the ERP system; complete review of the LSK Act, Advocates Act and Rules; finalise revision of the ARO 2014; advance the Wakili Towers project; strengthen results-based management; explore a member call centre; strengthen practice sections and CPD programmes.

15 • Stakeholder Engagement

The LSK Marshall Plan requires engagement and transformation, not just within LSK and the legal profession, but within the legal-justice ecosystem generally. **Engagement:** LSK engaged a wide range of stakeholders, including Government agencies, professional bodies, civil society organisations, media, LSK structures and members, and development and corporate partners.

Achievements: Improved awareness of key issues affecting the profession and secured partnership commitments with various stakeholders. **Plan:** a) Development of a comprehensive stakeholder matrix and structured engagement plan. b) Regular and targeted outreach to different segments of practitioners.



Council delegation engaging stakeholders on emerging areas of legislative interest to the Bar.



Council delegation at the National Construction Authority (NCA).



Courtesy call to the EACC.



With the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC).

BEYOND KENYA'S BORDERS

International & regional partnerships

The Council's engagement extends beyond Kenya's borders, to development partners, sister law societies, regional bodies and resident diplomatic missions who share our commitment to the rule of law.



With the International Development Law Organization (IDLO), "Creating a Culture of Justice."



Engagement with the Chair of the Public Service Commission.



Hosted by the Hindu Council, strengthening ties with the wider legal & business community.



Courtesy call with the German Embassy in Nairobi.



Courtesy call with the United States Embassy in Nairobi.



Courtesy call with the UK Embassy in Nairobi.



Meeting between the Shenzhen Bureau of Justice and LSK leadership.



President Kanjama with a delegation from the Shenzhen Bureau of Justice.



CONCLUSION

This 15-point Marshall Plan on Legal Practice Matters is an ongoing initiative aimed at protecting and expanding the space for legal practice. It is intended to enhance the delivery of quality legal services, improve efficiency in legal practice, and contribute to sustainable access to justice for all Kenyans.

The LSK Council invites the support, suggestions, ideas, and resource contributions of members as we work together to transform and strengthen the legal profession.

Charles Kanjama, SC
President, Law Society of Kenya