

Registrar's Address

Activity: International Women Day Celebrations – Accelerate Action

Date: 7th March 2025

Venue: ORPP 4th Floor Boardroom

I'm delighted to join you as we celebrate International Women's Day as an office. As an institution we have made remarkable strides in gender equality and we must continue to empower each other.

It must not be lost to us that out of the Millions of women in Kenya, we have been given the privilege to serve our nation. We must do it well; we must honour our fellow women by executing our work with excellence. When we succeed, we create room for other women to grow.

This year's theme "Accelerate Action" should inspire us all. I would like to challenge all of us to make some key reflections that will help us move forward: -

1. **Vision-** Do you have a clear vision of where you what to be? Where are you accelerating to? Does the vision inspire you to action?
2. **Action-** Have you mapped the actions you need to take to get there? Envisioning/ dreaming is not enough, you must take action
3. **Resources-** Need not be money, who is in your corner? Who can you exchange ideas with? Who mentors you? What is your support system? Who challenges you?
4. **Mentorship and Coaching-** The value of mentorship in accelerating. These are people who shorten the learning curve for you, give you a sounding board that you can leap into action from.

5. **Mindset and self-sabotage-** Its said men apply for roles even when they don't have all the qualifications yet women wait to tick all the boxes before taking a leap. Believe in yourself.
6. **Self-Development-** Opportunity meets preparedness. We cannot expect to move forward if we don't equip yourself. Remain a student, learn new things, take up courses, read books, listen to podcast. We live in an era where its much easier to level up than before, indeed education is an equalizer, seize the opportunities. Take advantage of the numerous resources in our resource centre to empower yourself.
7. **Networking-** Who can speak for you when you are not in the room? Form solid networks both at work and outside. Be a team player that can be relied on. Let people know that you are dependable when it comes to timely execution.
8. **Excellence-** Allow me to quote the bible, Proverbs 22:29 “ Do you see someone skilled in their work? They will serve before kings.....” Be committed to do excellent work, let you be sought after because they you can deliver. Let your work be so outstanding that it speaks for itself.
9. **Take calculated risks-** accelerating may mean you engaging a high speed, are you ready to get out of your comfort zone?
10. **Values-** What are your personal values and how are they supporting your journey? Hardwork, Integrity etc. What are those non-negotiable values that guide your actions and that you can't compromise on? Be a woman of principles.
11. **Work- life Balance-** Keep your home front organized. Delegate where necessary and prioritize what matters. You are not a super hero- ask for help. Plan your home affairs.
12. **Health –** The greatest asset is your health; women tend to forget themselves. Prioritize getting your health in check whether emotionally, physically, financially, spiritually. You cannot accelerate if you are not in good shape or running on an

empty tank. Equip yourself on money matters, get to action on those health goals you had set for yourself.

13. Assess what your **barriers to action** are. Only a fool buries their head in the sand and does not want to do a self or peer assessment. Be honest with yourself.

14. **Celebrate wins** no matter how small, life is a journey that ought to be enjoyed. Be clear on where you want to go and enjoy the ride. Motivate yourself to keep pursuing your goals.

Will end with a quote from the book you have been reading this week, **I am Malala**,

***“Rather I receive your bullet-riddled body with honour, Than news of your cowardice on the battlefield”** Malala Yousafzai*

I hope the story of the young Pakistani girl inspired you to be courageous to pursue your goals and stand up for what you believe in. Be bold, take action, let’s all accelerate to our greatest potential.

Happy International Women’s Day!