

Publisher's Foreword

A teacher's greatest pride, and most valuable compensation, is to see their students grow into maturity, competence, responsibility and resilience. For one's students to make great citizens of their community and reliable professionals in their fields brings us teachers the greatest of joys. With this first issue of the *Kabarak Law Review*, our students at Kabarak University School of Law have so honoured us, their teachers.

Academic publishing, like all crafts, is only truly learnt through apprenticeship. Abstract studies have no use for the learning of a craft. And our dear nation, in order to preserve its cultural heritage and advance in its aspirations for prosperity and innovation, needs to grow more academic publishing professionals. We are not nearly enough to serve the fast growing needs of scholarly publishing in Kenya.

And yet Kenya, like most other countries in the world, also suffers from the plague of predatory academic publishing. With the demand from tertiary education regulators that post graduate students publish their theses before graduation, the demand for easy solutions to an unnecessary problem has created the grounds for an unfortunate market.

That young undergraduate students can take up, with such vigour and commitment, the long and exacting journey towards the profession of academic editorship presents a great hope for the future. This journey towards a profession that praises the humble pedant – if ever such oxymoron exists – and extols the rigorous, self-doubting, triple checking clerk, sometimes seems to be to be poorly conceived to attract interest from a generation that has grown up with the convenience and 'instant coffee' mentality of the information age. Again, our students today have happily proven me wrong.

This profession also lends itself to the slow thoughtful, wide reading, sceptical book worm. It requires that one loves to not merely read but have a knack for questioning what does not seem right. Most importantly, it requires a generous heart, a willingness to serve, a pride in improving others. Here, again, our students have admirably risen to the task.

This first issue comes at the tail end of a tedious 12 months of reaching out to prospective authors, identifying editors, numerous fights, even more training sessions, and late-night ultimatums for deadlines to be met.

I salute the very first group of students who attempted the rudiments of an editorial board: Ida Kandi Mwadilo, Fidel Tekin, and George Gor, together with the vibrant political team at the Kabarak University Law Students Association (KULSA), Linus Nyerere, David Tiema, Sharon Amwama, Grace Jelimo and Truphosa Kezia. This group laid the ground for the 2021-22 editorial team that has brought this issue to completion: Sharon Amwama, Linus Nyerere, Onesmus Musungu, Samson Muchiri Amboka and Grace Jelimo Kipkulei.

I am also deeply glad that the editorial team for 2022-23 has been meeting and undertaking a rigorous training programme directed by Nciko wa Nciko. This team led by Lauren Mukami Nyamu, and board mates, Patricia Cheruiyot, Lorraine Chemutai, Alex Tamei, King David Arita, Caleb Sadala, Nadya Rashid and Carson Kiburo, are all set to take the *Kabarak Law Review* to even greater heights.

The vision of the *Kabarak Law Review* is to ensure that incipient scholarship among students is nurtured, and that students practice the culture of generosity and service to the epistemic community. I am confident that the example of these law students will inspire other students at Kabarak University to follow the path of scholarly rigour as well.

We anticipate, with the coming issue, to upgrade the *Kabarak Law Review* to a fully double-blind peer reviewed main section so that it may take its place among the list of rigorous reputable scholarly journals in Kenya.

I am deeply thankful to our Dean of Law, Prof J Osogo Ambani, for his steadfast commitment to the mentoring of students and in particular to the establishment of a student-run reputable law journal at Kabarak. I am also deeply thankful to our Vice Chancellor, Prof Henry Kiplangat for his continued support, encouragement and belief in the projects of the University Press. With such support, we are confident that we will continue to breach horizons and create the best scholarly environment for tertiary study and knowledge production in Kenya.

Humphrey Sipalla
Editor-in-Chief, Kabarak University Press
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