

Foreword by the Dean

The *Kabarak Law Review* occupies a central place in my vision for the intellectual and pedagogical transformation of Kabarak University School of Law. From the outset of my deanship, I identified student publishing as a foundational academic habit – indeed, a keystone practice – with the power to reorient how students learn, how faculty teach, and how the School positions itself within the broader African and global legal academy. Alongside our other formative pillars – clinical legal education, mooting, simulated mediation and negotiation – student publishing offers a uniquely demanding yet profoundly enriching pathway into the world of ideas.

When executed with seriousness and integrity, student publishing embeds a culture of rigorous research, disciplined writing, and scholarly curiosity across the entire institution. It challenges students to approach law not merely as a collection of rules, but as a dynamic field of inquiry that demands analytical depth and intellectual leadership. It challenges faculty too, for it is impossible to teach students who are developing publication indices without renewing one's own scholarly commitments. Through this reciprocal pressure, student publishing elevates the quality of academic engagement throughout the School.

What we envisaged when establishing the *Kabarak Law Review* four years ago has been exceeded, by far. The journal has flourished with a speed, ambition and quality that few could have anticipated. Under the stewardship of exceptionally dedicated student editors, the *Kabarak Law Review* has become regular, robust and respected. Its contributors are drawn not only from our student body, as was our initial intention, but now include leading scholars and practitioners from across jurisdic-

tions. In its editorial culture, one finds lessons in leadership, excellence and self-discipline: only students of the highest calibre have joined its editorial board, and every one of them has grown intellectually and professionally through the experience.

The ripple effects within the School have been remarkable. The editors' weekly writing seminars have transformed student engagement with scholarship. Their achievements have energised the entire student body. Beyond our gates, *Kabarak Law Review* has begun to shape a continental community of emerging scholars, drawing in counterparts from other African universities and fostering an ethos of collaborative intellectual uplift. The recent conference organised by *Kabarak Law Review* to strengthen other student-run law reviews across Africa stands as a testament to their outward-looking vision and their belief in shared scholarly advancement.

Another important achievement is the accreditation of *Kabarak Law Review* at African Journal Online (AJOL). This is a testament of the robust commitment that these student editors have put in.

I could catalogue many more achievements, but the point is unmistakable: *Kabarak Law Review* has become one of our School's most treasured accomplishments. It embodies our aspirations, sharpens our academic culture, and reflects the best of what our students can achieve when given opportunity, guidance and responsibility.

To Prof (as I have prophesied) Elvis Mogesa Ongiri and your team of exceptional student editors, I extend my deepest gratitude. This new volume with the issue theme of 'Reflecting on 25 years of the African Union's Constitutive Act', is not merely another instalment; it is the icing on a magnificent and ever-growing cake of excellence. May the work of your hands continue to flourish.

God bless the *Kabarak Law Review*.

God bless Kabarak University.

Professor J Osogo Ambani, LLD
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Kabarak Law School*