



SPEAKING NOTES

Remarks by Dr. Farida Karoney, EGH

Chairperson, National Lottery Board

Media Event: Announcement of the Transaction Advisor for Kenya's National Lottery

Venue: Radisson Blu Hotel, Upper Hill, Nairobi

Date: 20 August 2026

1. Salutations

My fellow Members of the Board of the National Lottery Board — Ms. Susan Akinyi, Bishop Gideon Gitonga Thuranira, Ms. Catherine Ochanda, Mr. George Stanley Njoroge, Mr. Denis Kipruto and Ms. Caroline Jerobon Rotich

The Ag. Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Martin Talian, and members of the Secretariat,

Our incoming Transaction Advisor — the leadership of RSM Eastern Africa and QLOT Consulting,

Representatives of sister institutions and partner agencies,

Distinguished guests, Members of the Fourth Estate,

Ladies and gentlemen — good morning.

2. Opening — why we are here

Thank you for joining us. This is the National Lottery Board's first public engagement of this kind, and I am glad it is happening in a room full of journalists — because openness is the habit we intend to build from day one.

Today marks a defining milestone on Kenya's journey toward a National Lottery of our own. A lottery built on trust. Run to the highest international standards. And dedicated, by law, to good causes for the Kenyan people.



On behalf of the Board, I am pleased to announce the appointment of our Transaction Advisor: a consortium led by RSM Eastern Africa, in partnership with QLOT Consulting of Sweden.

3. Acknowledging the Board and the Secretariat

Before I go further, allow me to acknowledge my colleagues on the Board, who are here with me this morning.

A great deal of what has brought us to this point has happened quietly — in board meetings, in committee sittings, in evaluation rooms, in long sessions over legal texts and financial models. My fellow Directors have given this institution their time, their independence of mind, and their insistence that we do things properly even when doing things quickly would have been easier.

I want to thank them publicly, because this announcement is a Board decision and a Board achievement.

I also thank our Ag. Chief Executive Officer and the Ag. Secretariat, who are building an institution and delivering a complex national transaction at the same time — and doing both with very lean resources.

His Excellency the President's vision of a National Lottery that places Kenyans at the heart of its operations has been our guiding light. The Executive Office of the President has laid the foundations of this strategic national institution — not least in meeting our staffing needs. I thank the Chief of Staff and Head of the Public Service, Mr. Felix Koskei, whose personal interventions have made a real difference at critical moments. I thank the National Treasury for standing behind this work, and the Office of the Attorney General, whose counsel has steadied us at every step.

4. How we got here — process and integrity

Let me say something about how this appointment was made, because it matters.

This was an open, competitive international tender. It was conducted under the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act. It was evaluated using the Quality and Cost Based Selection methodology — which means both technical quality and price were scored, and quality carried real weight.



The process was rigorous, transparent and contestable. Every bidder had access to the remedies the law provides. The consortium we are announcing today emerged as the highest-ranked and most responsive bidder.

We took this care deliberately. The integrity of the National Lottery must begin with the integrity of how we build it.

5. Who we have appointed — and why it matters

In RSM Eastern Africa, we gain a firm with deep roots in Kenya's public sector — seasoned in transaction advisory, governance and institutional strengthening. They understand our legal environment, our fiscal realities and our institutions.

In QLOT Consulting, an Associate Member of the World Lottery Association, we gain specialists who have advised on some of the most sophisticated national lottery procurements in the world. They bring the international benchmark to the table.

Together, they will walk with us through every stage of procuring Kenya's first National Lottery Operator — from concession structuring and legal advisory, to financial modelling, technical and cybersecurity standards, market engagement, evaluation, contracting and financial close.

And just as importantly, they will transfer knowledge and build capacity within the Board. When their assignment ends, the expertise must remain in Kenya, inside this institution. We are not buying advice; we are building capability.

6. A word on where the Board sits

As interest in the National Lottery grows, I am often asked how our work relates to the wider regulation of gaming in Kenya. Let me set it out plainly.

The National Lottery Board is established under the National Lottery Act of 2023, with one dedicated purpose: to establish, oversee and safeguard Kenya's National Lottery, to procure and contract the National Lottery Operator, and to administer the National Lottery Fund through which proceeds reach good causes. We are the custodian of the National Lottery on behalf of the people of Kenya.



The licensing and regulation of gaming in Kenya generally — betting, casinos, commercial gaming and lotteries — is the mandate of the Gambling Regulatory Authority under the Gambling Control Act of 2025. Our future operator will be licensed and supervised within that national framework, and will at the same time be contractually accountable to this Board for the integrity, performance and good-causes obligations of the National Lottery.

So the two mandates are distinct, and they are complementary. One regulates a sector. The other builds and protects a single national instrument whose proceeds belong, by law, to the public. We work closely with the Authority, with our parent Ministry and with other State agencies, and I want to record our appreciation for that cooperation.

I say this so that as you report on the National Lottery, the picture is clear — and so that Kenyans know exactly who is accountable for what.

7. The heart of the matter — good causes

Now let me come to what this is really about.

The National Lottery is not simply about lottery games. It is a national instrument for good.

Under the law, the proceeds of the National Lottery — after prizes and the cost of running the lottery — are paid into the National Lottery Fund and dedicated to good causes. Not to private benefit. Not to Board Members. To Kenyans.

And what does that mean in practice? It looks like this.

A darts player who has been beating everyone in his local for years and now has somewhere to play beyond it.

A skater on a board he built himself, who gets a proper one and a coach.

A young welder whose skill finally covers the rent.

A musician who stops giving her music away for free.

A community hall that gets built, in a place that waited a long time for one.



It means our heritage — our languages, our sites, our memory — kept for the next generation.

It means help arriving faster when floods or drought or fire strike a community. And it means the country able to fund transformative projects that would otherwise wait years for a budget line.

Those are the categories the law directs us to: charitable and humanitarian causes, economic empowerment, sports, arts and culture, national heritage, health and education support, emergency response, and transformative national projects.

Let me be equally clear about how that money will be handled. Allocation will be rules-based and governed by regulations and will be competitively assessed. It will be geographically equitable — the whole country contributes, so the whole country must benefit. It will be independently audited. And it will be publicly reported, so that any Kenyan can see where the money went and what it achieved.

That is the promise we are making today, and it is the promise on which you should hold us.

8. Responsible gaming

I am conscious that many Kenyans have real concerns about gambling and its effects, particularly on young people. Those concerns are legitimate and we do not dismiss them.

Responsible gaming will be a design principle of this lottery, not an afterthought. Age verification. Play and spend controls. Self-exclusion. Disciplined, honest advertising. Clear odds and prize disclosure. Support for public education and for research into gambling harm. These will be built into the operator's obligations and monitored.

A national lottery is a low-stakes, occasional, community-funding product. We intend to keep it exactly that.

9. What comes next

With our Transaction Advisor now in place, our attention turns to the next chapter: structuring a transparent, competitive process to attract a credible and capable operator for Kenya's National Lottery.



We will engage the market openly and on equal terms. We will publish the operator procurement timeline in due course. And we will communicate at every step — including when the news is that we are taking longer than expected, because we will not trade rigour for speed.

10. Close

To my fellow Directors: thank you for the discipline you have brought to this work.

To the media: thank you for being here, and for being our partners in keeping Kenyans accurately informed. Ask us hard questions. We would rather be tested than trusted blindly.

To the consortium: welcome aboard. The country is watching, and expectations are high.

And to Kenyans: this lottery is being built for you — with your trust as its foundation, and your communities as its purpose.

Asanteni sana. Thank you, and God bless Kenya.