



PROFESSOR PATRICIA MBOTE INTERVIEW

FOR THE POSITION OF CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA

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On the second day of interviews for the position of Chief Justice of the Republic of Kenya on April 13, 2021, a pronounced University of Nairobi Professor, Patricia Kameri Mbote faced the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) panel. Prof Mbote was among the 10 candidates shortlisted for the position. She faced the panel with aces up her sleeves, having practised law for over 30 years, having studied law at the University of Nairobi, the University of Warwick, and the University of Zimbabwe and earned her doctorate from Stanford Law School.

She is a former Dean at the School of Law, the University of Nairobi and is also an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya. In 2012, she was conferred the rank of Senior Counsel. Being a prolific thinker, academic and researcher she brought it out explicitly in her responses on two thirds gender rule, the values she brings on

board, judiciary members travelling, current issues such as the BBI, collaboration, research and training for judicial officers, and resource mobilization for the judiciary. She even affirmed that “*Now I know travel doesn’t make you productive*” when asked about how she will curb the culture of frequent travels for high level judicial officers.

The pinpoint diction in her responses was enough to send a crystal clear message that she unambiguously understood the weight of the statements of the would be occupier of the Office of the Chief Justice of Kenya and therefore, lucid arguments were her preference. She was not shy to allude to the fact that she doesn’t have the monopoly of knowledge as she welcomed progressive collaborations to add on what she excels in, in order to make her tenure as the judiciary president, productive and fruitful to the people of Kenya.