EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF AND HEAD OF PUBLIC SERVICE

IMPROVEMENT OF PERFORMANCE AND EFFICIENCY IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE TO OPTIMAL LEVELS THROUGH TAKING OF PROMPT CORRECTIVE ACTION, AND, IMMEDIATE ADMINISTRATION OF LAWFUL CONSEQUENCES FOR INFRACTIONS IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

1. INTRODUCTION

- The continuous improvement of performance and efficiency in the Public Service is a core
 priority of this Administration, anchored in **Articles 10** and **232** of the Constitution,
 which mandate integrity, accountability, and high ethical standards.
- ii. However, a culture of impunity, inertia, and non-performance persists, undermining the achievement of premier service delivery, thereby eroding public trust and the credibility of the Public Service.
- iii. Evaluation of the existing surveillance and performance tracking systems has revealed two critical weaknesses:
 - a) **Failure to take prompt corrective action**, allowing inefficiencies and non-compliance to persist unchecked; and
 - b) **Failure to administer lawful and proportionate consequences**, thereby emboldening misconduct and eroding public trust.
- iv. This Administration promised to put in place an agile, people-centric and responsive Public Service in order to meet the high expectations of the public with regard to service delivery.
- v. To address the two critical weaknesses stated above, this Office has put in place mechanisms to urgently change the institutionalized culture of public servants being tolerant of inaction and inertia, thereby compromising the speed and quality of service being rendered to Citizens.

- vi. Thus, the **Matrix of Lawful Consequences for Infractions in the Public Service** below has been curated by this Office from the existing legal framework. The Matrix provides a codified, lawful, and practical framework for:
 - a) Promoting the culture change towards prompt corrective action through highlighting the lawful consequences for officers' failure to act promptly and the responsibility of the duty bearer required to take action;
 - b) Empowering Accounting Officers, Heads of Departments, and Human Resource Officers to operationalize timely and firm responses to misconduct across all cadres;
 - c) Escalating corrective actions commensurate with the nature and gravity of infractions; and
 - d) Aligning disciplinary processes with existing employment laws, PSC Regulations, and approved Human Resource Manuals.
- vii. The **Matrix** applies to **ALL** public officers within the Ministries, State Departments and Agencies who are bound by **Articles 10** and **232** of the Constitution of Kenya.
- viii. **Accounting Officers and Heads of HR** are specifically charged with the responsibility for implementation, as per their delegated powers under the PSC Regulations and respective organisational instruments. They are required to initiate disciplinary mechanisms, ensure full compliance with lawful instructions, and document actions taken within the established timelines.
 - ix. The effective application of the Matrix is premised on the clear definition and assignment of roles and responsibilities.
 - x. The Matrix is not exhaustive. Rather, it forms a foundational enforcement tool to be read alongside the Constitution, employment laws, court jurisprudence, and sector-specific codes of conduct.
 - xi. **Note:** A recording of the Virtual Meeting held on 30th July 2025 is available on the Website of the Chief of Staff and Head of the Public Service under the Circulars Tab; Audit, Legal and Regulatory Compliance Sub-tab.

Prompt action is not optional. Consequence is not discretionary. The restoration of public confidence depends on a Public Service that is responsive, ethical, and enforceable.

2. MATRIX OF LAWFUL CONSEQUENCES FOR INFRACTIONS IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

S/No.	Subject Matter (Infractions)	Target Entity (Public Officer)	Corrective Action/ Measures Available	Entity Responsible	Remarks
	A. OV This category encomp	passes failures by State a	nd Public officers in Minist official instructions in the e	DNS REGARDING NO	nts and Agencies to adhere to
1.	Failure of Presidential Appointees to adhere to lawful instructions	 PCS CSs Secretary to the Cabinet COS&HOPS D. HOPS D.COS Presidential Advisors Statehouse Comptroller Chairpersons of Boards 	 Reprimand/ oral warning/ written warning Suspension Summary Dismissal 		- The Constitution grants the President the power and authority to hire and fire this category of public officers as he deems fit without let or hindrance and without further reference to anybody.

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2.	2. Failure to Comply with Regulations/ Guidelines/ Circulars/ Directives/ Codes of Conduct/ Lawfully issued instructions	Principal Secretary	- Reprimand/oral warning/ written warning	The President COS&HOPS CS/AG	- Useful for early-stage infractions; encourages compliance without severe disruption.
			- Clarification of Circulars and Capacity Building	The entity issuing the Circular/ Guideline/ Regulations (COS&HOPS, Treasury, PSC etc.)	- Effective where non- compliance stems from misunderstanding or lack of awareness.
			 Formal disciplinary process (per HR Manual/ PSC Regulations) 	PSC	- Formal mechanisms ensure procedural fairness and standardisation.
		Chairpersons	- Revocation of Appointment Reprimand/oral warning/ written warning	The President COS&HOPS, CS/AG	Useful for early-stage infractions; encourages compliance without severe disruption.
			- Require reversal/retraction	The President COS &HOPS, CS/AG	- Corrective action should be aligned with the nature and gravity of the infraction.
			- Restitution/ Surcharge	IGC	- Financial accountability reinforces deterrence;

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					requires clear evidence of loss.
			- Clarification of Circulars and Capacity Building	The entity issuing the circular/ guideline/regulation (COS&HOPS, Treasury, etc)	- Effective where non- compliance stems from misunderstanding or lack of awareness.
			 Referral to EACC/DCI for investigation where criminality is involved 	EACC/ DCI if escalated (intra- agency forum)	- Escalation is appropriate in cases of suspected criminality or corruption.
		Board Members	- Revocation of Appointment/ Dissolution of the Board	The President CS/AG	- Severe action appropriate for persistent or high-level breaches; must follow due process.
			- Reprimand/oral warning/ written warning	The President COS &HOPS CS/AG	- Useful for early-stage infractions; encourages compliance without severe disruption.
			- Restitution/Surcharg e in case of loss	IGC	- Financial accountability reinforces deterrence; requires clear evidence of loss.

S/No.	Subject Matter (Infractions)	Target Entity (Public Officer)	Corrective Action/ Measures Available	Entity Responsible	Remarks
			 Clarification of Circulars and Capacity Building 	The entity issuing the Circular/ Guideline/ Regulations	- Effective where non- compliance stems from misunderstanding or lack of awareness.
			- Referral to EACC/DCI for investigation if criminality is involved	EACC/ DCI if escalated	- Escalation is appropriate in cases of suspected criminality or corruption.
		Chief Executive Officer/Managing Director/ Director General	- Suspension/Terminat ion of employment	Respective Board PSC	- Severe action appropriate for persistent or high-level breaches; must follow due process.
			- Reprimand/oral warning/ written warning	CS/AG COS & HOPS Board IGC	- Useful for early-stage infractions; encourages compliance without severe disruption.
			- Require reversal/retraction	Respective Board IGC	- Corrective action should be aligned with the nature and gravity of the infraction.
			- Restitution/ Surcharge	IGC	- Financial accountability reinforces deterrence; requires clear evidence of loss.

S/No.	Subject Matter (Infractions)	Target Entity (Public Officer)	Corrective Action/ Measures Available	Entity Responsible	Remarks
			- Referral to EACC/DCI for investigation if criminality is involved	EACC/ DCI if escalated	- Escalation is appropriate in cases of suspected criminality or corruption.
		Staff of MDAs	- Reprimand/oral warning/written warning	As provided for in the MDAs' approved HR Policy and Procedures Manual	- Useful for early-stage infractions; encourages compliance without severe disruption.
			- Restitution/Surcharg e	CEO/MD/DG, IGC	- Financial accountability reinforces deterrence; requires clear evidence of loss.
			- Suspension /Termination of employment	As provided for in the MDAs' approved HR Policy and Procedures Manual	Severe action appropriate for persistent or high- level breaches;Must follow due process.
			 Formal disciplinary process (per HR Manual/ Public Service Commission Regulations) 	PSC/Boards	- Formal mechanisms ensure procedural fairness and standardisation.
			- Referral to EACC/DCI for investigation if there is criminality is involved.	EACC/ DCI if escalated	- Escalation is appropriate in cases of suspected criminality or corruption.

S/No.	Subject Matter (Infractions)	Target Entity (Public Officer)	Corrective Action/ Measures Available	Entity Responsible	Remarks			
	B. INFRACTIONS RELATED TO THE CONDUCT OF CHAIRPERSONS, BOARD MEMBERS, CEOS AND STAFF This category covers misconduct by public sector leaders and staff, such as failing to act with integrity, having conflict interests, neglecting oversight duties, acting unprofessionally, ignoring government rules and reporting requirements, interfering with audits or disciplinary processes, and not meeting performance standards.							
3.	Misconduct by Chairperson/ Board Members Contrary to State Corporations Act, Mwongozo Code of Governance	Board Chairpersons/ Members	- Censure - Suspension	Appointing Authority	- Corrective action should be aligned with the nature and gravity of the infraction.			
4.	Misconduct by CEO/Senior Staff	CEOs; Senior Staff	ReprimandDefer incrementConstrain promotionSurchargeTermination	Board of State Corporations				
5.	Misconduct by other staff	Staff under CEO jurisdiction	ReprimandDefer incrementConstrain promotionTermination	CEO with HRMAC (as provided for in the HR Manuals)				

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	C. INFRACTIONS RELATED TO CONFLICT OF INTEREST This category covers breaches arising from actual, perceived, or undeclared conflicts between official duties and private interests. Infractions include nepotistic award of contracts or employment opportunities; holding financial interests in entities that transact with one's institution; participating in decisions affecting personal investments or businesses; misuse of confidential government information for private gain; and failure to disclose or declare conflicts of interest as required by law.						
6.	Conflict of Interest contrary to LIA, 2012 (Sec. 16)	All Public Officers	 Verbal/Written warning Removal from decision-making Administrative action Disciplinary process 	The President COS&HOPS CS/AG PS CEO/DG/MD HODs	- Corrective action should be aligned with the nature and gravity of the infraction.		
	operational compliance	from audit anomalies, we e. They include failure to	,	in financial management	ent, procurement processes, or regular procurement practices, ty of the audit process.		
7.	Failure to resolve prior audit queries	Accounting Officers	WarningAdministrative ActionDisciplinary sanction recommended	COS&HOPS	Useful for early-stage infractions;Encourages compliance without severe disruption.		
8.	Failure to implement surcharges for loss of public funds	Accounting Officers	- Investigation - Recommend	AOS COSSHORS ICC	 Corrective action should be aligned with the nature and gravity of the infraction. Financial accountability 		
	Tullus		surcharge	COS&HOPS IGC	- Financial accountability reinforces deterrence; requires clear evidence of loss.		

S/No.	Subject Matter (Infractions)	Target Entity (Public Officer)	Corrective Action/ Measures Available	Entity Responsible	Remarks
9.	Non-compliance with PFMSC directives	Principal Secretary	- Notification - Directive for report	COS&HOPS PFMSCs	- Corrective action should be aligned with the nature and gravity of the
		Accounting Officers	- Disciplinary action		infraction.
10.	Failure to submit internal audit reports timely	Accounting Officers	Citation for delayExplanation letterPerformance review	COS&HOPS	- Provides feedback mechanism to improve future compliance.
11.	Disclaimer/advers e audit opinions	Accounting Officers	Performance reviewSpecial auditSanctions/Replacement	PFMSCs	- Provides feedback mechanism to improve future compliance.
	public funds; exceedin records; non-complian	ve breaches of the Public g approved budget ceiling ce with procurement laws	gs; unauthorized budget re	(PFMA), and include: reallocations; failure to reallocations; delayed of	misappropriation or misuse of maintain proper financial or non-submission of financial
12.	Failure to account for cash advance / imprest (PFMA Sec. 71)	All Public Officers	 Demand for immediate retirement of the imprest Written warning Surcharge Debarment of further imprest until surrender is done 	Accounting Officer	- Useful for early-stage infractions; encourages compliance without severe disruption.

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13.	PFMA 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 202, 204 violations.	All Public Officers	Disciplinary actionRecoveryProsecution	AO; AG; DPP; Courts; Treasury; PSC	- Corrective action should be aligned with the nature and gravity of the infraction.			
14.	Abuse of Office/ Power contrary to ACECA, 2003 (Sec. 46)	All Public Officers	- Suspension - Disciplinary action	PSC	- Corrective action should be aligned with the nature and gravity of the infraction.			
			- Referral to EACC/DCI	EACC/DCI	- Escalation is appropriate in cases of suspected criminality or corruption.			
	Procurement-related infractions arise when public entities or officers deviate from lawful procurement procedures, leading to the loss of public funds, distortion of fair competition, or compromised quality of goods and services. Such breaches may include irregular award of tenders, conflict of interest, unjustified single-sourcing, failure to adhere to evaluation criteria, engagement of unregistered or ineligible suppliers, overpricing or fraudulent invoicing, non-compliance with procurement							
15.	Breach of Procurement Laws (PPADA, 2015)	Procurement Officers; Accounting Officers	- Internal investigation; Suspension - Disciplinary action - Referral to PPRA/EACC	AO EACC	- Corrective action should be aligned with the nature and gravity of the infraction.			

S/No.	Subject Matter (Infractions)	Target Entity (Public Officer)	Corrective Action/ Measures Available	Entity Responsible	Remarks
		G. PEI	RFORMANCE RELATED 1	INFRACTIONS	
	non-implementation of of inaccurate or mislea	Cabinet, Ministerial, or Inding progress reports; in	Management directives; fai	llure to achieve set pe lanagerial oversight; a	and accountability. It includes rformance targets; submission nd the delivery of substandard
16.	Failure to meet PC commitments without reasons	Heads of Departments	Formal warningWithholding benefitsDisciplinary action	PC Secretariat; HOD	- Corrective action should be aligned with the nature and gravity of the infraction.
17.	Failure to Demonstrate Regulatory Impact, Visibility, or Service Delivery Outcomes	Principal Secretaries; Chairpersons/Board Members; CEOS;	 Oversight capacity-building sessions Notification of underperformance Directive to develop and implement performance improvement plans. Performance contract review. Deployment of special audit and compliance review teams. 	COS & HOPS; Respective PS;	- Each department to create a model for rewarding performance.

S/No.	Subject Matter (Infractions)	Target Entity (Public Officer)	Corrective Action/ Measures Available	Entity Responsible	Remarks
18.	Failure to demonstrate regulatory impact/service outcomes	PSs; Boards; CEOs	 Review targets Formal oral and written warning Capacity building; Performance plans Removal 	COS&HOPS Relevant PSs; Boards	
	This category refers t	o instances where publicegarding official guideline	officers fail to observe e	established administrat thority, delays in proce	sses and protocols. Such essing leave or claim approvals,
19.	Failure to seek and notify AG on legal issue/ submit high level contracts to AG leading to an illegality/ loss of public funds		Personal liabilitySurchargeReferral to EACC/DCI	CS; PS; CEOs; AG; Treasury; EACC; DCI	 Corrective action should be aligned with the nature and gravity of the infraction. In the case of unauthorized information, the Dpt. of ICT to assist in
20.	Failure to exercise HR powers under delegation	Supervisors/Authorize d Officers	WarningDisciplinary processRevocation of delegation	Supervisor; Authorized Officer	unearthing the person/officers responsible.
21.	Disclosure of unauthorized information	All Public Officers	WarningInterdictionSuspensionTermination	Authorized Officers; PSC; Boards; Courts	

S/No.	Subject Matter (Infractions)	Target Entity (Public Officer)	Corrective Action/ Measures Available	Entity Responsible	Remarks
22.	Failure to implement PSC decisions	Heads of HR, Authorized Officers, Boards	WarningDisciplinary processRevocation of delegation	Authorized Officers; Heads of HR; PSC; HOPS; President	
23.	Contravention of PSC Regulations, 2020	Authorized Officers; Heads of HR	- Disciplinary action	PSC; Boards; Secretary/CEO	
24.	State Corporations Act Cap 446 violations	Boards; CEOs	InvestigationSurchargeDisciplinary action	IGC	
25.	Dispute resolution in appointments/ removals in SCs	Boards; SC HR	- ADR for resolution	SCAC; PSC (appellate)	
26.	Unauthorized use/misuse of government vehicles; as well as other properties	All Public Officers using Gov't Vehicles	Oral/Written warningRecovery of costsDisciplinary processSuspension of privileges	HOD	Useful for early-stage infractions;Encourages compliance without severe disruption.
27.	Failure to follow the law on recruitment of staff	HR	 Oral/Written warning Disciplinary process Cancellation of the recruitment process and appointment letters. Suspension Surcharge 	MD/CEO/DG Department Heads	 Encourage compliance with procedures. Promotes recruitment as per the law.

S/No.	Subject Matter (Infractions)	Target Entity (Public Officer)	Corrective Action/ Measures Available	Entity Responsible	Remarks		
28.	I. INFRACTIONS RELATED TO LEADERSHIP AND INTEGRITY/PUBLIC OFFICER ETHICS ACTS This category encompasses breaches of ethical and leadership standards, including but not limited to: corruption, favoritism misuse of office, failure to address public complaints, abusive or unprofessional conduct by public officers, dissemination of misleading information, and poor handling or suppression of audit queries Failure to address public officers - Disciplinary action - Removal from office Surcharge and EACC; COS&HOPS - Such infractions directly undermine the constitutional values of constitutio						
	misleading information/ Unprofessional conduct, including abuse or mistreatment of citizens/ Breaches of moral and ethical standards that constitute violations of the values and principles of public service.		 Surcharge and Restitution Criminal prosecution Public reprimand or apology. 	EACC; Disciplinary Committees or Boards; Any authorized person as defined by PSC; PSC;	constitutional values of dignity, integrity, accountability, and responsiveness in the Public Service. - Officers found culpable must face prompt disciplinary action, including public reprimand, restitution where applicable, and removal from office in severe cases.		

3. KEY

ACECA	-	Anti-Corruption and Economic Crimes Act	IGC	- Inspector General (Corporations)
AO	-	Accounting Officer	LIA	- Leadership and Integrity Act
AG	-	Attorney General	MD	- Managing Director
CEO	-	Chief Executive Officer	MDAs	- Ministries, Departments and Agencies
CS	-	Cabinet Secretary	PC	- Performance Contract
cos	-	Chief of Staff	PFMSC	- Public Finance Management Standing
DCI	-	Directorate of Criminal Investigation		Committee
DG	-	Director General	PPRA	- Public Procurement Regulatory Authority
DPP	-	Director of Public Prosecution	PS	- Principal Secretary
EACC	-	Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission	PSC	- Public Service Commission
HOPS	-	Head of Public Service	SCAC	- State Corporations Advisory Committee
HR	-	Human Resource	SC	- State Corporations

4. NOTES

- 1. The purpose of this Matrix of Consequences (The Matrix) is to improve performance in the Public Service to optimal levels through taking of prompt corrective action and, immediate administration of lawful and proportionate consequences for infractions.
- 2. This Matrix has been prepared in conformity with the Constitution, employment laws and all other relevant laws.

 All HR manuals and Codes of Conduct must be revised to be in conformity with the foregoing.
- 3. The Matrix must also be read together with the Constitution, all employment laws, all other relevant laws, developing jurisprudence from the courts and applicable Codes of Conduct.
- 4. The Matrix is predicated upon the taking of prompt corrective action in order to forestall deterioration and/or further devastation.
- 5. Appeals processes are available for most administrative actions, typically to the Public Service Commission or relevant tribunals and courts.
- 6. This Matrix of Consequences is by no means exhaustive and forms a base from where other institutions specific consequences can be including for immediate administration.