Honourable Chief Justice
Honourable Senior Puisne Judge
Honourable Judges
Learned members of the Legal Profession
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am deeply honoured to be associated with today’s call ceremony which is indeed a privileged and gratifying moment in the life of any person being called to the bar. As a result of a great deal of arduous effort and sacrifice you earned the credential you are about to receive, may I on this solemn occasion congratulate all of you for your achievement.

I also wish to extend my congratulations and good wishes to your families, mentors and pupil masters who have assisted and supported you all the way.

You will shortly form part of a profession which is at the heart of a free and democratic society. As from today, it will be your duty to uphold the image of our profession as one that is dedicated to the task of building a society based on social, political and economic justice. This is in line with the obligation to maintain the highest standards of integrity of this noble profession.
You are at the dawn of your professional career.

Being called to the Bar is not the end of your professional development but is only the beginning. You should be humble enough to learn from your seniors and embrace your career with utmost professionalism, civility, ethical conduct and respect.

You may be inspired by what was said by Lord Reid in the case of Rondel V. Worsley (1967) 1 AC 191 where he concisely laid down some of the ground rules of professional conduct: I quote

"Every counsel has a duty to his client fearlessly to raise every issue, advance every argument, and ask every question, however distasteful, which he thinks will help his client's case. But, as an officer of the Court concerned in the administration of justice, he has an overriding duty to the Court, to the standards of his profession, and to the public, which may and often does lead to a conflict with his client's wishes or with what the client thinks are his personal interests. Counsel must not mislead the Court, he must not lend himself to casting aspersions on the other party or witnesses for which there is no sufficient basis in the information in his possession, he must not withhold authorities or documents which may tell against his clients but which the law or the standards of his profession require him to produce." (I unquote).

Let me conclude by urging you, at all times to stand guided by the standards set in Code of Ethics and aim for nothing less than professional excellence. It is an honourable Calling that you have chosen because law is essentially a helping profession. There is no doubt that those who endeavour to do good for others, do well for themselves.
In the name of all officers of the Attorney General’s Office and in my own personal name, I extend once again to our new learned friends my warmest congratulations and wish them a long and very fruitful career.

Thank you.