INSIDE THE
JUDICIARY
ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW IN YOUR COURTS

ISSUE NO. 18 JANUARY - APRIL 2024



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JURIST & SAXOPHONE MAESTRO
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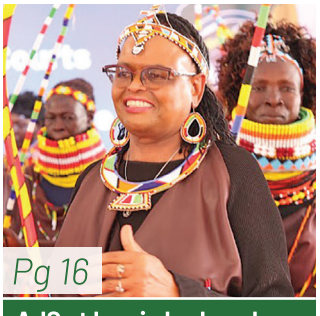
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Social Transformation
through Access to Justice

VISION: SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION THROUGH ACCESS TO JUSTICE

OUTCOMES

1. A strong institution that is independent, accessible, efficient, and protects the rights of all especially the vulnerable.
2. An inspired team of Judges, Judicial officers, and Judiciary Staff committed to excellence in the delivery of Justice.
3. Strengthened financial mechanisms that support the independence and Integrity of the Judiciary.
4. Deepened partnerships that enhance co-ordination in the administration of justice.
5. Enhanced public trust and confidence in the judicial system.

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INSIDE THE JUDICIARY

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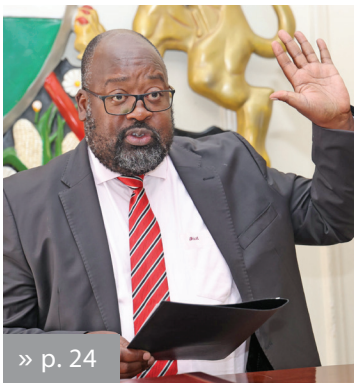
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From the Team

Welcome to Inside the Judiciary (ITJ), Edition 18, which brings you important highlights in the Judiciary as the institution relentlessly pursues a people-centred justice guided by the 'Social Transformation through Access to Justice' vision of the Judiciary.

The edition pays attention to automation initiatives and ICT solutions such as e-filing that have revolutionised the way our clients access court services resulting in efficiency in delivery of justice to Kenyans, especially the vulnerable.

Further, the team highlights the development of the daily schedule of cases otherwise known as the Cause List that will ease access to cases listed for the day.This edition gives special focus on the change in administration with the recruitment of new Chief Registrar of the Judiciary Winfridah Boyani Mokaya, and it spells out her vision for the institution for the next five years.

The magazine also focuses on the establishment of divisions in the Environment and Land Court as well as commissioning of working groups for the divisions. The edition also features special courts, a judge with excellent musical skills and a Judiciary sporting page. In addition, it captures a wide range of activities from various court levels as well as individual court stations courtesy of our staff correspondents stationed in all the courts. Among the activities that the edition narrows down to are Open Days, ASK shows, Service Weeks as well as visits to prisons and children's facilities.

Enjoy the read





It's all-digital @ the Courts



CJ Martha Koome is joined by Public Service CS Moses Kuria during the launch national launch of e-filing.



Automation Registrar Elizabeth Tanui demonstrates how the digital court works from various parts of the country during the launch of e-filing.

It is a whole new digital world in the Judiciary as no court shall have any manual operations in processing cases and printing pleadings and any documents from July 1, 2024. This follows the nationwide launch of e-filing to be undertaken at all court stations.

It is no longer necessary for any parties to initiate and complete the process of filing cases by visiting any court station or registry. This process will be initiated online and from any location, by an individual or a party, with access to a computer and the internet.

The adoption of e-filing is a major automation step with regard to the efficient delivery of services and the way such services are offered to Judiciary clients.

Together with the e-filing system, the Judiciary also unveiled a new Cause List Portal where litigants, advocates and other stakeholders can get information on cases listed for the day. A Data Tracking Dashboard that will assist Judiciary leaders to monitor case processing within courts from filing to conclusion was also unveiled.

The overall launch of the

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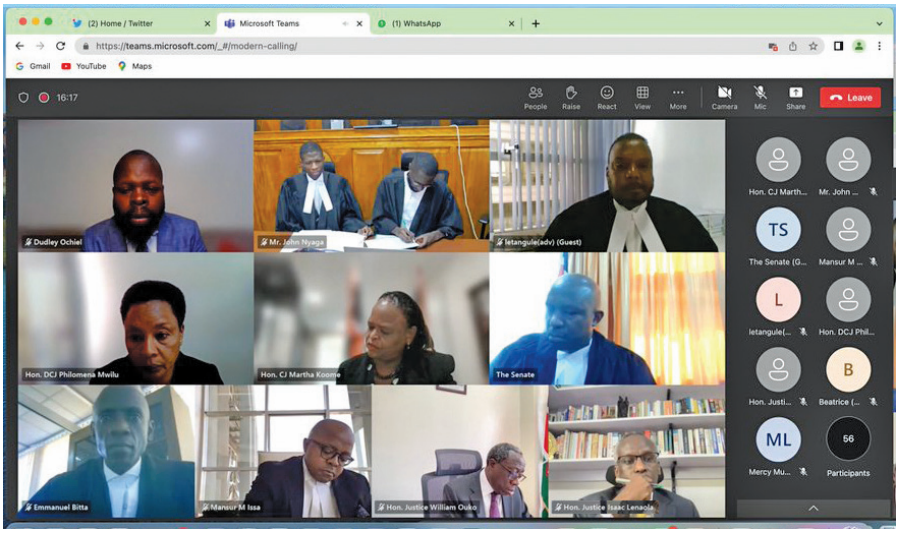

A Supreme Court virtual session presided over by Chief Justice Martha Koome.

e-filing system in courts will modernize legal processes, improve efficiency, and make the justice system more accessible and environmentally sustainable. E-filing will streamline the process of filing cases, reduce paperwork and administrative burdens. In addition, it will lead to faster processing times for legal documents and it will also be cost effective for litigants seeking court services. By eliminating the need for paper-based filing systems, courts and legal practitioners will save on printing, storage, and handling costs.

The e-filing system will make the court process more accessible to individuals who may have difficulty physically visiting the courts across the country, especially people living with disabilities or individuals in remote areas. On the other hand, the move by the Judiciary to go paperless will lead to a reduction in the environmental footprint of the legal system by cutting down on paper consumption and waste. Ultimately, electronic filing will reduce errors caused by manual data entry and improve the accuracy of court records and also come with robust security measures to protect sensitive legal information, enhancing data security and confidentiality. Advocates and litigants will now file documents remotely, reducing the need for in-person visits to the courts and allowing for greater flexibility in managing legal proceedings.

E-filing was first piloted in Nairobi courts before it was introduced in Mombasa, Kiambu, Nyandarua, Kisumu, Siaya, Laikipia and Turkana counties, culminating into a nationwide launch for the digital platform of case management at an event held at Supreme Court on March 11, 2024.

> **"This marks a giant leap in our commitment to transforming how we deliver justice through the strategic use of technology in alignment with the Social Transformation through Access to Justice blueprint of the Judiciary."**

CJ Martha Koome said during the launch of the e-filing system.

The Chief Justice added that the Judiciary's goal is to enhance productivity, automate processes, digitise services and establish a paperless environment thereby making justice more accessible and reducing the geographical barriers to accessing justice.

Data Tracking Dashboard

Lauding the innovative Data Tracking Dashboard, the CJ said that with real-time monitoring capabilities, the leadership of the Judiciary can now oversee the progress and performance of all court stations across the country in a better way.

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''We will have access to real-time statistics for any court or tribunal without the need for physical inspection, thereby propelling the Judiciary towards a new standard of accountability."

One of the features of the dashboard, is the ability to detect and analyse case adjournments, pinpointing the reasons behind them and enabling comparisons across different courts. The technology ensures that the leadership is informed and empowered to address any challenges promptly, enhancing operational efficiency.

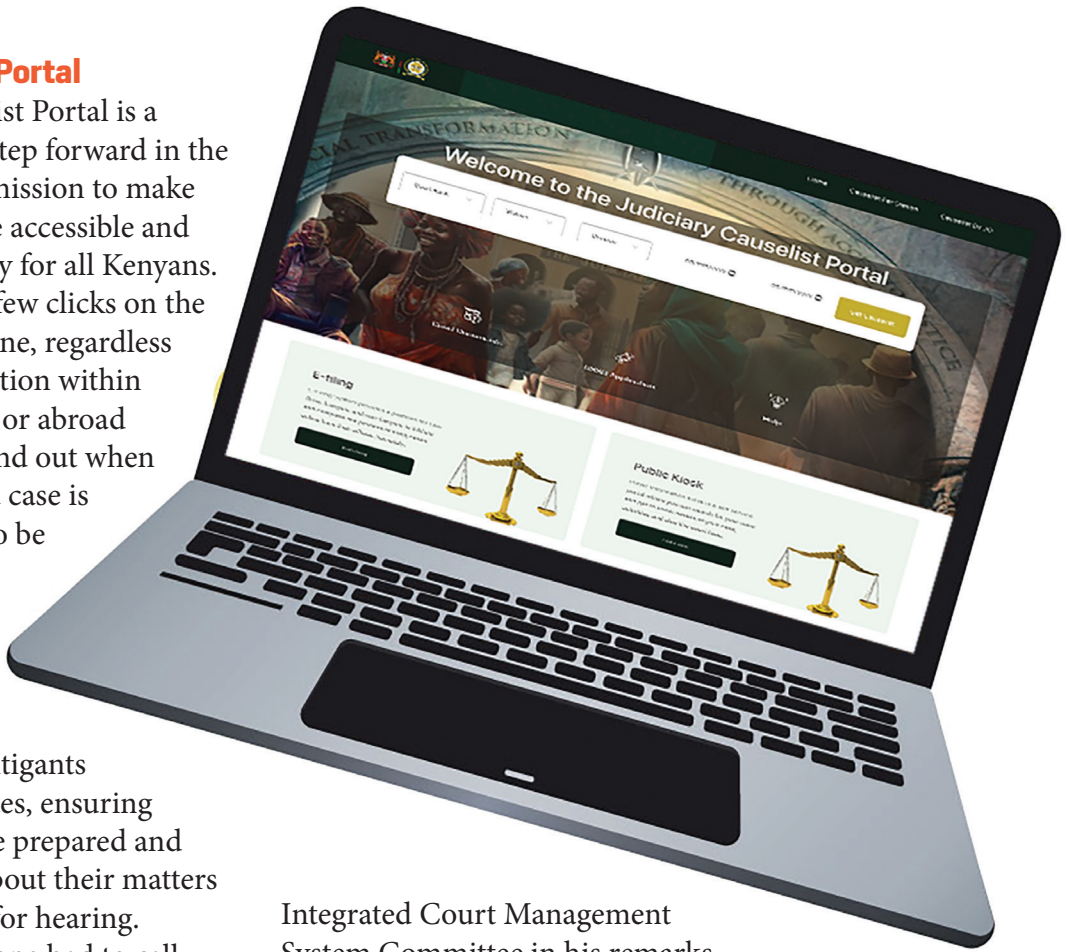
The Dashboard is a critical tool for evidence-informed decision-making. It highlights trends and caseloads, such as identifying regions with high incidences of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) guiding the Judiciary in the strategic establishment of the specialized SGBV Courts.

Cause list Portal

The Cause list Portal is a significant step forward in the Judiciary's mission to make justice more accessible and user-friendly for all Kenyans. With just a few clicks on the Portal, anyone, regardless of their location within the country or abroad can easily find out when and where a case is scheduled to be heard. The direct access to court schedules empowers litigants and advocates, ensuring that they are prepared and informed about their matters coming up for hearing.

Previously, one had to call the Registry or visit a court station to access a Cause list.

Justice Isaac Lenaola who is a Supreme Court Judge and also the Chairman of the Integrated Court Management System Committee in his remarks noted that the advent of e-filing was engineered by the Covid-19 pandemic, when the Judiciary was 'forced' to be innovative in order to continue offering judicial services remotely.



"Following the launch of e-filing in 2020, the Judiciary has rolled it out in 17 counties and the other 34 counties have been

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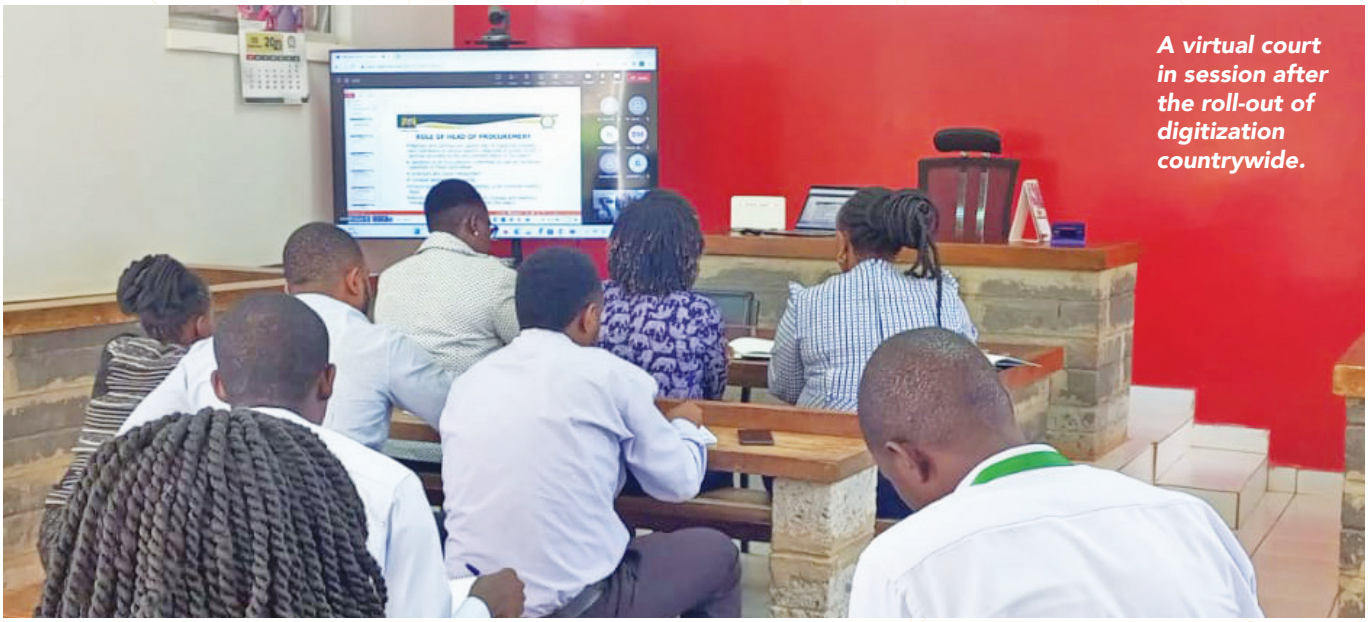
brought on board," said Justice Lenaola during the launch.
The Director of Public Prosecutions, Renson Ingonga in a speech read on his behalf by the Deputy Director Dorcus Oduor, hailed the partnership the Judiciary has with ODPP that ensures they keep pace with each other in adoption of technology and their systems are integrated and interoperable. He noted that the ODPP's Uadilifu e-system is similarly set to be rolled out nationwide.
Cabinet Secretary of Public Service, Performance and Delivery Management, Moses Kuria, who graced the occasion termed the launch of the digital innovations as the democratization of access to justice. He said that for years, access to justice has been the preserve of only a few people. "Technology is the great equalizer and everyone in urban or rural setting can now enjoy the same rights and privileges in accessing justice," said CS Moses Kuria.
Deputy Chief Justice Philomena Mwilu said there was need to empower all institutions across the justice chain.

"There is need to simultaneously equip all justice system actors with adequate ICT infrastructure; to develop synergies with the digital solutions and to ensure cross-institutional training." said DCJ Mwilu.

Elgeyo Marakwet Governor Wesley Rotich observed that members of the public have a lot of trust in automated processes. ''The automation will greatly raise the public trust and confidence in the Judiciary," said Governor Rotich.
Governor Joshua Irungu of Laikipia who was a guest at the event said that the rollout of e-filing countrywide implied that Kenyans from all counties will now file their cases 24 hours a day seven days a week regardless of their location.



A virtual court in session after the roll-out of digitization countrywide.

Forging ahead: An undeniable call to action for CRJ Mokaya



CRJ Winfridah Mokaya in her office at the Supreme Court building.

Amidst an aura of solemnity and reverence, Winfridah Mokaya stood poised, her right hand clasping the Holy Bible with unwavering resolve, while in her left hand she cradled the sacred Oath of Office, as she swore "to diligently serve the people of the Republic of Kenya and to impartially do justice in accordance with the Constitution without fear, favour bias affection ill will, prejudice or any political religious or other influence." This marked a momentous occasion for Mokaya as she assumed office as the 3rd Chief Registrar of the Judiciary (CRJ) since promulgation of the 2010 Constitution.

A week before, she had emerged top out of seven candidates interviewed by the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) for the position, marking the culmination of an illustrious career for Mokaya that started in 1997 when she joined the Judiciary as a District Magistrate II. The appointment stirred a whirlwind of emotions within Mokaya. In her was an overwhelming sense of gratitude towards God, her family, colleagues, and friends who have steadfastly supported her journey, both professionally and personally over the years.

> **"As I reflect on my journey, I see growth nurtured within the embrace of my family, within the sanctuary of the church, and amidst the challenges and triumphs of the workplace."**

"It is with deep humility that I embrace this opportunity to serve in such a significant role. The JSC was presented with exceptionally talented candidates, any one of whom could have been chosen. Thus, I am profoundly honoured to have been entrusted with this responsibility," she articulated during a candid conversation.

As the Chief Registrar of the Judiciary, she assumes the mantle of the accounting officer and chief administrator of a co-equal and independent Arm of Government, with more than 7,000 employees, overseeing an annual budget running into billions and ensuring presence and efficiency across the nation.

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"This is an immense responsibility that is now on my shoulders. That is why I also feel challenged but I am equal to the task. In seeking the role, I was inspired by former Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf who said that if your dreams do not scare you, they are not big enough. I did not apply for this job because I thought it was easy - I had worked for more than a decade directly under former Chief Registrars so I knew exactly how challenging the role is."

Confident in her capabilities, she asserts her readiness to rise to the occasion, fortified by the unwavering support of her colleagues within the Judiciary.

In her acceptance speech, Mokaya committed to pursue 100 per cent funding by the Government of Kenya for access to justice, to mirror support provided to the other key sectors of the nation.

She says in the fullness of time she hopes to see achievement of legal reforms that will see the Judiciary's budget taken out of the vagaries of the political process, so that funds for the institution are guaranteed regardless of the political environment it operates in and in spite of the decisions it makes.

"In doing this, we must engage stakeholders to support the funding of justice as an equal public good to security and shift our methodology from aggregate percentages to more modern and innovative methods. For example, fully costed plans will help us in our consideration of unit costs approaches such as cost per judge or case, which we can then use to make a better budget case based on formal and universal justice needs as outlined in the STAJ vision."



Hon. CRJ Winfridah Mokaya takes Oath of Office as the third Chief Registrar of the Judiciary.

Other critical areas of focus for Mokaya include aiding in the execution of the Social Transformation through Access to Justice (STAJ) Blueprint, which promotes a people-centric approach to the administration of justice. STAJ aims to achieve the overall objective of having an institution that promotes accessibility, efficiency, transparency, accountability, inclusivity and shared leadership.

"Are we aligning our budgetary priorities with our long-term vision for the Judiciary? Are we investing in areas that will yield the greatest impact? What are our agreed priorities on delivery of justice and how can our work plans be responsive to these priorities? Are our decisions grounded in data and evidence?"

Mokaya's vision for the Judiciary is one steeped in the ethos of public trust, accountability, and participatory democracy. The ardent advocacy for a people-centric approach to justice underscores her commitment to the social fabric, wherein the Judiciary serves as a bastion of equity and righteousness.

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"The level of public trust that we enjoy depends on doing what is right, and communicating openly with the public about our work, our milestones and our challenges. Fortunately, the JSC has recently approved a Communication Policy for the Judiciary and I will support the Directorate of Public Affairs and Communication to champion the implementation of the policy."

There is also a robust performance management framework that is intended to foster accountability at individual and institutional level. The JSC and the Administration of Justice & Performance Management Committee have been working to revamp the performance management tools and the CRJ will support the continuing implementation of the performance management framework.

Mokaya has committed to adopting a transparent, deliberate, and inclusive open-door policy in her interactions with both internal and external stakeholders, including various members of the Judiciary community such as the Kenya Magistrates and Judges Association, Kenya Judges Welfare Association, Kenya Chapter of the International Association of Women Judges, and Kenya Judiciary Staff Association.



CRJ Mokaya engages with an elderly man at Meru Law Courts, reflecting a shift towards people-centered justice. She also inspected the ongoing construction of the Meru High Court building.

"The Judiciary encompasses a diverse array of stakeholders, both internal and external, all of whom play a crucial role in shaping its operations. Throughout my tenure within the Judiciary, particularly during my time with the JSC, I've witnessed an abundance of talent among our judges, judicial officers, and staff. I am eager to leverage their expertise and insights to enhance the functioning of the Judiciary."

During her initial three weeks in office, she dedicated her time to engaging with internal constituents, actively listening to their concerns, and soliciting their input on how the Office of the Chief Registrar can better facilitate the fulfilment of the Judiciary's fundamental mandate.

"From these dialogues, I've received numerous valuable proposals, and my team has devised a tracking mechanism to ensure the implementation of agreed-upon measures from each discussion."

She has pledged to maintain this consultative approach in her dealings with other stakeholders, leveraging her role as Secretary of the National Council on the Administration of Justice to foster connections with other agencies involved in the justice administration process.

Mokaya has inherited a well-structured administrative apparatus that facilitates the fulfilment of the core

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mission, thanks to the groundwork laid by her predecessor, Hon. Anne Amadi, over the past decade.

She aims to build upon the clear vision and established frameworks to overhaul the justice and service delivery processes, embracing a new, fully integrated institutional model while maximizing the potential of technology. Additionally, she seeks to improve budget planning and enhance public financial management throughout the Judiciary. This includes bolstering resource and asset management, with a particular focus on comprehensive human resources, infrastructure, and ICT planning.

"Furthermore, I intend to streamline our policy-to-results cycle, ensuring seamless alignment from policy formulation to implementation and results evaluation for the benefit of all Kenyans. Lastly, I am committed to fostering a culture of transparency, accountability, and performance-driven responsibility across the entire Judiciary."



Chief Registrar of the Judiciary Hon Winfridah Mokaya meets with the Controller of Budget Dr. Margaret Nyakang'o to discuss management of public resources and collaboration in enhancing the legal frame work.



CRJ Winfridah Mokaya with Kenya Judicial Staff Association, President Boru, after meeting the Association's leadership.



CRJ Winfridah Mokaya inspects the construction of Githongo Law Court, prioritising completion for enhanced access to justice.

CRJ MOKAYA ON INAUGURAL ENGAGEMENT WITH COURTS AND JUDICIARY AFFILIATED ASSOCIATIONS

Chief Registrar of the Judiciary, Hon Winfridah Mokaya, engaged with various leaders of courts and pledged to ensure that they are adequately supported to deliver on their mandate. The CRJ paid a Courtesy Call on the Presiding Judge of the Environment and Land Court Justice Oscar Angote and met with some of the judges of the court. She also met with the Principal Judge of the Employment and Labour Relations Court Justice Byram Ongaya and judges of the Court.

Hon Mokaya held meetings with the leadership of Milimani Law Courts led by Principal Judge of the High Court Justice Eric Ogola and judges.

She held talks with Magistrates and Kadhis as well as staff of the various levels of the courts starting from the Supreme Court, High Court at Milimani and the Magistrates Courts. She also visited a number of courts in various parts of the country to meet with the Judiciary family.

Further, CRJ Moyaka had discussions with Kenya Magistrates and Judges Association, the International Association of Women Judges – Kenya Chapter and the Kenya Judiciary Staff Association. The CRJ undertook to address their concerns and forge good relations with them for enhancement of service delivery.

New guidelines to expedite *payment* of *fines* and *cash bail*



The Judiciary has taken a significant step towards improving the efficiency of the judicial system with the introduction of new guidelines aimed at expediting the payment of fines and cash bail.

These guidelines address the concerns of court users and harness technology to streamline the process.

One notable change is that the processing of payments will now occur in open court, increasing transparency.

This move is in line with the Judiciary's adoption of technology using the Case Management System, which enables electronic payment of court fees, fines, and deposits.

This system not only generates online invoices and receipts but also simplifies the entire payment process.

To ensure the timely processing of fines and bail, the guidelines require that pleas must be registered by 9:00 am. In cases where this is not feasible, Court Users' Committees will provide guidance.

Additionally, every plea-taking court will have two Court Assistants. The first assistant will support the magistrate with various court duties, while the second assistant will handle the processing of fine and cash bail payments.

This includes generating invoices, providing copies to the accused, and facilitating payments through the online portal.

Moreover, accused individuals who cannot make payments in open court will receive an invoice and be given a reasonable period to settle their fines or cash bail. Committal warrants will be prepared for those who fail to pay by 4:00 pm on the day of their plea.

Efforts have also been made to ensure financial controls are maintained, with each court station having an accountant responsible for daily revenue collection reconciliation.

The Judiciary's Directorate of ICT is committed to automating these processes to enhance efficiency and accessibility.

These guidelines represent a significant step towards a more streamlined and technology-driven judicial system, ensuring timely and transparent handling of fines and cash bail, ultimately benefiting court users.

Judiciary opposed to merger of ELRC and ELC with High Court

Chief Justice Martha Koome wrote to the leadership of Parliament expressing the Judiciary's opposition to a proposed constitutional amendment to merge the Employment and Labour Relations Court (ELRC), the Environment and Land Court (ELC) with the High Court.
The Chief Justice contended that there was informed reasoning that prompted Kenyans to demand for specialised courts to handle employment and labour relations, and also environment and land matters.



Justice Byram Ongaya
Principal Judge
Employment and
Labour Relations Court



Justice Oscar Angote
Principal Judge
Environment and
Land Court



Justice Eric Ogola
Principal Judge
High Court

"The contribution by the two courts to expeditious delivery of justice and a robust jurisprudence in these areas of special concern to Kenyans justify the continued existence of the specialised courts," CJ Koome said.

According to the Chief Justice, the ELRC registered a Case Clearance Rate of 166 per cent in the first half of the 2023/2024 Financial Year after resolving 3,414 cases.
"However, the challenge of backlog remains a pressing concern. With a considerable number of cases pending beyond a year, our shared goal must be to intensify efforts to reduce this backlog, ensuring timely justice for all parties involved. As at the end of December 2023, the Court had 9,362 pending cases," she highlighted.
She indicated that out of these pending cases, 7,837 matters have been in court for more than one year, which means they fall within the Judiciary's definition of case backlog.
"From upholding the rights of marginalized and vulnerable groups to ensuring workplace safety, the court has made significant contributions that resonate with the social justice aspirations of our Constitution," she opined.
She singled out landmark judgments in areas such as unfair dismissal, collective bargaining, occupational safety, and the resolution of disputes arising from economic restructuring receiving critical commentary and citation by scholars within and outside Kenya.
She emphasised the need for a collective commitment to upholding the highest standards of judicial conduct, which aligns with the overall aim to make 'judicial hygiene' part of Kenya's judicial culture.
"Our goal has been that we should make ethics and integrity become second nature to our institution. There ought to be no second-guessing or doubts about the integrity of our Judges, Judicial Officers and Staff."

Justice initiative extends to the refugee town of Kakuma



Chief Justice Martha Koome during the ceremony to mark the launch of the Alternative Justice System model and e-filing in Turkana County at Lodwar Law Courts.

The Judiciary's pursuit of enhanced access to justice for the most vulnerable in society extended to Kakuma, a town synonymous with the refugee population.

An Alternative Justice Systems model was launched in Lodwar as the e-filing of cases was launched in a monumental step towards an accessible, people-centred justice system.

"It is also vital to acknowledge the commendable spirit of the residents of Kakuma in embracing refugees, who often stand on the precipice of vulnerability. Your sense of community and coexistence serves as a beacon for the entire nation," she said Chief Justice Martha Koome at the Kakuma Law Courts.

She reaffirmed the Judiciary's commitment to ensuring that the courts cater to both the host community and the refugee populace and urged them to foster peace and harmony.

In her remarks, Chief Justice Koome pledged to gazette additional courts in Lokichar and Lokitaung, following a request by the leadership of Turkana County, led by Deputy Governor Dr John Erus. She rooted for a multi-door approach to justice, in recognition of the wisdom in these traditional practices.

"The people of Turkana have long upheld these traditions, and I urge you to view AJS as a symbol of our commitment to preserving and promoting this wisdom. Embrace it, not as a new initiative but as a tribute to our age-old values and practices," she implored.

Judiciary, are actively working to transform our courts into trauma-informed sanctuaries that stand in solidarity with victims of such heinous crimes.

Three high courts and one ELC court established



Three new High Court stations were established in Nyandarua, Thika and Kibera. A new Environment and Land Court (ELC) was also established in Nyandarua.

Nyandarua people have a reason to celebrate as there has been no High Court based in Nyandarua since independence. Litigants have been served by the High Court at Nyahururu or Naivasha. The new Nyandarua High Court will be housed in the new Ol-Kalou Law Courts building. It will have supervisory jurisdiction over Engineer Magistrate's Court and Ol-Kalou Magistrate's Court. Further the Chief Justice has also created an Environment and Land Court at Nyandarua to be based at the Ol-Kalou Law Courts building.

Thika High Court has also been established by the CJ and will have supervisory jurisdiction over Gatundu, Ruiru and Thika Magistrate's Courts. The third High Court to be established by the Chief Justice is the Kibera High Court. It will have supervisory jurisdiction over Kibera, Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) and Kahawa Magistrate's Courts.

The High Court stations were created pursuant to the powers conferred upon the Chief Justice by Section 12(1) of the High Court (Organization and Administration) Act, 2015) while the Environment and Land Court has been created pursuant to the Environment and Land Court Act No. 19 of 2011.

The High Court now has presence in 46 counties out of 47 either through a full-fledged High Court or Sub-Registry. The only outstanding county is Wajir where a Sub-Registry is diarized to be commissioned soon. The Judiciary is prioritizing the establishment of a High Court in every county as envisaged in the Constitution 2010.

Judiciary continues quest to expand access to justice in Samburu County



Samburu elders at the Loip Alternative Justice System Suite, Maralal Law Courts during the launch of the Suite, the new court building, an e-filing system, and a High Court Sub-Registry by Chief Justice Martha Koome.

In a bid to take justice closer to the people, the Judiciary inaugurated the new Maralal Law Courts building, launched a High Court sub-registry, e-filing and the Alternative Justice Systems (AJS) 'Loip' Suite at Maralal Law Courts in Samburu County.

Chief Justice Martha Koome said the launch of the High Court building was a manifestation of collective ambition to foster Social Transformation through Access to Justice. "We are not merely unveiling a building made of brick and mortar. Instead, we are unveiling a beacon of hope, a symbol of justice, and a testament to our unwavering commitment to bring the justice system closer to our people," CJ Koome said.

The launch of the High Court sub-registry significantly reduces the distance covered by litigants to approximately 100 kilometres, as envisaged under Social Transformation through Access to Justice blueprint, since the distance to the nearest High Court located at Nanyuki is over 300 kilometres.

Samburu Governor Jonathan Lati Lelelit noted that Samburu County was one of the largest counties, yet it only had one court in Maralal. "We are willing to provide land and build courts in Wamba and Baragoi but I urge the Chief Justice to post magistrates in these areas to especially deal with land matters," Governor Lelelit said.

The Chief Justice also rolled out the digital filing of cases in Samburu, making it the eighth county to have the e-filing system operationalised. "Brick and mortar are crucial but not adequate in our journey towards a transformative, effective and efficient justice system. And this is why we are embracing the power of technology, harnessing its potential to ensure that justice is not only meted but is seen to be done swiftly, transparently, and impartially," The CJ said.

She said that the e-filing system is designed to streamline the process of filing of cases and pleadings, track the case, and improve the overall experience for litigants and legal practitioners.

While launching the Loip AJS model, CJ Koome reiterated her call for Kenyans to embrace a multi-door approach to justice in recognition that the traditional adversarial system of justice is not the sole mechanism for the resolution of disputes.

She said Alternative Justice Systems are vital cogs in the justice machinery since they offer a platform where parties in dispute can come together to discuss their issues candidly, fostering understanding and providing an avenue to craft mutually beneficial solutions.

"The launch of the model is an additional step geared towards the realization of the goal of having in place an accessible, efficient, cost-effective, and expeditious system of justice." Said Judge Koome.



Chair of the EACC Bishop David Oginde hands over an audit report on Judiciary systems, policies, procedures and practices of registry operations and management of government funded construction projects.

Fighting corruption in the Judiciary

Chief Justice Martha Koome received reports on the examination into systems, policies, procedures and practices of registry operations and management of government funded construction projects in the Judiciary from the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission.

The findings follow an invitation extended to the EACC by Chief Justice Koome when she assumed office in 2021, to undertake the audit to identify avenues that may be exploited to support unethical conduct or corruption.

"As promised in the Judiciary's 'Social Transformation through Access to Justice (STAJ)' vision, enhancing public trust and confidence in the Judiciary is a key outcome that we will continue to pursue," CJ Koome asserted when receiving the reports.

She observed that the pursuit of an enhanced fight against corruption through proactive systemic audit of the Judiciary's systems and operations is informed by the reality that fighting and winning the war against corruption will not be done by isolated and sporadic acts.

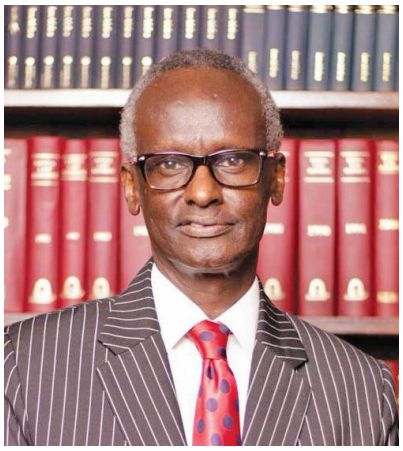
"The findings and recommendations from the two reports will form part of our 'Judicial Hygiene' Strategy as they are a Blueprint for creating a Judiciary that reflects the aspirations of Kenyans for a corruption free Judiciary," she emphasised.

Chief Justice Koome said that implementing the findings from the Report on Registry Operations will be pivotal in the quest to eliminate corruption, enhance accountability and build trust in service delivery by the Judiciary.

The recommendations will be integrated with the Judiciary's digitisation strategy, which presents a unique opportunity to enhance operational efficiency and service delivery.

She urged all Courts, Directorates, and Units to study the two reports and embark on aligning their systems, policies, processes, and procedures with the findings and recommendations.

Justice Lenaola elected Vice President of the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone



Hon Justice Isaac Lenaola, Supreme Court Judge

Supreme Court judge Isaac Lenaola was elected the Vice President of the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone at the Court's Plenary held in Freetown, Sierra Leone. The judge was found fit for the prestigious role following his wealth of experience and dedication to justice.

He will deputise Justice Richard Lussick of Samoa who was elected President of the court for a two-year term.

Justice Lenaola was appointed to the Court in 2013 by the then Secretary General of the United Nations, H.E Ban Ki Moon.

The Residual Special Court for Sierra is an ad hoc court and the successor to the Special Court for Sierra Leone, whose mandate includes; Witness Protection and Support, Assistance to National Prosecution Authorities, Supervision of Prison Sentences/ Pardons/Commutations/ Early Releases, and Trial of Johnny Paul Koroma.

Judge Lenaola re-elected as President of the International Association of Refugee and Migration Judges

Justice Isaac Lenaola, Judge of the Supreme Court of Kenya was re-elected President of the International Association of Refugee and Migration Judges for a second term.

Judge Lenaola, who was first elected President of the Association in February 2020 in San Jose, Costa Rica, was re-elected unopposed in The Netherlands, during the Association's Biannual Conference.

In a statement issued in The Hague, the Association singled out Justice Lenaola as a highly experienced judge, who has exhibited great professionalism, dedication, and commitment to promoting the rights of refugees and migrants.

His visionary leadership has helped the association to grow and establish itself as a critical force in promoting justice and fairness to vulnerable members of the society.

The Association congratulated Judge Lenaola on his re-election and pledged to work closely with him to promote the objectives of the Association.

The Association's Biannual Conference also resolved to hold its next Conference in Kenya in 2025. It has over 400 members globally comprising four Chapters - European, Americas, Asia-Pacific and Africa.



Heads of Courts follow proceedings during a consultative meeting convened to discuss judicial independence, performance improvement, enhanced accountability and seamless service delivery.

Judges meet to discuss independence, accountability and service delivery

Judicial independence, improved performance, enhanced accountability and seamless service delivery topped the agenda during a meeting convened by Chief Justice Martha Koome for Heads of Courts.

In her remarks, the Chief Justice made it clear that dialogue with other branches of government to resolve challenges in the administration of justice does not undermine judicial independence.

"We can engage in constructive conversations that enable the institution to perform its role optimally, while ensuring that we do not engage in discussions that dictate how the cases in court should be decided. That must always remain a no-go zone!", CJ Koome emphasised.

She however said there was need to introspect over the manner in which courts handle cases that affect public interest and policy.

She said it was critical to ask whether the courts handle public interest cases in a way that respects judges' decisional autonomy, while actively managing cases of public interest. "It is important that we reflect on our rules of procedure, especially the Constitution of Kenya (Protection of Rights and Fundamental Freedoms) Practice and Procedure Rules, 2013 and the Judicial Review Procedure Rules, and whether they facilitate speedy handling of time-sensitive public interest cases," the Chief Justice told judges attending the meeting.

> **"Emphasis on timelines for hearing and resolving cases involving time-sensitive government programmes, especially when ex-parte orders are issued and the hearing dates are set many months later."**

Judges reflect on judicial independence during annual colloquium



Justice Othman Mohamed Chande, Chief Justice (Emeritus) of the United Republic of Tanzania makes a presentation during the judges colloqium.

Joined by distinguished persons from Kenya, the region and beyond, judges of the superior courts delved into the subject of judicial independence under the topic, Dynamics of Judicial Independence; Reflections from Africa. This saw presentations made by Justice Othman Mohamed Chande-Chief Justice (Emeritus) of the United Republic of Tanzania, who was joined by Justice Andrew Nyirenda-Chief Justice (Emeritus) of the Republic of Malawi and Hon. Justice Moses Chinhengo-Judge, Republic of Zimbabwe.
Other topics that were canvassed by the judges are Separation of Powers in the United States: The Role of the Judiciary and the 2024 Elections by Dean Adrien Katherine Wing-Associate Dean for International & Comparative Law Programs, University of Iowa College of Law and Laying the Foundation of People-Centered Justice; Access to Justice Beyond the Courtroom by Dr. Steve Akoth, who is a member of the STAJ Blueprint Development Committee. Other topics handled by the judges were; Realising Social Transformation through Access to Justice; Reflections from the Courts, which was led by Deputy Chief Justice Philomena Mbete Mwilu, who was joined by the President of the Court of Appeal Justice Daniel Musinga, High Court Principal Judge Eric Ogola, ELRC Principal Judge Byram Ongaya and Justice Oscar Angote, the Presiding Judge, Environment and Land Court, as panelists.
The colloquium also reflected on; The Role of the Judiciary in Realisation of Social Justice: Emerging Jurisprudence and Reflections from the Bench with Supreme Court Judge Mohammed K. Ibrahim, Court of Appeal Judge Imaana Laibuta and High Court Justices Chacha Mwita and Kanyi Kimondo as well as Judges Sila Munyao and Jemima Keli of ELC and ELRC, respectively, among other presenters.



Panelists during the judges colloqium.

Judges to champion multi-door approach to justice delivery and embrace technology



A section of judges follow presentations during the Annual High Court Judges Leaders Conference.

Judges have been urged to champion the multi-door approach to the delivery of justice and embrace the technological advancements intended to support the efficiency of court processes in order to expand the frontiers of justice.

Speaking during the opening of the High Court Leaders Conference in Kisumu, the Chief Justice said technological advancements and operational strategies are not just about enhancing efficiency; but they are also about transforming the way that justice is administered.

"Reliable data and streamlined processes are the bedrock of effective court management. As we integrate these innovations into our daily operations, we are not just evolving technologically but are also fortifying the foundations of our judicial system for the betterment of our society," said the Chief Justice.

The CJ said the High Court, with its extensive jurisdiction and impending presence in all 47 counties, is uniquely positioned to be at the forefront of the quest to make justice more accessible to all citizens. To achieve this, she urged the judges to embrace a broader interpretation of the judicial role, as outlined in the Constitution, beyond mere arbiter of disputes.

"We must strive to be facilitators of dialogue, connecters of various justice delivery channels, and promoters of social harmony, I therefore urge you to actively champion the multi-door approach to disputes resolution," the CJ Koome said.

"We are also embracing technology to ensure the accurate and prompt transcription of court proceedings. With the establishment of a pilot transcription centre, we are set to offer transcription services across the country, aiming to alleviate the workload on our judges and judicial officers and expedite the hearing process," the Chief Justice added.

High Court Principal judge Eric Ogola underscored the importance of the annual conference saying that it brings together the High Court Judges and the Deputy Registrars and accords them an opportunity to reflect, review and re-strategize the year's performance.

"It also gives the High Court Judges an opportunity to appraise feedback by way of criticism by the public and to re-strategize to meet the emerging challenges," said Justice Ogola.

Meanwhile, Chief Registrar of the Judiciary Winfridah Mokaya, who also addressed the meeting attended by Judges and Deputy Registrars assured the High Court that she was keen to listen to and carry the concerns of every constituency in the Judiciary. To facilitate this, her office would develop a framework for robust engagement with Judges and Deputy Registrars on how the administration of the Judiciary can better support the High Court to deliver on its mandate.

Superior Courts Judges pledge to streamline court services



Heads of Superior Courts issue a communique during the Heads of Courts' Consultative Meeting in Naivasha.

Superior courts in Kenya have pledged to streamline court processes, case management and performance in the Judiciary by enhancing docket management and embracing the use of technology, as strategies to enhance access to justice.

Judges also committed to institutionalizing the Heads of Court Consultative Meeting as an annual event to bolster regular engagement saying meaningful dialogue and sharing insights would provide a collective way to address the challenges that face the Judiciary and the administration of justice.

In a communique after their engagement, the courts also committed to fighting corruption with a view to enhance accountability and seamless delivery of services.

They promised to promote and enforce the principle of zero-tolerance to corruption.

They pledged to uphold the independence of the Judiciary while harnessing inter-governmental collaboration to enhance access to justice even as Chief Justice Martha Koome reiterated that having dialogue with other branches of government to resolve challenges in the administration of justice does not undermine judicial independence.

Led by the CJ the courts said they will consider contemporary developments and introduce timelines for various processes and endeavour to accord priority to time sensitive cases to ensure their conclusion in a timeous manner whilst also respecting the principle that justice must be done to all irrespective of status.

To ensure efficiency and to tackle the problem of delays in conclusion of cases, the superior courts will enforce the 'no adjournment' policy. They urged, litigants and stakeholders to embrace the policy as adjournments and support and work with the Judiciary in enhancing efforts geared at expeditious resolution of cases.

The Court of Appeal will undertake a case audit of appeals/applications where the Court has granted stay of proceedings orders with a view to fast-tracking the hearing and determination of such pending appeals/applications.

On continued threats to the independence of the Judiciary through vilification and criticism of Judges, disobedience of court orders, and denial of adequate resources, they urged Kenyans to continue supporting the independence of the Judiciary.

The said the Judiciary will collaborate and work with the other arms of Government in the spirit of interdependence and reciprocity but maintained that other arms of Government must respect the independence of the Judiciary.

Present at the Heads of Courts' Consultative Meeting were heads of Superior Courts: the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeal, the High Court, the Employment and Labour Relations Court, and the Environment and Land Court.

Sichale , Omwanza and Majanja join JSC



Lady Justice Fatuma Sichale to represent Court of Appeal



Mr. Omwanza Ombati to represent LSK



Justice David Majanja elected by KMJA

Justice Fatuma Sichale is the new Court of Appeal representative to the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) after having been elected by Court of Appeal judges while Omwanza Ombati joined the Commission as the male representative of the Law Society of Kenya. Justice Sichale replaced Justice Mohamed Warsame who served for 10 years while Omwanza Ombati replaced Macharia Njeru who served at the JSC for five years.

Article 171(2)(c) of the Constitution and the Judicial Service Act requires judges and LSK members to elect a representative for a term of five years, with eligibility for re-election for another term.

Speaking after the elections, Justice Sichale said that she intended to work towards ensuring that the JSC operates as a governing body. "JSC being a governing body, in the realm of corporate governance is to confine itself to policy directives and divest itself from the day-to-day running of the Judiciary," said Justice Sichale.

Meanwhile High Court Judge David Majanja was re-elected Member of the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) by the Kenya Magistrates and Judges Association (KMJA) pursuant to Article 171 (2) (d) of the Constitution to serve for another five-year term.

Chief Justice Martha Koome officially opens an Alternative Justice System Maslaha suite in Mandera County.



Greening the Judiciary takes centre stage

The ELC leads tree planting initiative across the country

Judges, judicial officers and staff as well as stakeholders of court stations across the country led by the Environment and Land Court marked an Open Day by planting trees in designated places. The activity was held in Nairobi and 40 other counties, where the Court has a presence.

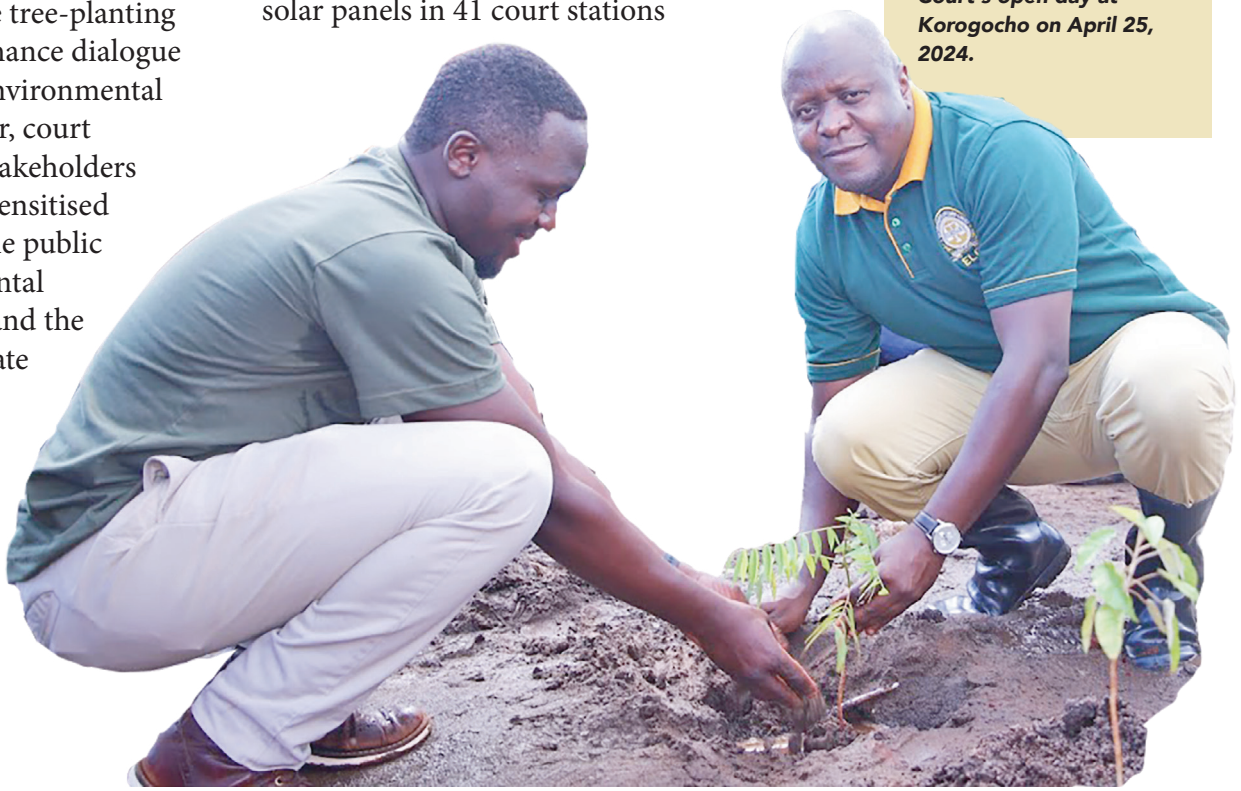
In Nairobi, the Milimani ELC led by Principal Judge Oscar Angote held an Open Day in Korogocho where they engaged in the tree-planting exercise to enhance dialogue on land and environmental justice. Further, court stations and stakeholders countrywide sensitised members of the public on environmental conservation and the effects of climate change.

This is amid environmental conservation activities also dubbed 'Greening the Judiciary' that have taken a centre stage as the Judiciary spearheads specific initiatives including hosting forums that seek to promote the fight against climate change.

Other notable measures are the automation and digitisation initiatives that have seen court processes executed digitally including electronic filing cases to ensure a paperless Judiciary.

Further, the Judiciary has installed solar panels in 41 court stations to help mitigate frequent downtimes experienced since the launch of e-filing.

Earlier, the Judiciary hosted over 300 delegates drawn from African countries to deliberate on climate change in Africa with a view to strengthening the role of the courts in combating climate change and its impacts in Africa.



Environment and Land Court Principal Judge Hon. Justice Oscar Angote plants a tree during the Court's open day at Korogocho on April 25, 2024.

Two separate Environment and Land Court divisions launched

Two specialised divisions of the Environment and Land Court (ELC) have been launched. The establishment of the Environment & Planning Division and the Land Division is in response to the changing needs and demands of the society, which faces unprecedented challenges and opportunities in relation to land and the environment.

The establishment of the ELC as a superior court by the 2010 Constitution was due to the desire by Kenyans to create a specialised court that could address the unique and complex dynamics of land and environmental matters.

"Today, as we inaugurate these two new divisions, our commitment to efficiency, access to justice, and specialised handling of these matters is redoubled," said Chief Justice Martha Koome during the launch of the two divisions.



Chief Justice Martha Koome, Deputy CJ Philomena Mwilu, Lands CS Zachariah Njeru and ELC Principal Judge Oscar Angote cut a cake to mark the launch of two specialised divisions of the ELC - the Environment & Planning Division and the Land Division.

Environment and Planning Division

The climate crisis, escalating with each passing day, has thrust new, unprecedented challenges upon the world and people are grappling with environmental degradation, floods, heatwaves, droughts, and a myriad other climate change-induced adversity.

These issues find their way to the courts, bringing with them complex questions of law, science, and policy. It is these challenges that the 'Environment & Planning Division' will bravely face.

Land Division

The Land Division will help to ensure that land disputes are resolved fairly and expeditiously for the benefit of all Kenyans.



Environment and Planning Division head Justice Anne Omollo makes her remarks during the Division's first stakeholder meeting in Nairobi.

Environment and Planning Division of ELC holds first stakeholder meeting

The newly established Environment and Planning Division of the Environment and Land Court (ELC) held its first stakeholder meeting to introduce its mandate as well as initiate collaborative dialogue. Head of Division, Justice Anne Omollo, said the vision of establishing two divisions within the Court was a commitment made to Kenyans during the ELC's 10th anniversary celebrations. The initiative is aimed at enhancing the visibility of the environmental wing of the Court, which had been primarily associated with land disputes.

"I am pleased to announce that this vision was realized in July 2023 when the Chief Justice formally launched the two divisions of the Environment and Land Court (ELC), comprising the Land Division and the Environment and Planning Division," said Justice Omollo.

Permanent Secretary, State Department for Mining, Mr Elijah Mwangi said that discussions with stakeholders will enable them to understand their rights and responsibilities when it comes to environmental matters.

Justice Jacqueline Mogeri, a judge of the Division, noted that there was not much traffic on Environmental cases because of lack of awareness and high court filing fees.

"The CJ, during the ELC@10 celebrations in Kilifi, promised to address the issue of the cost of filing these cases as part of the Social Transformation through Access to Justice's plan of enhancing access to justice, and we are hopeful that very soon the issue will be sorted," said Justice Mogeni

The Environment and Planning Division will play a key role in the promotion and protection of environmental rights, preservation and protection of natural resources and enforcement of those rights. Through it, cases related to the environment will receive the attention they deserve. Primarily, the Environment and Planning Division will give visibility to environmental matters that had hitherto been overshadowed by land matters.

A multi-sectoral approach to land justice established



Chief Justice Martha Koome commissions the Nairobi Land Justice Working Group. The CJ is flanked by Deputy CJ Philomena Mwilu, Lands CS Alice Wahome, Head of Lands Division Justice Lucy Mbugua and other guests.

The Nairobi Land Justice Working Group, a multi-agency team that is responsible for expeditious and sustainable resolution of land disputes in Nairobi City County, is now operational following its commissioning in February this year.

The brainchild of the Nairobi ELC Court Users Committee, the Working Group that comprises all key players in the land justice sector is tasked with identifying the root causes and addressing systemic and endemic challenges in the administration of land justice.

The Working Group will delve into the complex web of land injustice in Nairobi which is difficult to navigate outside a multi-sectoral collaborative approach.

Complex land issues such as double allocation, encroachment of public land, mix-up during survey, adverse possession claims, lack of zoning and enforcement, informal settlements, renewal of leases and fraud have plagued Nairobi City County complicating resolution of land cases in the county.

The cases in the county emerge in different forms such as civil, criminal and family disputes, or as other legal contentions, with the Judiciary shouldering the burden of resolving these disputes. Urgent resolution of land matters in Nairobi City County is crucial for accomplishing development objectives outlined in Vision 2030.

The establishment of the working group reflects a collective approach to creating a more just, efficient, and equitable framework for addressing land matters, ultimately contributing to the broader development objectives of the community and fostering a more prosperous and harmonious future.

Kakuma Law Courts at the cradle of mankind



Hon. Charles Mayamba, Head of Station, Kakuma Law Courts.

Kakuma Law Courts is located at the cradle of mankind, in the famous Turkana County, which is the bedrock of interesting cultural and traditional practices that culminated in the modern judicial systems.

There existed traditional Turkana courts known as Ekwer presided over by five men. They were charged with handling all manner of cases. The Ekwer were charged with passing various sentences not limited to compensation and ritual killings. Cases of defilement saw the culprit ordered to marry the child and pay off some dowry to the parents as a way of compensation. In the case of rape (atikoonor), the culprit would be arrested and ordered to be whipped together with compensation of animals before prescribed rituals were performed on him as a cleansing.

Blood from the animals would be strewn all over the husband of rape victim before finally settling to consume the meat. Stealing was punishable by taking away all animals from the culprits that were offered to the victims as compensation.

The traditional judicial systems evolved over the period until the advent of the colonialists who introduced the concept of chiefdoms. The Ekwer committees were replaced by the chiefs who presided over cases with almost similar punishment. The appeals were handled by District Officers with further appeals at the High Court and detained at Lokitaung, where the first President of the Republic of Kenya, Jomo Kenyatta was held briefly.

The era of the traditional judicial system gave way to modern judicial institutions, whereby the traditions were tailored towards more robust judicial inclinations. Kakuma Law Courts started operations in 2013 upon launch by then Chief Justice Willy Mutunga. Kakuma Law Courts was formally operated as a Lodwar Law Courts mobile court under Kitale High Court. The resettlement of the refugee community forming the Kakuma refugee camp brought into focus the challenging legal hurdles by both the refugees and the host communities who were still living under the burden of repugnant cultural practices.

Kakuma Law Courts opened its operations under the stewardship of RM Edwin Wasike; together with three clerks as the pioneer court staff. The Resident Magistrate was still under the ambit of Lodwar Law Courts.

The opening of the court resulted in a further quest for a more expanded judicial system, leading to the inauguration of Kalobeyei and Lokichoggio mobile courts.

The Judiciary posted the second magistrate SRM Jacqueline Wekesa who presided over the court for 7 years before PM Charles Mayamba who currently heads the station. The court was moved from one building facility to another before settling at the Turkana West Sub County offices until 2023 when together with a new team of staff, managed to put up a container office court.

Clearly from evolution, we can acknowledge that Judicial Transformation culminates into Social Judicial Transformation which is an advent of both traditional and modern concepts of judicial service delivery.

Lokichar and Lokitaung Mobile Courts



Hon. Nerolyne Idagwa, Lodwar Court.

Lodwar Law Court operates Mobile Courts to facilitate access to justice in remote areas. Court officials who comprise the magistrate, prosecutor, police and court assistants visit the far-flung areas regularly and utilise available facilities to conduct court sessions.

Most cases filed in court are of a criminal nature and are filed by the police. While most of the acts are defined as criminal under the formal law, they are not necessarily perceived as crimes among the local communities. Cases such as illegal possession of firearms, or the brewing of alcoholic beverages are not at the heart of what triggers serious conflict among communities, kidnapping in the Turkana Culture is also perceived as a way of winning the bride.

More significantly, state laws and procedures often contradict local concepts of justice, some sexual offences, for example, are not considered 'serious' in Turkana society. For magistrates, on the other hand, sexual offences are a red line, and they attract harsh sentences that come as a surprise to the community. Defilement cases are therefore treated in utmost secrecy and are resolved through payment of compensation to the girl's family.

The Judicial system is an unattractive means of recourse for redress. Where criminal cases are filed in court by the police, communities tend to apply for their withdrawal in order to negotiate a solution out of court. In such instances, there is little a Judge or Magistrate can do but stand by and watch how local communities negotiate disputes involving serious offences.

The geographical distribution of the Magistrates Courts throughout Turkana County does not correspond to the people's socio-economic and physical situations. There is a very poor road network and the journey from Lokitaung to Lodwar and back takes two days.

Many locals cannot afford the costs of transport, accommodation and food in town, which are necessary in order to attend court. Mobile Court sessions, utilise rooms in nearby police stations which may not be conducive for the Magistrates to perform their duty.

In Turkana, there is one Prison facility and therefore for an accused person remanded at Lodwar to attend a mobile court in Lokitaung, the prison vehicle must travel approximately 400 km to and from the prison. There is need for civic education to empower the communities on legal procedures, need to embrace the Alternative Justice System AJS in Turkana and new courts should be established mainly in the towns of Lokitaung and Lokichar.

Kakuma Magistrate Jacqueline Wekesa presides over a mobile court session at Lokichogio in Turkana County.





Justice John Chigiti

JURIST & SAXOPHONE MAESTRO

As the clock ticks past 5pm, Justice John Chigiti finds himself ensnared in the maze of Nairobi traffic, having just left his chambers at Milimani Law Courts. Amidst the honking horns and ceaseless shuffle of vehicles, he seeks solace in an unexpected sanctuary, a harmonica tucked away in the cubby box. With meticulous hands, he draws out soulful melodies, transforming the chaos of the rush hour into a symphony of his own making.

The harmonica is however, just one chapter in the musical odyssey of the 56-year-old judge. Nestled in the trunk of his SUV is a gleaming black saxophone steeped in memories that trace back to his formative years in high school. When he's back home, he also indulges in playing another instrument - the clarinet.

But it's the saxophone that occupies a special place with its multiple hidden mysteries. "The player has to seek and find the treasure in the

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melody." Justice Chigiti, who serves in the Judicial Review Division of the High Court, recalls his days at the Nairobi School where he developed the passion for playing the saxophone.

Back then, owning one remained an elusive dream, undeterred, he adorned the walls of his room with pictures of the instrument, or sketched its elegant curves on paper when the yearning grew too strong. It wasn't until he left high school that his musing was re-ignited after he went to Mombasa and met members of Them Mushrooms band.

He approached one of the band members who used to play the saxophone who told him he needed to buy one of his own if he wanted to learn how to play. Disheartened but undaunted, he shelved his aspirations temporarily, only resuming his pursuit after completing university when employment brought financial independence. But as fate would have it, there was a break-in at his house and the burglars took off with his treasured second-hand saxophone among other household items before he even had the time to learn how to play. It wasn't until five years ago that he managed to buy another saxophone. Once in the firm grasp of his hands, he did some 'home' schooling courtesy of YouTube.

Fortune smiled upon him once more when he crossed paths with a seasoned saxophonist who used to play on Aga Khan Walk, who imparted invaluable wisdom.

"I play every day. At times, I go to the National Theatre or play at home. But since it's in my car all the time, I play it anywhere that accommodates my passion."

For Justice Chigiti, the saxophone serves as a sanctuary, a conduit for shedding the day's challenges of litigation and the law.

"With the saxophone I blow out the content and at the same time I entertain myself. I sing songs that keep me going, when you're just about to stop playing, you find a key that makes you go on and on."

Justice Chigiti, a father of four, opts to play in private but when celebration beckons, he eagerly embraces the challenge of entertaining guests, effortlessly captivating audiences of all ages. Growing up, he never imagined he would sit on the Bench.

In college, he enrolled for a Bachelor of Commerce Degree, before transitioning to law graduating with a Bachelor of Laws Degree from Pune University in India.

Beyond his legal endeavours, Justice Chigiti is an avid collector of antiques. "I spend a lot of time collecting, polishing antiques. I also occupy myself with nature and vintage cars," he says. His collection includes vinyl turn tables, gramophones, old cameras, radios and to crown it all a vintage Renault of 1966 but he's yet to consider an entry in the Concours d'Elegance.

Dreaming of a retirement filled with purpose, Justice Chigiti envisions establishing a museum on his farm, offering future generations a glimpse into the treasures of yesteryears. On a typical weekend you'll find Justice Chigiti white water rafting in Sagana, picnics, serenading the airwaves with his saxophone or simply sleeping like a baby.

Judiciary pursues ambitious STAJ roadmap to transform Kenya's justice landscape

Since Chief Justice Martha Koome assumed office in 2021, the Judiciary has pursued a People-Centred Justice (PCJ) approach that promotes accessibility, efficiency, transparency, accountability, inclusivity, shared leadership, cooperative dialogue and social justice. People-Centred Justice programming is anchored on a proper understanding of justice capabilities, needs and experiences of people, communities and justice actors. It is data driven, evidence-based, innovation-focused and seeks to create an enabling regulatory environment that allows continuous improvement in the administration of justice. A pivotal moment in pursuit of People-Centred Justice was the launch of the Social Transformation through Access to Justice (STAJ) 10-year Blueprint, which will steer the Judiciary in its quest to make justice a tangible reality for every Kenyan irrespective of their social status, physical location or personal vulnerabilities. STAJ is building on the achievements of the Judiciary Transformation Framework 2012 - 2016 (JTF) and the Sustaining Judiciary Transformation 2017 - 2021 (SJT) blueprints. by leveraging established service delivery models and extending the Judiciary's outreach to address justice needs where they arise. In doing so, it underscores the pivotal role of the people, from whom all judicial authority emanates, reaffirming their centrality in the justice system.



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"A key target of the STAJ Blueprint is to ensure that 20 million Kenyans excluded from the formal justice system get access to an efficient and responsive justice system."

The Judiciary is cultivating an inspired and dedicated team of judges, judicial officers, and staff who are committed to delivering excellence in the administration of justice.

A robust financial mechanism to uphold the independence and integrity of the Judiciary has been established.

The Judiciary continues to deepen partnerships for better coordination in the administration of justice.

Emphasis is being laid on bolstering public trust and confidence in the judicial system by upholding and promoting ethical conduct within the Judiciary.

Efforts have been intentionally directed towards establishing more specialized courts and fully equipping existing ones. These include trauma-informed Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) Courts, Children's Courts, Courts for Petty Offences, and 24-Hour Duty Courts. Also actively applied is a multi-faceted approach to justice by empowering individuals to resolve disputes through diverse methods such as mediation, Alternative Justice Systems (AJS), conciliation, arbitration, and other dispute resolution avenues.

The rapid advancements in the IT realm have prompted the Judiciary to expedite the adoption and implementation of technology to enhance the efficiency, effectiveness, and accessibility of justice.

The ongoing enhancement of the Integrated Case Management System aims to fully automate case management processes. Data and evidence are aggressively utilized by the Judiciary to enhance service effectiveness, involving the strengthening of performance management, improvement of docket management systems, and scaling up of data governance.

The objective is to ensure timely and efficient delivery of justice, with no case exceeding three years in a trial court and one year on appeal.

In alignment with efforts to address climate change, the Judiciary is integrating green justice principles into its operations, procedures, and decision-making processes, encompassing both administrative and judicial actions.

Tax Appeals Tribunal in sensitization campaign



Tax Appeals Tribunal Chairman Eric Nyongesa leads members of the tribunal in an interactive campaign with traders and members of the public in Embu town to educate them on the resolution of tax disputes.

The Tax Appeals Tribunal conducted a sensitization campaign in Mt Kenya Region to create awareness on the tribunal's mandate, its processes and the taxpayers' rights, as well as tax dispute resolution issues in Kenya.

The team that included members of the Tribunal, KRA, ICPAK, LSK and Kenya Law representatives sensitized stakeholders such as lawyers and business people in Embu, Meru and Nyeri towns.

> **" We are here to tell taxpayers that there is a forum to go to when they feel that there is a tax assessment that is unfair, and that there is a court process where they can file their appeal and be heard. Mr Erick Nyongesa said.**

Noting that there is limited knowledge, Nyongesa said there is need for more public engagements to build capacity for people appearing before the tribunal. The chairman noted this is important to increase the knowledge of the taxpayer so that one knows who to engage. Team visited the markets, shops, matatu stage to interact and educate taxpayers on tax disputes resolution.

Know your Tribunal



The Transport Licensing Appeals Board

The Transport Licensing Appeals Board (TLAB) is a Tribunal which hears and determines appeals against the licensing decisions of the National Transport and Safety Authority. The Board is established under section 38 and 39 of the National Transport and Safety Authority Act, 2012. The Board is composed of five members and a chairperson appointed by the Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure, Housing and Urban Development.



CONGRATULATIONS

Dr. Andrew Kimani, CEO, Transport Licensing Appeals Board for receiving Huduma Ombudsman Award 4th Edition 2023, Public Service category, individual category for enhancing access to justice for the vulnerable in the Matatu Sector.

CORE FUNCTIONS / MANDATE

Hears and determines appeals from the licensing decisions of the National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA).

WHO CAN FILE AN APPEAL BEFORE THE BOARD?

- Individuals who are aggrieved by the decision of **NTSA**
- Transport companies
- Matatu Saccos
- Driving schools
- Tourists service vehicles

WHAT KIND OF APPEALS CAN ONE FILE BEFORE THE BOARD?

All kinds of appeals filed before the board must relate to a decision of the NTSA to issue, revoke or even suspend any License. Disputes can also relate to decisions on objections.

SERVICES OFFERED

- Advising citizens on

TRIBUNALS PROCEDURES

- Assessment of fees.
- Registration and filing of Appeals.
- Hearing and determination of Appeals.
- Interim Orders, Issuing summons, Decrees, Warrants and Notice to show cause.
- Issuing proceedings, Orders, Rulings and judgments.

SERVICE DELIVERY COMMITMENTS

To file an Appeal, an Appellant will be required to fill a Memorandum of Appeal form and pay Ksh. 1500.

This fees is subject to change over time as Judiciary issues new regulations.

CONTACTS AND LOCATION

The Transport Licensing Appeals Board is located in Community area off Ngong Road.

Transport Licensing Appeals Board
P. O. Box 30041-00100,
Nairobi.

For complaints, feedback or more information, contact;

The Chief Executive Officer,
Transport Licensing Appeals Board
Transcom House, second floor, room 227
Telephone +254-0202729200,
Ext 40311 or 0799000584
Email. ceo.tlab@gmail.com
Email. tlabtr@court.go.ke

Traffic Court *sensitizes* public on *Road Safety*



Milimani Traffic Court jointly with stakeholders held a Traffic Open Day to sensitize members of the public and other road users on road safety. Traffic police, NTSA, County Government, ODPP and Kenya Prisons, were among stakeholders that were involved.

The exercise was themed: 'Kaa Rada Kwa Rodi' aimed at seeking ways of enhancing road safety and minimizing accidents and traffic offenses in the area. The activities that were lined up for the Open Day included caravan on specific roads in Nairobi, a procession, speeches and public interactive sessions in the CBD.

In a speech read on her behalf by Milimani Chief Magistrate Susan Shitubi during the Open Day, Chief Justice Martha Koome called for vigilance on the roads to stem prevalent road accidents. She said that it is only through the actions of all stakeholders that tangible solutions will be found to deal with the rising road carnage.

"It is through our actions that we transform intentions into reality, crafting a safer road environment for ourselves and future generations. Let us embrace the Traffic Rules and Regulations in order to bring order and safety in our roads," said the Chief Justice.

Milimani Chief Magistrate Susan Shitubi urged all stakeholders to come together to ensure they contribute to road safety and reduction of road accidents. She said it was just the beginning of these public outreach engagements, and they shall continue engaging with the public to sensitize on road safety.

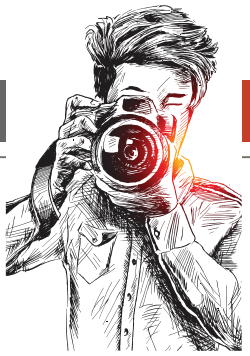
Registrar Magistrates Court Caroline Kabucho urged road users to avoid breaking traffic laws so that they do not get themselves into trouble. She added that the Judiciary will continue with such engagements to sensitize the public on road safety.

Representatives of the Boda Boda Association, Matatu Owners Association, Nairobi City County, NACADA, NTSA, National Police Service, and the Office of the Director Public Prosecutions also spoke at the Open Day held at the Kenya National Archives, in the CBD.

School children safety, reckless driving, hand carts, drunk driving, avoidance of footbridges, jumping over guard rails, not prioritising pedestrians at zebra crossings, hawkers taking over footbridges are some of the concerns that were identified by stakeholders for sensitization.



Milimani Law Courts Chief Magistrate Susan Shitubi when she led judicial officers and staff as well as stakeholders in the traffic sector in flagging off a sensitization campaign to create awareness on road safety in Nairobi.





Only one leper came back to thank Jesus, so the Bible says... Of all the students who have passed through his hands, only one Brian Kimani from Chuka University came back to thank Isaiah Gichuru, the Chuka Court Supply Chain Officer, for the training and mentorship during his internship.



Kibera and JKIA officers sensitised on AJS

Judicial officers from Kibera and JKIA Law Courts led by Kibera High Court Judge Diana Kavedza (2nd left seated) are sensitised on Alternative Justice System. The training was conducted by Hon Joan Irura of the National Steering Committee on Implementation of Alternative Justice Systems.



Supreme Court Judge Njoki Ndungu hosted the United Nations Under-Secretary & Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide, Ms. Alice Wairimu Nderitu on behalf of Chief Justice Martha Koome. The discussions centred on hate speech, sexual violence & it's correlation with genocide.



Supreme Court Yearbook

CJ Martha Koome is flanked by Supreme Court Judges Philomena Mwilu (DCJ), Smokin Wanjala, Njoki Ndungu and Isaac Lenaola during the launch of the inaugural Supreme Court of Kenya Yearbook.



Chief Justice Martha Koome met with Gail Malone, the Director of Programmes at the International Institute for Justice and Rule of Law at the Supreme Court, to explore areas of broader mutual cooperation. As the Chairperson of the National Council on the Administration of Justice, the CJ welcomed collaboration with justice sector institutions through the Mutual Legal Assistance project that has been running since 2022.



CJ Martha Koome with members of the Institute of Certified Secretaries led by board chairman Joshua Wambua who paid her a Courtesy Call at the Supreme Court.



DCJ Philomena Mwilu was at hand to lead the celebrations when Judiciary's stand scooped the Best Government Social Functions Award at the ASK Show. The Directorate of Public Affairs and Communication spearheads Judiciary's participation in the Show as part of public outreach.



Court of Appeal President Justice Daniel Musinga interacts with students, members of the public and staff at the Judiciary stand, Nairobi International ASK Show. He took time to explain court processes and receive feedback on service delivery.



Environment and Land Court Judges led by Justice Judy Omange (R) on a supervisory visit to the Rent Restriction Tribunal in Nairobi to inspect delivery of service and address requirements for improvement.



Court of Appeal President Daniel Musinga flagged off the 10 km Justice in Every Step Karura Forest walk for judges of the Court at the Limuru gate where participants explored the vast forest and connected with nature.

NCAJ actors to support police digitise processes



The National Council on the Administration of Justice (NCAJ) chaired by Chief Justice Martha Koome issues a communique during a meeting convened in Mombasa to deliberate on issues affecting the administration of justice in Kenya in order to enhance efficiency and effectiveness in the justice sector.

Agencies under NCAJ agreed to support the National Police Service to digitise its operations to enhance efficiency in the justice sector. Among the processes earmarked for digitisation is the Occurrence Book at police stations, charge sheets, cash bail records and the operationalisation of instant traffic fines.

Speaking in Mombasa during the NCAJ high-level statutory and consultative meeting, Chief Justice Martha Koome said that the police service needed to keep up with other agencies in using technology to improve service delivery and create inter-operability with existing systems.

She noted that the Judiciary no longer deals with cash at any level, saying there is need to help the National Police Service to digitise its operations including cash bail, to foster effectiveness.

IG Koome told the meeting that he receives complaints from the public about handling of their cash bail at police stations. He said that although some efforts have been made towards digitisation, much is yet to be done, and cited the urgency to digitise the Occurrence Book (OB).

The meeting noted that there is need to come up with an application that will facilitate receiving of cash bail and traffic fines. It resolved to support digitisation of the OB as a priority area.

This emerged when the NCAJ members converged in Mombasa to deliberate on issues affecting the administration of justice in Kenya in order to enhance efficiency and effectiveness.

The meeting chaired by CJ, among other issues, discussed ways of fighting corruption, enhancing accountability and seamless service delivery.

Justice sector agencies face over Sh100bn funding deficit



Deputy Chief Registrar of the Judiciary Paul Ndemo makes his presentation during the NCAJ meeting convened in Mombasa to deliberate on issues affecting the administration of justice in Kenya.

Justice sector agencies which include the Judiciary, office of the Attorney General, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and the National Police Service face a funding deficit of over Sh100 billion. Other under-funded agencies include the NCAJ itself, Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC), Kenya Prisons Service, Probation and Aftercare Department, the Independent Police Oversight Authority, Witness Protection Agency and the National Council for Law Reporting among others.

The justice sector plays a very critical role in ensuring the rule of law in the society is maintained giving local and external investors confident that matters are predictable and that justice is prompt.

There is need for a supplementary budget to fund NCAJ and the anti-corruption agenda in the current FY totaling to Sh83 million and NCAJ Bill at Sh18m.

Apart from the financing shortfall to the individual justice sector agencies, the NCAJ is also facing a funding gap that stands at Sh285 million.

The funding is meant to support deepened reforms, strengthening justice sector monitoring and evaluation, justice sector research and innovation, statutory council annual reporting and engagements, and grassroots administration of justice through Court User Committees.

There is a need to pursue strategic partnerships and resource mobilisation apart from NCAJ agencies contributing to NCAJ programmes.

Criminal Justice Reform Proposed Bills Presented to Parliament



Lady Justice Grace Ngenye, Judge of Appeal and Chair, National Committee on Criminal Justice Reforms.

The National Committee on Criminal Justice Reforms (NCCJR), chaired by Lady Justice Grace Ngenye, has proposed a raft of changes in law including decriminalisation and declassification of some petty offences in proposed Bills presented before the National Assembly through the Speaker Moses Wetangula. The National Assembly's Justice and Legal Affairs Committee (JLAC) was asked to expedite the processing of the Bills to facilitate reforms in the Criminal Justice Sector.

Speaker Wetangula urged the JLAC to expedite but also consolidate offences in other statutes to harmonise them. He promised to offer the Committee his personal views on the proposals. He was accompanied by Deputy Speaker Gladys Boss, Majority Leader Kimani Ichung'wa and JLAC Chairman George Murungara.

Enhancing access to justice for the visually impaired



The Family Division of the High Court installed a braille embosser which prints out court documents for the visually challenged litigants this is in line with the vision of Social Transformation through Access to Justice (STAJ),

During the unveiling ceremony Deputy Chief Registrar of the Judiciary Paul Ndemo praised the Family Division for the noble innovation which seeks to include the visually impaired individuals who had in the past faced limited access to information due to the unavailability of court documents in alternative formats, such as braille.

Hon. Ndemo challenged other divisions to emulate the innovation which seeks to ensure that justice is accessed by all members of the society.

The inclusivity process was spearheaded by Justice Aggrey Muchelule (JA) who was then the Presiding Judge of the Family Division and in partnership with the International Development Law Organization (IDLO), the Division procured and installed the braille embosser.

The braille embosser engraves braille lettering onto paper for tangible reading by the visually challenged individuals.

> **"This milestone marks a significant step toward inclusivity where the visually impaired litigants are not left behind in their pursuit of justice."**

Sh52bn released back to economy through Court Annexed Mediation

Approximately Sh52.1 billion has been released back to the economy as a result of the expeditious resolution of cases through Court Annexed Mediation (CAM), data released by Chief Justice Martha Koome shows.

CJ Koome told participants at the start of the 2nd Annual Mediation Summit that a total of 16,770 matters out of 18,162 referred to Court Annexed Mediation had been resolved, translating to a 92.3 per cent conclusion rate.

"The settlement rate has been improving yearly. The last financial year 2022/23 saw a settlement rate of 51.2 per cent; while in the current year 2023/24, the settlement rate is at 54.98 per cent. In the current financial year, the average case running days is at 73 days," the CJ's keynote speech delivered by Deputy Chief Justice Philomena Mbete Mwilu highlighted.

Since last year's summit on 'Mediation and Banking,' over 400 matters have been referred to mediation in the banking sector alone.

Court Annexed Mediation has been rolled out in 40 counties and efforts are being made to bridge the gap in the remaining seven counties, with 60 Mediation Registries supporting 118 courts having been established.

CJ Koome roots for Mediation in dispute resolution

Chief Justice Martha Koome joined the Inter-Continental Mediation Summit, which brings together stakeholders from Kenya and beyond, to share and exchange ideas and deliberate how to promote the use and uptake of mediation as the first option in dispute resolution. She said the Judiciary is keen on mainstreaming Mediation, Conciliation, Alternative Justice Systems (AJS), and Arbitration as integral and legitimate parts of our dispute resolution system.

"When we speak of 'Mediation First', we are not diminishing the importance of courts or litigation. Instead, we are expanding our horizons.

We are acknowledging that for many disputes, there are more amicable, more efficient, more context-sensitive, and indeed, more holistic avenues of resolution than traditional litigation," said the Chief Justice.

She said that the Judiciary has made great strides in institutionalising mediation as an Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanism and promoting a culture of mediation in the country adding that since its introduction in the Judiciary, a total of 15,211 matters have been referred to Court Annexed Mediation (CAM). The value of these matters stands at approximately Ksh55 billion.

A total of 5,048 matters have been concluded successfully. The value of the matters that have been concluded successfully and funds previously locked up in litigation released back to the economy stands at approximately Ksh33 billion.

The Chief Justice said the case turnaround time for matters referred to mediation has improved from the previous 87 days to current 74 days.

Celebrating Children Service Month





Children and stakeholders march in Naivasha town during the launch of Children Service Month, 2023

The Judiciary, in 2016, designated November as the Children's Month to clear the backlog of cases of children in conflict with the law and those in need of case and protection.

The last Service Month was themed; "A Child Centred Justice System" which was a clarion call to all justice agencies to uphold key principles of child-centeredness in administration of justice for children as prescribed within the Children Act, 2022.

Deputy Chief Justice Philomena Mwilu graced the launch of the Service Month at Mavoko Law Courts where she called on governance and rule of law institutions, individuals, and the society at large to ensure and guarantee the safety and welfare of all children.

The DCJ noted that data from the Judiciary paints a grim picture of an increasing number of cases involving defilement and those of children in need of care and protection.

> **" All that I ask is that we do not normalise abuse of our children. We must practice and show *adabu* and abandon *tabia mbaya* where children are concerned. It is as simple as that," said DCJ Mwilu.**

The Service Month focused on the decongestion of holding institutions and reduction of backlog of cases by courts through priority hearing and determination of children cases but also raising awareness on procedures and processes involving children matters amongst the general public.

The Chairperson of the National Council on the Administration of Justice (NCAJ) Committee on Children Matters Justice Teresia Matheka said the service month is an opportunity for the Judiciary, the NCAJ agencies and partners through the CUCs and the CCUCs to advocate, promote, protect, and celebrate children's rights in Kenya.

DCJ Mwilu decries abuse of children



Deputy Chief Justice Philomena Mwilu is received at Mavoko Law Courts by a Teen Star Model Faith Mbithe during the launch of the National Children Service Month.

Deputy Chief Justice Philomena Mwilu has called on governance and rule of law institutions, individuals, and the society at large to ensure and guarantee the safety and welfare of all children.

Speaking during the launch of the Children's Service month, the DCJ noted that data from the Judiciary paints a grim picture of an increasing number of cases involving defilement and those of children in need of care and protection.

"All that I ask is that we do not normalise abuse of our children. We must practice and show *adabu* and abandon *tabia mbaya* where children are concerned. It is as simple as that," said DCJ Mwilu.

DCJ Mwilu commended all the actors in the child justice space for their commitment to the welfare, protection and improvement of the lives and future of children.

CHILD-FRIENDLY JUDICIAL SYSTEM

Special rooms equipped with play items at Gichugu Law Courts for children waiting to testify and those accompanying their parents to court. The rooms are kitted using donations from Court Users Committee members, well-wishers, judicial officers and staff.











Convicted Sexual Offenders Electronic Register launched



Chief Justice Martha Koome launched a Convicted Sexual Offenders Electronic Register in fulfilment of the Sexual Offences Act of 2006 at Kibera Law Courts.

The CJ said the register will hold a crucial database of all convicted offenders and will ensure easy access to information on convicted sex offenders for relevant authorities.

"We are sending a clear message that our society will not tolerate those who prey upon the vulnerable. We will hold them accountable, and their actions shall not go unnoticed or unpunished." CJ Koome said.

The Chief Justice noted that the automated Register will serve as a tool for deterrence, prevention and rehabilitation of sexual offenders.

"The register will enable the actors in the justice chain to monitor and supervise sexual offenders after their release from prison. It will also enable the public to access information on sexual offenders in their neighbourhoods and take precautionary measures to protect themselves and their children." She said.

The CJ also launched the Sexual and Gender Based Violence Strategy, the Child Justice Strategy and the specialized SGBV Courts in Kibera and Makadara Court Stations.

CJ Koome directed Presiding Judges and Heads of Stations in Meru, Nakuru, Kiambu, Machakos, Kisii, Kitale and Kakamega Law Courts to designate special SGBV Registries and put in place progressive Case Management Strategies to expedite the cases.

The launch of the polices reaffirms the Judiciary's commitment to the protection of the vulnerable and marginalized in the society.



Chief Justice Martha Koome flanked by Governor James Orengo and High Court Presiding Judge Daniel Ogembo presides over the launch of Siaya Law Courts as well as an SGBV Court.

New SGBV court for Siaya

Chief Justice Martha Koome designated the second specialised Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) court in Siaya County. It became the second SGBV court after Shanzu in Mombasa. The new Siaya Law Courts building that was also inaugurated will house the SGBV Court and a Small Claims Court.

While designating the Siaya SGBV Court, Chief Justice Martha Koome said that justice is not homogenous but instead must be tailored to meet the unique needs of different members of our society, especially the most vulnerable. "Today we make a significant stride in addressing one of our society's most daunting challenges – Sexual and Gender Based Violence. A clear demonstration of our unwavering commitment to eradicate such atrocities from our society," said the CJ.

Judiciary roots for efficient investigations and fast-tracking of SGBV cases



Chief Justice Martha Koome has advocated for enhanced efficiency in investigating incidents of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, and elimination of delays in hearing and determination of the cases in court.

The Judiciary is advocating for enhanced efficiency in investigating incidents of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, and elimination of delays in hearing and determination of the cases in court.

Chief Justice Martha Koome expressed concern over statistics by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics' (KNBS) 'Demographic and Health Survey' (2014), that indicate that 45 per cent of women and girls aged between 15 and 49 have experienced physical violence, while 14 per cent have experienced sexual violence in their lifetime.

"This situation is alarming and unacceptable given the serious toll that SGBV inflicts on survivors. SGBV causes physical, psychological, and emotional harm to our women, men, girls, and boys and often leads to stigma, discrimination, and social exclusion," she said at the start of the inaugural Sexual and Gender-Based Violence National Conference.

The Judiciary launched the Social Transformation through Access to Justice SGBV Court Strategy to guide the process of rolling out trauma-informed courts that will ensure expeditious and tailor-made justice to survivors. It has also rolled out 12 specialised Sexual and Gender-Based Violence courts across the country targeting hotspot areas, following the success of the pilot court in Shanzu, Mombasa.

Small Claims Court clinches innovation award

The Kenya Judiciary received the Commonwealth Access to Justice Innovation Award for its work in the Small Claims Courts.

Chief Justice Martha Loome said the Award signals the need to share the model with others and to collaborate in ensuring that common innovation database is resourced and updated.

The CJ engaged with Commonwealth Law Ministers at the CLMM 2024 in Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania on the need to adequately finance Judiciaries across the Commonwealth and globally to roll out more people-centred justice innovations such as the Small Claims Courts, specialised Courts, Mahakama Popote, Justice Innovation Hubs, Alternative Justice Systems, Barefoot Law Boxes, e-filing, Data Tracking Dashboards and other innovations which are making justice more affordable, more accessible and more efficient especially for the vulnerable and marginalised.

She said the Small Claims Courts continue to be a high impact initiative opening up avenues for faster resolution of claims under KSh1 million.

The CJ lauded Advocates for embracing the Small Claims Courts and greatly contributing to its success.

The Commonwealth under the leadership of Hon. Baroness Patricia Scotland, QC continues to spur thought and transformation in many fields, especially for the rule of law.

Small Claims Courts rolled out covers border towns

The Judiciary, through the Office of the Registrar Magistrates Courts, rolled out and operationalized 37 Small Claims Courts (SCC) in various parts of the country to facilitate access to justice.

During the roll out that focused mainly on border points, the Judiciary also conducted training for staff and sensitized stakeholders on SCC procedures and processes.

The Registrar Magistrates Courts Caroline Kabucho explained that the focus on border towns is occasioned by the rise in the number of commercial disputes being recorded due to increased trade activities in the areas.

Some of the border towns where the court has been launched include Moyale, Mandera, Busia, Malaba, Taveta, Wajir, Loitokitok, Dadaab, Kakuma and Migori.

She said the move will reduce case backlog and enhance access to justice in the country.

The court's Deputy Registrar Hon Susan Gitonga said the office is currently developing the registry manual and practice directions for the Small Claims Court.

In August 2023, Chief Justice Martha Koome gazetted 25 Small Claims Courts bringing to 37, the number of Small Claims Courts gazetted since their establishment in 2021.

The courts are mandated to determine cases that involve claims of less than Ksh 1 million.

The courts aim to reduce backlog, facilitate citizen access to justice, and directly open the courts to the public as part of the Chief Justice's vision of Social Transformation through Access to Justice and especially to the vulnerable.

69 new magistrates take Oath of Office



Newly recruited Resident Magistrate takes her Oath of Office during the swearing-in ceremony.

Chief Justice Martha Koome has described Magistrates' Courts and Small Claims Courts as "people's courts" or "the face of the justice system" as 85 per cent of cases that come to the Judiciary are heard and determined at these subordinate courts.

"This is so because it is at the Magistrates' Courts and the Small Claims Courts that the bulk of the cases - be it criminal, traffic or civil cases – that come to the justice system are heard and resolved," the CJ said.

Chief Justice was speaking when she presided over the swearing-in of 69 newly recruited Resident Magistrates, who will also serve as Small Claims Court Adjudicators.

She explained that it is at the Magistrates Court and the Small Claims Court where the highest numbers of unrepresented litigants are found, meaning that the vast majority of people's experience of the law and the justice system is drawn from their contact or interaction with the Magistrates' Courts and the Small Claims Courts.

This stark reality has instilled a resolute commitment to transform each court station, commencing with the Magistrates' Courts into bastions of excellence in service delivery, aligning with the overarching vision of 'Social Transformation through Access to Justice' within the Judiciary.

The CJ urged the magistrates to eliminate case backlog and delays in the delivery of justice, which is the most common complaint from Kenyans.

> **"You must work to meet our target of ensuring that no court case stays in a Magistrates Court for more than three (3) years, and no more than sixty (60) days in a Small Claims Court," she told the magistrates.**

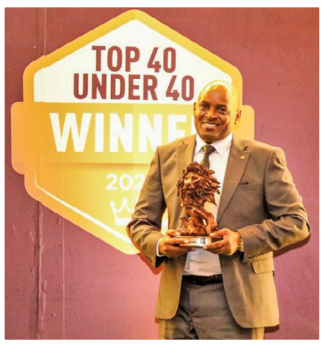
The CJ was assisted by Deputy Chief Justice Philomena Mwilu. The swearing in ceremony happened in Naivasha where the officers were also undergoing induction.



Chief Justice Martha Koome was feted with the African Female Leader of the Year award 2023 at a ceremony held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
In her acceptance speech, CJ Koome emphasised that the honour was not solely for her individual achievement, but also symbolised the collective dedication and resilience of individuals striving for excellence through out the continent.



Justice Majanja is the winner of the 2023 Judge of the Year Award.
Justice Majanja who is also a Commissioner at the Judicial Service Commission was awarded for espousing excellence in legal practice. Nairobi Legal Awards is an initiative of Law Society of Kenya (LSK) – Nairobi Branch to recognize legal practitioners who continue to make a remarkable difference in the profession. It honours legal practitioners who showcase quality standards of professionalism and lead the way on the national stage.



Magistrate feted by Business Daily as one of the top 40 men under 40 years Milimani Children's Court.
Resident Magistrate Festus Terer was feted by Business Daily as one of the top 40 men under 40 years. The annual awards recognizes remarkable men for their outstanding achievements that have impacted various sectors. Hon. Terer co-introduced and incorporated a concept known as Art and Play Therapy in the administration of children justice at Milimani Children's Court, where he is stationed.



Justice Prof. Nixon Sifuna awarded by environmental lobby for public interest litigation.
A journal titled Honoring Two Accountability Champions published in June 2023 by the World Bank the Independent Recourse Mechanism (IRM) announced that Justice Prof Nixon Sifuna is the winner of the 2022 Accountability in Action Award. Justice Prof Sifuna said he did a lot of public interest environmental litigation and that the case was referred to him by a client who told the community that they needed a lawyer who had passion for the public interest and also had an environmental background.

AJS launched in Narok as DCJ calls for gender equality



Deputy Chief Justice Philomena Mwilu, Narok Governor Patrick Ole Ntutu and Kajiado Governor Joseph Ole Lenku cut a ribbon to officially open Narok AJS Centre

Deputy Chief Justice Philomena Mbete Mwilu called for gender equality, equity and justice in the implementation of Alternative Justice Systems mechanism both in composition and process.

The DCJ noted that the major challenge affecting the legitimacy of the AJS mechanism is that it disfavors women and girls and fails to accord them the rights due to them.

Speaking during the launch of Narok AJS Centre, the DCJ emphasized that customs, norms and practices within communities and hence within AJS mechanisms are not solidified and static and thus there is need to abandon the assumption that AJS practitioners, especially elders who come from communities in which harmful and discriminatory cultural practices occur and/or prevalent, are disinterested or incapable of shifting beliefs and practices to comply with constitutional requirements.

According to Narok County Action Plan, a number of justice challenges in the County include multiple forms of gender-based violence, including sexual violence, that are prevalent across the county but often normalized, under-reported, and concealed.

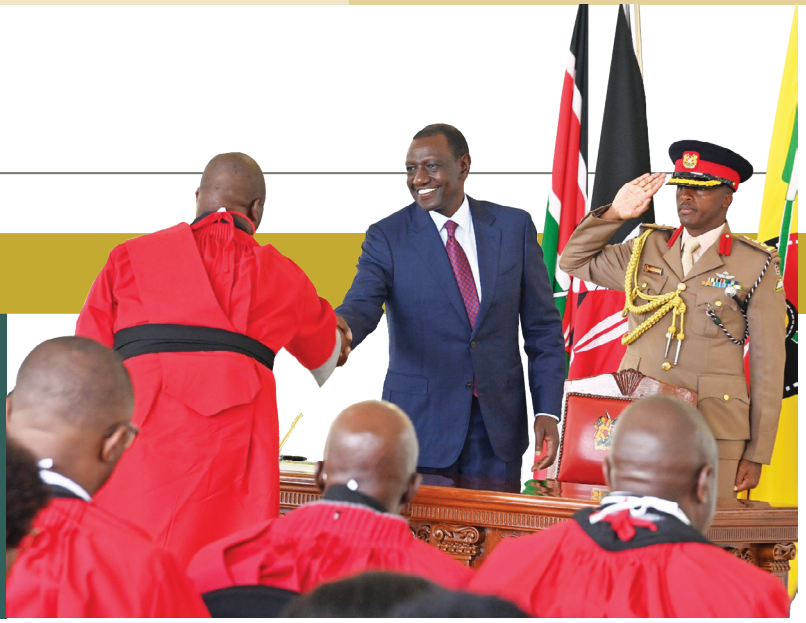
AJS Implementation Steering Committee Chairman Justice Joel Ngugi noted that Narok was the fifth county to implement the Judiciary AJS policy after Kajiado, Nakuru, Mandera and Turkana. This, he said was a commendable milestone and the Judiciary aims to get County AJS Plans for all 47 Counties.

Narok County Governor Patrick Ole Ntutu promised that his administration will prioritize supporting elders in dispute resolution, recognizing their vital role as custodians of traditional wisdom, and conflict resolution mechanisms.

Kajiado Governor, Joseph ole Lenku, noted that so far 140 out of 200 cases have been resolved through AJS in Kajiado since its inception. He added that unlike the court systems where one-size-fits-all, AJS county models are tailored to meet specific challenges facing that county.

> **"Narok was the fifth county to implement the Judiciary AJS policy after Kajiado, Nakuru, Mandera and Turkana."**

20 new Judges join the Judiciary



Twenty more judges have joined the Judiciary following a competitive recruitment process conducted by the Judicial Service Commission-JSC.

The 20 who include practicing lawyers and former magistrates took their Oaths of Office at a ceremony presided over by President William Ruto at State House, Nairobi and witnessed by the Judiciary leadership led by the Chief Justice Martha Koome.

The team is expected to help undertake a Rapid Results Initiative (RRI) in the next six months to clear 12,000 cases pending in the Family, Civil, Criminal, Anti-Corruption, Constitutional & Human Rights, Judicial Review, and Commercial & Tax divisions of the High Court.

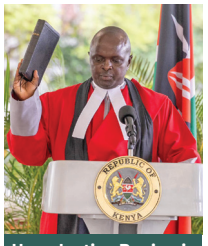
Chief Justice Martha Koome said the next phase of the RRI will target the wider Nairobi Metropolitan Area, with the aim of resolving an additional 9,000 cases. The Judiciary is also actively undertaking prison decongestion through the review of sentences for minor offences, under the Community Service Orders programme.



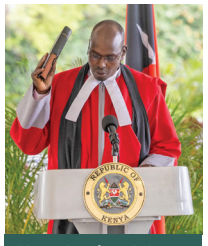
Hon. Justice Moses Ado Otieno



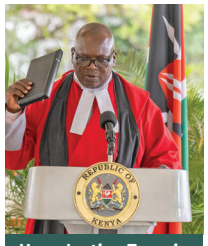
Hon. Lady Justice Alice Chepngetich Bett Soi



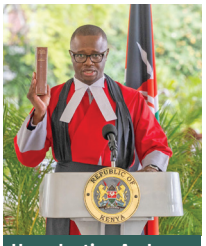
Hon .Justice Benjamin Mwikya Musyoki



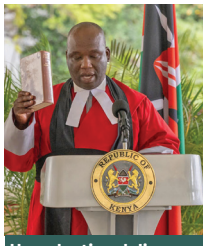
Hon. Justice John Lolwatan Tamar



Hon. Justice Francis Weche Andayi, OGW



Hon. Justice Andrew Bahati Mwamuye



Hon. Justice Julius Kipkosgei Ng'arng'ar



Hon. Lady Justice Wendy Kagendo Micheni



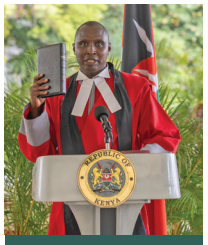
Hon. Lady Justice Emily Onyando Ominde



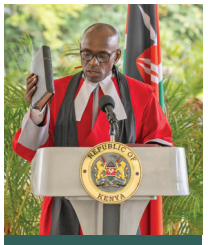
Hon. Lady Justice Helene Rafaela Namisi



Hon. Justice Alexander Muasya Muteti



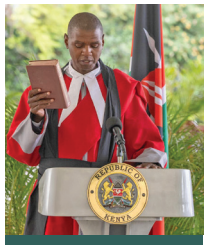
Hon. Justice Julius Mukut Nangea



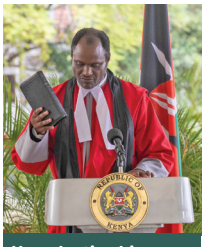
Hon .Justice Benjamin Kimani Njoroge



Hon. Lady Justice Caroline Jepyegen Kendagor



Hon. Justice Stephen Nzisi Mbungi



Hon. Justice Linus Poghon Kassan



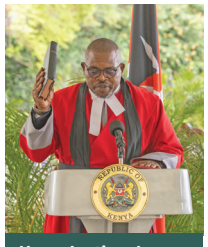
Hon. Lady Justice Noel Onditi Adagi Inziani



Hon. Lady Justice Tabitha Ouya Wanyama



Hon. Lady Justice Rhoda Cherotich Rutto



Hon. Justice Joe Omido Mkutu

Engage new strategies to combat Transnational Organised Crimes urges CJ Koome



CJ Martha Koome and Chief Justice of the Federal Supreme Court of Ethiopia Tewodros Kebede during the Africa Regional Dialogue on Adjudicating Transnational Organised Crime and Illicit Financial Flows.

Chief Justice Martha Koome has advocated for robust enforcement of laws and adoption of new strategies to combat the fast-evolving Transnational Organised Crimes and Illicit Financial Flows.

While addressing Judiciary Training Institutes, Judges and Judicial Officers from 21 African countries in Mombasa, CJ Koome noted that Transnational Organised Crimes and Illicit Financial Flows pose deep-seated threat to the social fabric, economies, and governance structures which threaten the shared vision of a prosperous, secure and peaceful Africa.

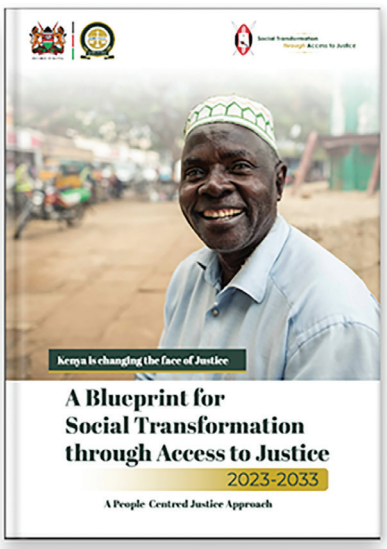
She called on Judiciary Training Institutes (JTIs) to be at the forefront in shaping a regional response, enhancing judicial capacities, and pioneering jurisprudence on Transnational Organised Crimes and Illicit Financial Flows.

Speaking during the same event, Chief Justice of the Federal Supreme Court of Ethiopia, Tewodros Kebede, underscored the need to develop indigenous jurisprudence on transnational organized crime and illicit financial flows.

Director General of the Kenya Judiciary Academy Justice Dr. Smokin Wanjala noted that as countries strengthen their individual systems, the region must also collaborate and cooperate in dealing with this menace.

COA JUDGES, REGISTRARS TRAINED

Court of Appeal Judges, the Registrar, Deputy Registrars and Legal Researchers were trained on Bank Resolution/ Insolvency and Company Law by banking and business registration service experts. The training was jointly organised by Kenya Judiciary Academy (KJA), Kenya Deposit Insurance Corporation (KICD), Business Registration Services (BRS) and Financial Sector Deepening Kenya (FSD). The Court of Appeal President, Justice Daniel Musinga, officially opened the training on behalf of the KJA Director, Justice Dr. Smokin Wanjala.



KJA HOSTS MALAWI DELEGATION

The Kenya Judiciary Academy hosted a delegation from the newly established Malawi Financial Crimes Court Division that was in the country to hold discussions with various institutions including the Judiciary on a specialized court that deals with financial and economic crimes to ensure more effective, efficient and expeditious disposal of financial crime matters. The study aimed at acquiring knowledge and insights, and to generally draw from the experiences of other courts in Africa in coming up with best practices, rules and regulations for the effective and efficient functioning of the newly established division.

The team was led by High Court Judge in-charge of the Financial Crimes Court division, Justice Prof. Redson Kapindu.

ELRC PJ Byram Ongaya on performance supervisory visits

ELRC Principal Judge Byram Ongaya visited Nyeri, Meru, Bungoma, Nakuru, Mombasa, Malindi, Kisumu, Kericho and Kakamega Law Courts to inspect ELRC courts registry & sub-registry operations and engaged with stakeholders on service delivery.

The Judge also met the respective court's judges and staff. The visits were also intended to assess the level of compliance with to the court's performance targets, Registry Operations Manual and the Service Delivery Charter. He was accompanied by ELRC Registrar Kennedy Kandet.



ELRC Principal Judge Byram Ongaya (3R) visited Nyeri & Meru Law Courts to inspect ELRC registry and sub-registry operations and engage with the stakeholders on service delivery.

ELRC Inns of Court

Employment and Labour Relations Court held its Inns of Court at Milimani Law Courts themed, "The Place of Employment and Labour Relations Court in Social Transformation through Access to Justice in Kenya. The Silent Revolution Since 2010." The President of the Court of Appeal Justice Daniel Musinga and ELRC Principal Judge Byram Ongaya as well as ELRC judges and LSK representative, were among those who attended the session.

The Employment and Labour Relations Court holds Annual Symposium

The Employment and Labour Relations Annual Symposium and Exhibition (ELRASE) was held in Nairobi where the court and its stakeholders celebrated 10 years of judicial service delivery to Kenyans. Speaking at the event Chief Justice Martha Koome said the Judiciary has established three divisions to enable the institution tackle the challenges of the ELRC's caseload effectively and deliver justice without delay.

Deputy Chief Justice Philomena Mwilu urged delegates to reflect on the place of the court and all its key stakeholders in relation to the Social Transformation through Access to Justice (STAJ) vision towards developing realistic, contextual and sustainable strategies through which dispensation of justice in this critical area can be substantially improved.

ELRC Principal Judge Byram Ongaya said the symposium was part of the continuing national conversation about implementation of the Kenya Vision 2030 and the Constitution of Kenya, 2010.

All About the City Court



Hon. Roseline A. Oganyo
Chief Magistrate,
Kajiado Law courts
(Formerly CM-Nairobi City County Court).

Mandate

The history of the Court can be traced back to the repealed Local Government Act, cap 205 under which towns were classified to municipalities and Nairobi was brought under municipal council of Nairobi under the Act, the minister was authorized to gazette what was termed as municipal laws and were operationalized as By-laws. The by-laws uphold different areas of law for purposes of enforcement and are not meant to conflict with the national laws enacted by the National Assembly.

Types of cases

1) Traffic matters: licensing matatu or public service vehicles, their operations, places designed for their parking, bus stop destinations, fees payable, classification of vehicles. This also extended to private vehicles parking, traffic lights and rules and violations of the same. (Donor Act being Traffic Act)
2) Public Health Matters: provision of the Public Health Act like control of diseases by ensuring health standard requirements on traders in the food industry, manufacturing, hotel and management business, building inspections to ensure occupational safety, examination of food products like meat, fish and expiry of goods to avoid contamination.
3) Criminal matters: petty criminal matters, Offences like loitering for the purpose of prostitution, obstruction, damage to property of municipal council, etc.

Other by-laws are;
Alcoholic Drinks Act, Physical planning and Urban planning Act NEMA Act, Water Act, Food and Beverage Act, Public Health Act, Traffic Act and others

***Quasi*-civil cases**: Rates defaulters, valuation, defiance of compliance Procedures: Matters are filled at the court through gazetted precentors who act on donated powers from the office of the ODPP or the AG. The charge sheets are of a general format devoid of other technicalities. Rules of engagement are a bit flexible unlike the ordinary courts but the standard of proof is not less than that required of the normal Court.

Jurisdiction; Handles matters arising out of laws which have been passed by the County Government of Nairobi including the functions which were devolved.

Arrests

Enforcements of the by-laws and the laws under the County Assembly are done by the city askaris operating under the national powers in most cases. The police would also arrest on their own especially petty crimes like flouting, obstruction and others and register their cases through the county government registry.

The Judiciary is housed at City Hall and it renders judicial services upon cases, being investigated and registered by the county government or City Hall officers.

Process of Appeal: The appeals are directly lodged before the High court.

If the city laws conflict with the Constitution the provisions of the Constitution will prevail.

DPAC trains journalists on Court Reporting



Journalists join judges and staff for a group photo during a training organised by Judiciary's Directorate of Public Affairs and Communication

The Judiciary through the Directorate of Public Affairs and Communication trained journalists on tenets of court reporting to equip them with necessary skills on court procedures. The training themed: 'Judiciary Transformation and its Implication for Media,' saw the journalists drawn from all media houses across the country cover topics such as; Court of Appeal: The paperless court with no adjournment policy, Citizen Journalism and Media Ethics: Navigating the new era of faceless unaccredited media with huge following, Judging the Judiciary: Balancing the media's watchdog mandate with professional, responsible reporting, Media Law: Navigating the Minefield of Defamation and Libel.

The journalists also spoke on their experiences while reporting on justice in Kenya as the Deputy Registrar in Charge of Automation in the Judiciary Hon Elizabeth Tanui appraised the workshop on digitization of the Judiciary under the topic: Going Digital: Appraisal of Judiciary's Automation Milestones. The forum also saw journalists taken through the complaints handling process by the Office of the Judiciary Ombudsman Hon Kennedy Bidali.

Presenters included Supreme Court Judge and Chair of Public Affairs and Communication Committee Justice Isaac Lenaola, Court of Appeal President Justice Daniel Musinga, High Court Judge Dr Joseph Sergon and Employment and Labour Relations Judge Hellen Wasilwa. Others were the Director of Media Training and Development, Media Council of Kenya (MCK) Mr Victor Bwire and UNODC's Head of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice for Eastern Africa, Ms Charity Kagwi-Ndung'u.

The training was supported by the Programme for Legal Empowerment and Aid Delivery in Kenya (PLEAD), through UNODC.



KISUMU
Kisumu Court of Appeal Presiding Judge Hannah Okwengu led a team of court officials on a visit of Kisumu Maximum Security Prison to deliberate on court issues affecting inmates and expeditious delivery of justice.



MPEKETONI
Mpeketoni Law Courts Senior Resident Magistrate Pascal Nabwana led the station's CUC on a visit to Hindi GK Prison where they held an inaugural meeting to deliberate on combating violent extremism and radicalization in Lamu region.



MERTI
Senior Resident Kadhi Mustafa Shunu of Merti Law Courts conducts a Mobile Court session in Biliqo Bulesa that was also attended by Chiefs, elders and religious leaders.



KABARNET
Judicial officers from Kabarnet Law Courts led by Justice Rachel Ngetich during a meeting with inmates at Kabarnet Prison to deliberate on expeditious disposal of their cases as well as adoption of Alternative Justice System (AJS) in dispute resolution, ahead of the planned decongestion exercise at the facility.



KILUNGU
Kilungu Law Courts led by Principal Magistrate Felix Makoyo hosts pupils of Kavatanzou Primary School during their visit of the court to learn about the justice system and court processes.

Judiciary awards the best performing courts



Judiciary leadership led by Chief Justice Martha Koome is joined by Public Service Commission chair Ambassador Anthony Muchiri during the launch of PMMUs Evaluation Report.

The Judiciary unveiled its 7th cycle of Performance Management and Measurement Understanding (PMMU) evaluation report where various courts and units were recognized for their exemplary performance.

The 7th cycle of the Judiciary's performance management evaluation for the financial year 2021/22 presented the results of 299 units that comprised of 266 courts, 12 Tribunals, 8 Registrars, 10 directorates and the offices of the Judiciary Ombudsman, Office of the Chief Registrar of the Judiciary and the Kenya Judiciary Academy.

Some of the courts that were recognized are the Supreme Court for achieving a case clearance rate of 154 per cent and reducing case backlog by 22 per cent, while Nairobi Court of Appeal, Civil Division emerged the overall best performing Court of Appeal. Others are Naivasha Magistrates' Court for overall best performing Magistrates' Court in the caseload category of above 3,000 cases and Milimani Commercial Magistrates' Court for being the best Magistrates' Court in case backlog reduction.

The 1st cycle of PMMU implementation was in 2015/2016 when 227 units signed and were all evaluated.

PMMU INNOVATIONS

INNOVATION	DESCRIPTION	IMPACT
Decree Calculator	This is a web-based application that requires the user to fill out a form with the relevant details after which it calculates costs, interests and generates a decree.	Using the Decree Calculator, a decree can be generated within a fraction of the time compared to the previous periods. It is simple to use since any registry staff can use it with minimal training.
Mahakama Popote	Mahakama Popote is an initiative where courts with a lower workload handle matters virtually from courts with a relatively high workload.	1.The initiative improves: - Access to justice by fast-tracking the hearing and determination of cases bringing justice closer to the public, - Improves equity in work distribution and increased productivity amongst judicial officers. 2. It is cost-effective
Performance Management Evaluation System (JPMES)	The system is built using open source technologies and is designed to simplify the process of performance evaluation and reporting.	1. JPMES enhances accuracy by ensuring consistent and accurate evaluations by using standardised criteria, avoiding manual errors, and providing real-time data analysis. 2. It has also increases efficiency by streamlining the performance evaluation process, reducing the time and effort required for data entry and analysis.

IAWJ new team

Court of Appeal Judge Hellen Omondi is the new President of the International Association of Women Judges - Kenya Chapter (IAWJ - Kenya Chapter) following the Chapter's AGM. Justice Omondi replaced Justice Agnes Murgor whose term came to an end. During the AGM, they also elected other members of the executive committee and regional representatives.

The Executive Committee members comprises of :

Lady Justice Hellen Omondi, President
Lady Justice Cecilia Githua, Vice President
Lady Justice Maureen Onyango - Treasurer
Hon Elizabeth Juma – Vice Treasurer
Hon Hellen Onkwani – Secretary
Hon Jane Kamau – Vice Secretary
Lady Justice Agnes Murgor - President Emeritus
Lady Justice Hannah Okwengu – Representing Court of Appeal Judges
Lady Justice Mumbi Ngugi - Representing Court of Appeal Judges
Lady Justice Lucy Gacheru representing Judges of the High Court and Courts of Equal Status.
Lady Justice Roselyne Korir representing Judges of the High Court and Courts of Equal Status.
Hon Beatrice Kimemia – Representing Magistracy
Hon Irene Kahuya – Representing Magistracy
Hon Rhoda Kinyatta – Representing Magistracy

To effectively coordinate the affairs of the association, the Chapter also elected five regional representatives

Nairobi Region

Hon Catherine Khakasa
Hon Noelle Kyanya

Mt. Kenya

Lady Justice Florence Muchemi
Lady Justice Lucy Gitari

Western Region

Lady Justice Teresa Odera
Lady Justice Mwanaisha Sharrif

Rift Valley Region

Lady Justice Rachel Ngetich
Hon Juliana Ndeng'eri

Coast Region

Lady Justice Theresia Matheka
Hon Mildred Obura

New KMJA team

Justice Stephen Radido of the Employment and Labour Relations Court is the new president of the Kenya Judges and Magistrates Association (KMJA). Justice Radido was elected into office by members of the Association at an election conducted by the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC). The Judge is expected to serve for two years and is eligible for re-election.

Kenya Magistrates and Judges Association (KMJA)

Justice Stephen Okiyo Radido - **President**
Hon Rhoda Yator - **Vice President**
Hon Tom Mark Olando - **Secretary General**
Hon Daffa Hassan Omar - **Vice Secretary General**
Justice Edward Muriithi - **Treasurer**
Hon Kiongo Kagenyo - **Vice Treasurer**

Meet the Chief Kadhi



Chief Kadhi Hon Abdulhalim Hussein Athman

Born on April 10, 1970 at Watamu in Malindi, Kilifi County, Chief Kadhi Abdulhalim Hussein Athman wanted to be an advocate of the High Court. He went to Watamu Primary School and later proceeded to Malindi High School. The young Athman would later engage in menial jobs working for local hotels to earn a living as he waited to join University to pursue further education. He also doubled as a teacher tutoring pupils at Ngala Memorial Primary School and Town Secondary School in Malindi town.

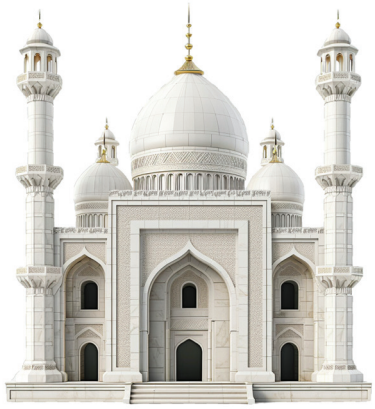
As fate would have it, Abdulhalim Hussein Athman left the country and went to Egypt where he spent 9 years "hustling" and studying Arabic Law. He started off at Al Azhar Institute in Alexandria Egypt for his Secondary Islamic education before proceeding to University.

"I wanted to study Law, so when I got the opportunity to study Islamic Law, it was close to what I wanted so I went ahead and enrolled for a Bachelor of Arts in Islamic Law at Al-Azhar University, Cairo, Egypt," he said.

He also attended a specialized judicial course at the Higher Judicial Institute, King Imam Muhammad bin Saud, Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Hon. Abdulhalim H. Athman, joined the Judiciary in 2005 upon his return to the country and rose through the ranks from Kadhi II, Kadhi I, Senior Kadhi, Principal Kadhi and Senior Principal Kadhi. He worked in different Kadhi Courts in the country starting with Kwale, Mombasa, Isiolo and Nairobi.

He has contributed to the development of several publications and rules in the Kadhi's Court including the Kadhi Court Rules of Procedure, Muslim Marriage Rules, the Kadhi's Bench Book and the Kadhi's Court (Procedure & Practice) Rules (2020). He is a certified Professional Mediator (CPM) (MTI) and chairs the



Muslim Marriage Committee under the Marriage Act, 2014. Chief Kadhi Abdulhalim's judgments which are widely published in the eKLR have contributed to legal awareness and development of local Islamic jurisprudence to the world. He is very active in sensitization, advocacy and education in the mainstream media and social media platforms on Islamic Family Law. He was awarded the Huduma Ombudsman (Individual Category) Award and Head of State Commendation (HSC) in 2015 for dedication and excellence in service in the Judiciary.

Kadhi Abdulhalim, a father of three is married to one wife. He says that he delayed in marrying because of his education pursuits, although he is still open to marrying more wives. However, he says that he feels that he is now too old and would not want to have more children.

When he is not presiding over matters at the Kadhis Court, Kadhi Abdullahim loves taking walks, swimming and reading. He was also an avid blood donor and has 10 certificates for his participation in the exercise, but not until he was advised against it owing to his age.



MOMBASA
Chief Kadhi Abdulhalim Hussein engages students of Imani Girls High School, Mombasa, on the Kadhi's Court, its operations and services.



CHUKA
Judicial staff at Chuka Law Courts in a joint files reorganization exercise at the court's criminal registry to expedite delivery of justice in the area.



NAIVASHA
Deputy Chief Justice Philomena Mwilu leads a tree planting activity at the Naivasha Law Courts as part of the 'Greening the Judiciary' strategy under the institution's STAJ blueprint.



ELDORET
ELC Judge Jane Muyoti leads the court and stakeholders in a tree planting exercise. Among those present were Uasin Gishu Governor Jonathan Bii, Court of Appeal Judge Fred Ochieng and Justice Reuben Nyakundi.



GITHUNGURI
Judiciary staff at Githunguri Law Courts field questions from a member of the public on the court's services during the station's Open Day.



ISIOLO
Isiolo Chief Magistrate Lucy Mutai leads Isiolo Court Users Committee members in laying a foundation stone at Isiolo Women GK Prison in support of the construction of a daycare center at the prison to host children whose mothers are incarcerated.



ITEN
Iten Environment and Land Court Judge Lucy Waithaka with Elgeyo Markwet County Court Users Committee members, judicial officers and staff on a visit to G.K Prison Tambach, to get feedback and deliberate on issues concerning inmates, and expeditious delivery of justice. The team also donated assorted items to inmates.



KAPSABET
Kapsabet High Court Presiding Judge Joseph Karanja with Nandi County Governor Stephen Sang when he paid a Courtesy Call on the judge to discuss areas of collaboration with regard to the court's infrastructure.



KANGUNDO
Kangundo Law Courts, LSK and ODPP officials led by Hon Daniel ole Keiwua interact with children from New Scent centre.



KARATINA
Karatina Law Courts Head of Station Eva Kanyiri presides over the launch of Court Annexed Mediation (CAM) at the station.



KENOL
Kenol Law Courts and justice sector actors led by Head of Station Sheila Nyaga hold a procession in Kenol Town during the court's Open Day held to sensitize members of the public on court and justice-related services.



KERICHO
ELC Judge Lynette Omollo leads the court and its stakeholders in a tree planting exercise at Kericho Medium Prison.



KERUGOYA
Kerugoya High Court Presiding Judge Richard Mwongo with Scott Asphaug when the judge led a training session for the Kirinyaga County Court Users Committee on plea bargaining, diversion, active case management and sentencing policy guidelines.



KIBERA
Kibera High Court Judge Diana Mochache leads the station's CUC in a sensitization forum on ways of stemming Sexual & Gender Based Violence following the launch of an SGBV court at the station.



KITUI
Kitui High Court Presiding Judge Robert Limo and Kitui Governor Dr Julius Malombe cut cake to mark the launch of Court Annexed Mediation in the area.



KIGUMO
Kigumo Law Courts staff engage with a member of public on the court's services during an Open Day that was led by Head of Station Senior Principal Magistrate Joan Irura at Muthithi Catholic Church.



KISII
Kisii Law Courts Presiding Judge Sila Munyao leads a tree planting exercise at Kisii during the nationwide Tree Planting Week spearheaded by the Environment and Land Court.



KITALE
Kitale High Court Presiding Judge Anthony Mrima when he presided over the launch of the Trans-Nzoia County Court Users Committee (CUC).



KODIAGA PRISON DECONGESTION
High Court Judges led by Principal Judge Eric Ogola conduct a prison decongesting exercise targeting prisoners that were serving short sentences for minor offences at Kodiaga GK Prison in Kisumu.

LIMURU
Limuru Law Courts Head of Station Jared Magori leads the station during its Open Day held to demystify court procedures and sensitise members of the public on the process of succession.





LAMU
Lamu Law Courts Resident Magistrate Flavian Mulama presides over a virtual court linked to Milimani Small Claims Courts and advocates in different locations.



GARISSA
Garissa High Court Presiding Judge John Onyiego with ELC Judge John Mutungi and Mandera Law Courts Head of Station Peter Wasike leads Judiciary officials in a meeting with Mandera Governor Mohamed Adan Khalif to discuss areas of collaboration with the county government.



MARSABIT Marsabit Law Courts Principal Magistrate Simon Arome conducts a mobile court at Loiyangalani in Marsabit County.



GARBA TULLA
Garba Tulla Kadhi's Court held its Open Day. Principal Kadhi, Ibrahim Tullu took time to explain to the community about Social Transformation through Access to Justice, tenets of AJS and Mediation. He also guided them on Judiciary's transition to e-filing and told those who need help where to get it in the court.



KABARNET
Moi University Criminology students attend court proceedings at Kabarnet Law Courts to have a feel of the court and learn about court processes as well as other court procedures.



NYAMIRA
Nyamira Law Courts during its Open Day and tree planting activity led by High Court Presiding Judge Wilfrida Okwany and ELC Judge Mugo Kamau.



NYANDARUA
Nyandarua High Court Presiding Judge Charles Kariuki together with Ol Kalou Law Courts Head of Station Judicaster Nthuku cut a cake when they led judicial officers and staff as well as other stakeholders in an Open Day and tree planting activity in Ol Kalou town.



RONGO
Rongo Law Courts Head of Station Crispine Oruo leads the court and it's CUC in an Open Day in which they engaged members of the public on court processes.



RUIRU
Ruiru Law Courts Head of Station Joseph Were leads the court and it's CUC in marking its 5th anniversary during an Open Day attended by Thika High Court Judge Florence Muchemi and Ruiru MP Simon Kang'ara.



MADIANY
Judiciary officer at Madiany Law Courts engage with a member of public on court processes and procedures during an Open Day organized by the court in conjunction with actors in the justice chain to sensitize public on court and justice-related services.



TAKABA
Takaba Kadhi's Court Senior Resident Kadhi Hussein Mohammed, members of Takaba Court Users Committee as well as Judiciary's Directorate of Building Services officers QS David Ruto and Architect Jaffar Suleiman visit the proposed site for the construction of modern courthouse.



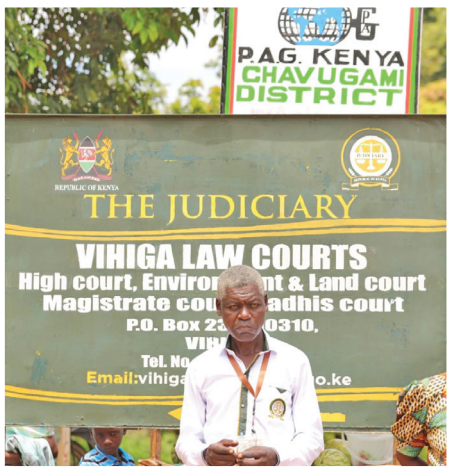
TAMU
Tamu Law Courts and its CUC led by Head of Station Amos Makoross during the launch of a Court Annexed Mediation registry and an Open Day at Muhoroni market to create legal awareness and promote public understanding of court procedures and processes as well as roles of various actors in the justice system.



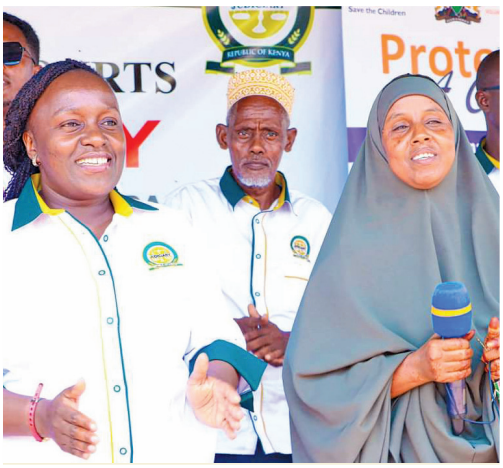
THIKA
Thika ELC Judge Grace Kemei when she led the court and it's CUC during the Open Day and tree planting exercise.



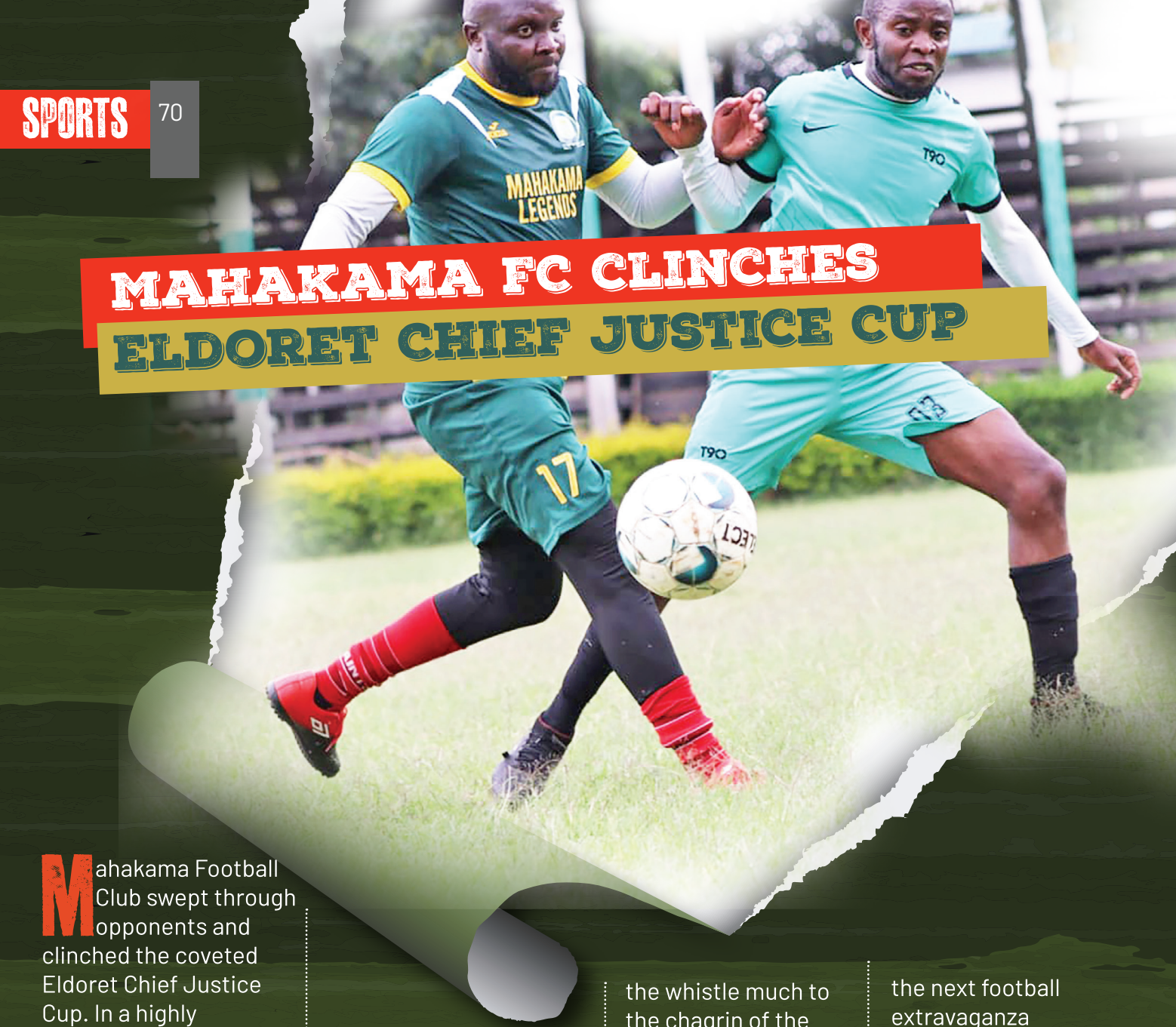
NAKURU
Nakuru Environment and Land Court led by Justice Anthony Ombwayo and Head of Station Elizabeth Juma during a tree planting exercise and environmental awareness.



VIHIGA
Members of the public follow proceedings during an Open Day at Vihiga Law Courts that was led by ELC Judge Esther Asati and Head of Station Jacqueline Agonda.



WAJIR
Wajir Law Courts Head of Station Rosalynn Aganyo leads the court and its CUC during an Open Day held to sensitize the public on court services.



MAHAKAMA FC CLINCHES ELDORET CHIEF JUSTICE CUP

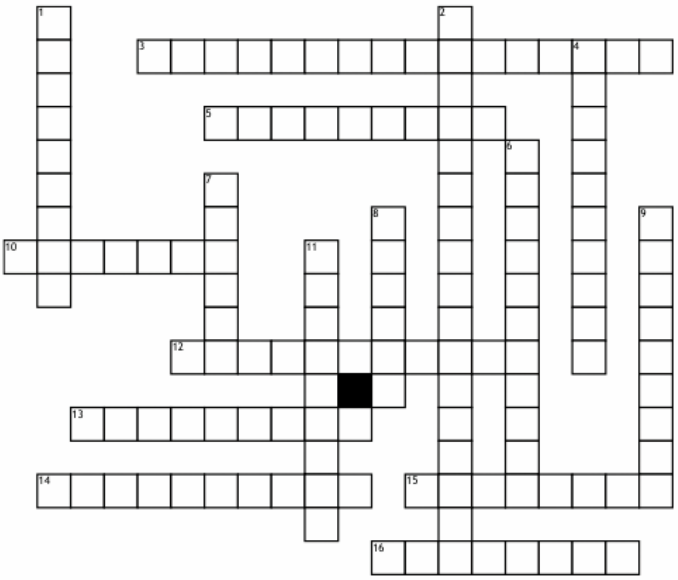
Mahakama Football Club swept through opponents and clinched the coveted Eldoret Chief Justice Cup. In a highly competitive tournament, the team comprising of Judicial Officers and staff whitewashed LSK Eldoret Chapter 3:1 in an exciting match played at the Kipchoge Keino Stadium in Eldoret to lift the title. The Judiciary team also beat Prison FC 3:1, Uasin Gishu County FC 1:0 and Jua Kali FC 2:0 in earlier fixtures of the tournament before lifting the gold.

Mahakama FC also bludgeoned Bunge FC 4:3 at a friendly fixture played at Nyayo stadium. Members of Parliament were left in awe as the Judicial officers and staff came from a goal behind to smash three in a row within 15 minutes of the second half to level at 3:3. The fate of the legislators was sealed when skipper Leakey Kemboi converted a late cross from the 18-line making it 4:1 before the referee blew the whistle much to the chagrin of the crestfallen MPs.

Elsewhere, Bunge FC emerged runners-up in the Annual Majanja Cup Tournament held at the Multi-Media University in Nairobi. 10 teams participated in the tournament that is sponsored by High Court judge and JSC Commissioner David Majanja. In June, Mahakama FC faces KPA Legends and Machakos FC in the next football extravaganza fixtures.

Justice Majanja is the Patron of Mahakama FC, the team captain is Milimani Senior Principal Magistrate Bernad Ochoi and its Coached by Martin Aganda. Other officials are Leakey Kemboi, Organising Secretary and Duncan Odima as Team Manager.

Legal Terminology



Across

3. The questioning of a witness by the lawyer for the opposing side.

5. The judge, following an objection, decides the questions may continue.

10. The decision of guilty or not guilty that is handed down by the jury.

12. An accusation of a crime, made against a person by the prosecutor.

13. The opposing side finds fault with the question being asked the witness.

14. The result of a criminal trial in which a person is found guilty.

15. A trial that becomes invalid, is essentially canceled, because of a mistake in procedure.



16. The punishment given to a person who has been convicted of a crime.

Down

1. The judge, following an objection, agrees that the line of questioning should not continue.

2. The first questioning in a trial of a witness by the lawyer who called that witness.

4. An accusation of a crime, made against a person by a grand jury upon the request of a prosecutor.

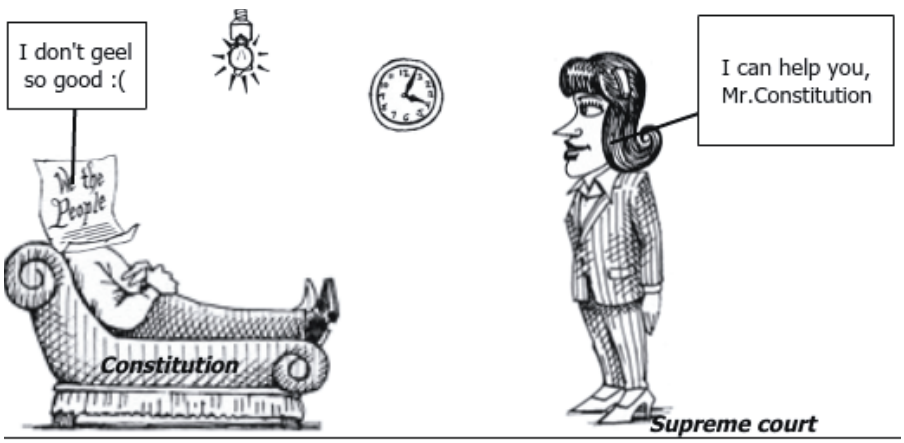
6. When the accused is brought before the court to hear the charges against the person to plead guilty or not guilty.

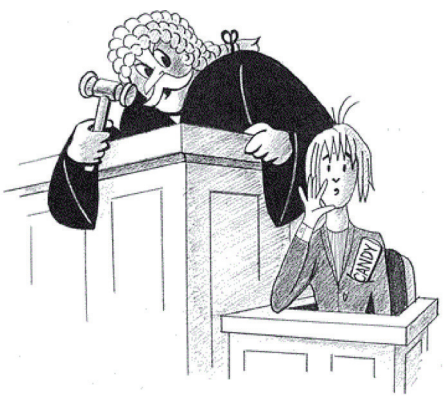
7. How a lawyer asks the judge to make a decision.

8. A request for a higher court to review a decision made by a lower court.

9. A legal determination that a person who has been charged with a crime is innocent.

11. The way a judge is addressed in a courtroom.





...a "hearing" is where no one listens...



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