REPUBLIC OF KENYA

THE JUDICIARY



The State of the Judiciary & the Administration of Justice

Annual Report 2024/2025







Popular Version

THEME:

Enhancing Accountability and Public Trust in the Judiciary

Social Transformation *through* Access to Justice

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Social Transformation
through Access to Justice

VISION

To be an independent institution of excellence in the delivery of justice to all.

MISSION

To dispense justice in a fair, timely, accountable and accessible manner, uphold the rule of law, advance indigenous jurisprudence, protect and promote the Constitution.



The State of the Judiciary and the Administration of Justice

ANNUAL REPORT

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FOREWORD FROM THE CHIEF JUSTICE



> It is important to emphasise that combating corruption requires a whole-of-society approach. This vice has permeated deeply into our culture, value systems, and governance structures. Over time, it has been normalised, concealed, and even rationalised. Therefore, to effectively fight this vice, the government and Kenyans must work together to transform values and behaviours across all levels of society."
>
> **Hon Chief Justice Martha Koome**

I am honoured to present *'the State of the Judiciary and the Administration of Justice'* (SOJAR) Report for the Financial Year 2024/25 to Parliament and to the people of Kenya. This annual report is a constitutional and statutory accountability mechanism through which the Judiciary reports on its performance in discharging judicial functions. It reflects our steadfast commitment to the principles of transparency, integrity, and accountability that anchor the administration of justice.

This year's SOJAR outlines the milestones achieved, reforms undertaken, and challenges encountered as we strive to deliver on our constitutional mandate of ensuring access to justice for all. In addition, in line with its thematic focus on *'enhancing accountability and public trust in the Judiciary'*, the Report highlights institutional initiatives undertaken to entrench integrity and root out corruption from our judicial and administrative processes.

It is important to emphasise that combating corruption requires a whole-of-society approach. This vice has permeated deeply into our culture, value systems, and governance structures. Over time, it has been normalised, concealed, and even rationalised. Therefore, to effectively fight this vice, the government and Kenyans must work together to transform values and behaviours across all levels of society. Put differently, eliminating corruption must be a whole-of-government and whole-of-society endeavour that brings together the Executive, Legislature, Judiciary, Independent Commissions, Agencies in the Justice Sector, the Law Society of Kenya, civil society, the private sector, religious institutions, and, above all, citizens who are committed to upholding integrity and embracing ethical conduct as a national value and personal duty. Within the Judiciary, we have adopted a Zero Tolerance Policy on Corruption, anchored

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Commission (JSC) processed petitions and disciplinary cases against judges, judicial officers, and staff, ensuring that misconduct was addressed firmly, fairly, and transparently. The establishment of the Employee Protection Unit (EPU) and the Employee Protection and Inclusivity Committee (EPIC) created safe and confidential channels for reporting workplace sexual harassment and misconduct. Together, these interventions have fostered a culture of integrity and accountability across the institution.

Recognising that public trust is built on openness and ethical conduct, the Judiciary prioritised communication and engagement as key enablers of accountability. The establishment of the Judiciary Spokesperson's Office, hosting of Judiciary Dialogue Day and Open Days, and strengthening of citizen feedback mechanisms deepened interaction with the public and stakeholders. These forums provided platforms for direct engagement, promoting dialogue and mutual learning that inform our strategies for improving service delivery.

The Judiciary intensified efforts to reduce backlog, recognising it as a barrier to timely justice. Service Weeks and Rapid Results Initiatives (RRIs) were deployed to clear long-pending matters, particularly in family, commercial, tax, and public interest cases. Notably, the Judiciary recorded significant gains in case disposal. A total of 621,425 cases were filed as compared to 647,686 resolved cases, reflecting a Case Clearance Rate of 104% - a historic achievement in reducing pending cases. Backlog declined by 30%, with the most notable reductions in Magistrates' Courts and the High Court. An analysis of case filings by type revealed an 8% overall decline in criminal cases and a 58% increase in civil cases compared to the previous year. This increase in civil cases was largely driven by the rapid expansion of Small Claims Courts, which now number 40 nationwide.

Significant progress was made in expanding judicial presence across the country. A new Court of Appeal sub-registry was operationalised, bringing the total number of the court's sub-registries to six. In the same token, a new High Court station was established, and five High Court sub-registries became operational in counties that do not host High Court stations. This expansion now ensures High Court presence in all 47 counties, with 47 High Court stations and seven sub-registries. An Appeal Division was created for the Environment and Land Court, raising the number of the court's divisions to three, while two new sub-registries were added, increasing the total sub-registries to six.

At the subordinate court level, six new Magistrates' Courts were operationalised, increasing the total number of stations to 143. The rollout of Small Claims Courts continued with three new courts established, bringing the total number of operational Small Claims Courts to 40, supported by one sub-registry. The Retirement Benefits Appeals Tribunal transitioned to the Judiciary, bringing the total number of tribunals operating under the Judiciary to 27. Shared services were also launched in Nairobi and Kisumu for tribunals to enhance access to justice and optimise resources.

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In addition, the Mahakama Popote initiative enabled redistribution of caseloads across stations through digital platforms, easing congestion in high-volume areas and expanding access to justice. A total of 19,089 cases identified in these courts were redistributed to judicial officers in other stations with lower caseloads, out of which 14,240 were resolved. This enhanced access to justice by reducing case backlog.

The use of Alternative Justice Systems (AJS) and Court-Annexed Mediation (CAM) provided faster, less adversarial, and more affordable dispute resolution pathways, restoring relationships and reducing systemic pressure on courts. During the year, 14 new CAM registries were established bringing the number of court stations where CAM was adopted to 94 court stations. AJS County Action Plans were launched in six additional counties, increasing the total to ten counties where the AJS policy is now being implemented as a means of expanding access to justice through multiple doorways.

Digitisation continued to transform judicial services. Investments in e-filing, the Case Tracking System (CTS), transcription services, and the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system streamlined workflows, and reduced reliance on manual processes. These reforms have made judicial services more transparent, efficient, and accessible to the public.

The Judiciary's performance in FY 2024/25 reflects a strong and steady trajectory of reform anchored in the 'Social Transformation through Access to Justice' (STAJ) blueprint. It demonstrates a justice system that is becoming more open, more inclusive, and more responsive to the needs of the people.

I express my appreciation to Honourable Judges, Judicial officers, and staff for their dedication, resilience, and commitment to service. I also thank the Government, justice sector partners, and stakeholders for their unwavering support in building a justice system that is fair, accessible, efficient, and faithful to our Constitution and the rule of law.

Hon Justice Martha K. Koome, EGH
Chief Justice and President of the Supreme Court of Kenya

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NOTE FROM THE DEPUTY CHIEF JUSTICE



The Judiciary recognises that public trust is essential if it is to be effective in delivering and promoting justice provision. Ensuring and enhancing accountability in all aspects of the Judiciary's operations, judicial and administrative, is crucial to cultivating public trust in the institution.

During the reporting period, the Judiciary took steps to enhance accountability, through transformative jurisprudence, strengthening administrative and disciplinary systems, and improved access for, outreach to, and communication with, court users and the public whom the institution is duty bound to serve. Notable interventions during the reporting period saw the strengthening of the Judiciary complaints handling systems, establishment of the Employee Protection Unit in the Office of the Chief Justice, and the setting up of Court Integrity Committees across the institution as part of the implementation of the Judiciary's anti-corruption policies, particularly through addressing weaknesses and risks identified in the EACC Systems Audit undertaken in 2022.

The Judiciary took deliberate steps to improve communication and information sharing with court users and the public, hosting the inaugural Judiciary Dialogue Day in January 2025 and establishing a Judiciary Call Centre. In addition to making the institution more accessible through expanded physical infrastructure and improved virtual accessibility, the Judiciary continued to undertake outreach programmes, notable amongst them was the lecture and dialogue series by the Supreme Court as part of its Supreme Court @ 12 celebrations.

The SOJAR Report reflects the institutions commitment to building and maintaining public trust through transparency, fairness, competence, integrity, accessibility, and engagement & communication. Whilst significant gains have been made, the institution is alive to the challenges many continue to face in accessing justice through our courts and tribunals. That is why the assessment and engagement with this Annual Report by all justice system stakeholders is so important. The solutions and strategies to overcome our justice challenges require a whole-justice-system/whole-of-society approach based on authentic collaboration and partnership in guiding decisions about present and future justice. The SOJAR Report provides a frank, honest, evidence-based platform from which such a discourse can be conducted towards socially transformative justice for all.

Hon Lady Justice Philomena Mbete Mwilu, FCIArb., ADE, EGH
Deputy Chief Justice & Vice President of the Supreme Court of Kenya

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF REGISTRAR OF THE JUDICIARY



It is an honour to join the Chief Justice in presenting the SOJAR Report for the FY 2024/20245, a report that carries profound importance in the continuum of our annual reporting tradition. This report aims to deliver an in-depth overview of the Judiciary's initiatives, accomplishments, and obstacles encountered throughout the financial year, underscoring the commitment to transparency, accountability, and a people-centered justice system.

During the review period, the Judiciary continued to advance its transformative vision under the Social Transformation through Access to Justice Blueprint, with Accountability and Public Trust identified as a key outcome of this framework. The year emerged as a pivotal moment for enhancing institutional integrity, optimising service delivery, and strengthening frameworks that guarantee the equitable, transparent, and efficient administration of justice for all stakeholders.

The report outlines the Judiciary's steadfast approach in its dedication to fostering a culture of accountability through improved financial scrutiny, comprehensive internal and external audits, fortified performance management systems, and the implementation of integrity frameworks including the establishment of Court Integrity Committees. These mechanisms have not only fostered transparency but also reinforced the notion that the legitimacy of the Judiciary is fundamentally rooted in the confidence and trust of the populace it serves.

Digitisation efforts were intensified through the expansion of the Case Tracking System (CTS), e-filing, and automated registries, making judicial processes more visible and accessible. Equally, the operationalisation of public feedback channels, stakeholder forums, and Judiciary Open Days bridged the gap between the courts and the citizens, fostering a responsive justice system.

Our collective progress is also the product of dedicated Judges, Judicial Officers, and Judiciary Staff who uphold integrity and excellence in service delivery. Their contributions have strengthened the Judiciary's function not merely as a provider of justice but also as a paragon of accountability within the public sector.

As we continue to implement the STAJ Blueprint, the Judiciary remains resolute in sustaining reforms that promote ethical leadership, transparency, and efficiency. Building and maintaining public trust is not a one-off achievement, but a continuous pursuit that demands vigilance, discipline, and commitment to the rule of law.

Hon Winfridah B. Mokaya, CBS
Chief Registrar of the Judiciary

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The State of the Judiciary and Administration of Justice Report (SOJAR) for FY 2024/25 presents a comprehensive account of the Judiciary's performance, reforms and innovations in delivering justice. During the review period, the Judiciary expanded access to justice through new courts, sub-registries, tribunals, and specialized divisions. The Court of Appeal opened a Garissa sub-registry, bringing the total to six, the High Court added two courts in Isiolo and Makadara expanding its presence to 47 stations in 42 counties and the Environment and Land Court established an Appeals Division in Nairobi. Six new Magistrates Courts were operationalized increasing the total number of Magistrates' Courts in the country to 143 stations in 133 constituencies, while 3 Small Claims Courts were established increasing the total to 40. The Retirement Benefits Appeals Tribunal transitioned to the Judiciary, bringing to 27 the number of tribunals now operating under its administration out of 43 gazetted tribunals. Fourteen new Court-Annexed Mediation (CAM) registries were set up, increasing the total to 82 across 42 counties. Case filings rose by 20% to 621,425, while resolutions increased by 25% to 647,686, achieving a clearance rate of 104%. Criminal filings fell by 8%, whereas civil filings rose by 58%, largely driven by Small Claims Court matters. Pending cases reduced by 3% to 601,490, and backlog cases (over one year old) fell by 30% to 177,081, mainly in the High Court and Magistrates' Courts. Women comprised 28% of litigants in superior courts, 11% in magistrates' courts, 32% of tribunal applicants, 35% in Kadhis' Courts, and 20% in Small Claims Courts. Children's cases accounted for 7% of all filings.

Through the *Mahakama Popote* initiative, 19,089 cases from high-volume courts were redistributed to stations with lower caseloads, resulting in 14,240 cases being resolved. A total of 677 cases were concluded through Alternative Justice Systems (AJS) in counties where the Judiciary was actively monitoring referrals. The Prison Decongestion Programme, launched at the Industrial Area Remand and Maximum Prison, reviewed 3,157 cases, leading to probation placements, community service orders, sentence reductions, and releases.

The Supreme Court delivered landmark rulings on inheritance, environmental accountability and legislative processes. The Court of Appeal clarified matters on succession, remuneration and tribunal jurisdiction, while the High Court issued significant decisions on criminal justice, housing, prisoners' rights and presidential appointments. Specialised courts, tribunals and Small Claims Courts advanced jurisprudence in labour rights, land governance, child protection and contract enforcement. Alternative Justice Systems also contributed to resolving complex disputes through community-based mechanisms.

Technology further enhanced efficiency and access through the Judiciary Mobile App, alongside improvements in case tracking, AI speech-to-text transcription and digital

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connectivity, now covering 177 courts and offices nationwide.

The Judiciary has made significant progress in strengthening accountability through reforms, policies, and institutional innovations. Mechanisms such as OJO, EPU, JCMS, and the Call Centre have enhanced transparency, while disciplinary and financial oversight reforms have reinforced integrity. Achievements such as a 90% complaint resolution rate, high staff appraisal compliance, and asset recovery demonstrate real progress. However, challenges remain in resource gaps, corruption risks, and gender disparities. Moving forward, the Judiciary will deepen ICT integration, expand ethics training, and sustain oversight mechanisms to strengthen public trust in the administration of justice.

A total of 322,295 court case files across 128 stations were digitised under the Mahakama Digitisation Programme, representing 53 per cent of the targeted 611,580 files while 15,249 administrative records were digitised.

Construction projects in Marimanti Law Courts and Dagoretti Law Courts were completed, while planned developments in Mihang'o and Kasarani were deferred due to funding constraints.

The staffing level stood at 6,979, representing 64 per cent of the approved establishment of 10,870 positions. This comprised 202 judges, 566 Magistrates, 46 Kadhis. 143 Tribunal members, 48 Registrars, 150 Law Clerks and Legal Researchers and 5,824 staff.

The Judiciary was allocated KSh 22.78 billion against a requirement of KSh 44.90 billion, leaving a funding gap of KSh 22.12 billion (49%). Nonetheless, budget absorption improved to 98% in FY2024/25, while revenue collections surpassed the target at KSh2.88 billion, largely driven by increased court fees and automation. The funding deficits of KSh 22.12 billion had a far-reaching implication on the Judiciary's ability to deliver on its constitutional mandate. Underfunding of recurrent expenditure, which covered critical operational needs such as salaries, contractual obligations and other operational expenses, undermined efficiency and contributed to the growing backlog of cases.

Equally, the underfunding of the development budget affected infrastructure expansion, court construction, modernisation of courtrooms, and investment in ICT systems. As a result, efforts to enhance access to justice, digitise court operations and decentralise judicial services were significantly hampered. The Judiciary will continue to engage with Parliament and other stakeholders for an increase in the budgetary allocation to the institution, and to have this allocation anchored in the law as envisioned in the Social Transformation through Access to Justice Blueprint.

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MUHTASARI WA RIPOTI

Ripoti ya Hali ya Mahakama na Utawala wa Haki kwa mwaka wa fedha 2024/25 inatoa maelezo ya kina kuhusu utendaji wa Mahakama, mageuzi na ubunifu uliotekelezwa katika utoaji wa haki.

Katika kipindi cha mwaka wa fedha 2024/25, Mahakama ilipanua upatikanaji wa haki kupitia uanzishaji wa Mahakama ndogo za usajili, mabaraza na vitengo maalum (Tribunals). Mahakama ya Rufaa ilifungua ofisi ndogo ya usajili mjini Garissa, na kufanya jumla ya ofisi hizo kuwa sita. Mahakama Kuu iliongeza vituo viwili vipya vya mahakama katika Isiolo na Makadara, hivyo kuifanya iwe na mahakama arobaini na saba (47) katika kaunti arobaini na mbili (42), huku Mahakama ya Mazingira na Ardhi ikianzisha Kitengo cha Rufaa jijini Nairobi. Mahakama za Hakimu sita (6) zilifunguliwa, na kuongeza jumla ya Mahakama za Hakimu nchini hadi vituo mia moja arobaini na tatu (143) katika maeneo bunge mia moja thelathini na ttau (133), huku Mahakama Ndogo za Madai tatu (3) zikianzishwa, na kufanya jumla yake kuwa arobaini (40).

Baraza Maalum la Marupurupu ya Kustaafu ilihamishwa rasmi chini ya usimamizi wa Mahakama, na kufanya jumla ya Baraza Maalum zinazoendeshwa na Mahakama kufikia ishirini na saba (27) kati ya arobaini na tatu (43) zilizoidhinishwa. Vituo vipya 14 vya usajili wa mfumo wa Upatanishi Ulioambatanishwa na Mahakama vilizinduliwa, na kufanya jumla ya mifumo hiyo kuwa themanini na mbili (82) katika kaunti arobaini na mbili (42).

Idadi ya kesi zilizowasilishwa iliongezeka kwa asilimia ishirini (20) hadi kufikia milioni mia sita ishirini na moja, mia nne ishirini na tano (621,425), huku zilizotatuliwa zikiongezeka kwa asilimia ishirini na tano (25) hadi mia sita hamsini na saba elfu, mia sita themanini na sita (647,686), na kufanikisha kiwango cha utatuzi cha asilimia mia moja na nne (104). Kesi za jinai zilipungua kwa asilimia nane (8), huku kesi za madai zikipanda kwa asilimia hamsini na nane (58), hasa kutokana na ongezeko la kesi katika Mahakama Ndogo za Madai. Kesi zinazoendelea zilipungua kwa asilimia tatu (3) hadi mia sita na moja elfu, mia nne na tisini (601,490), na kesi za mrundiko (zilizozidi mwaka mmoja) zikapungua kwa asilimia thelathini (30) hadi elfu mia moja na sabini na saba, themanini na moja (177,081), hasa katika Mahakama Kuu na Mahakama za Hakimu. Wanawake walikuwa asilimia ishirini na nane (28) ya walalamikaji katika mahakama za juu, asilimia kumi na moja (11) katika mahakama za hakimu, asilimia thelathini na mbili (32) katika Mahakama Maalum, asilimia thelathini na tano (35) katika Mahakama za Kadhi, na asilimia ishirini (20) katika Mahakama Ndogo za Madai. Kesi za watoto zilichangia asilimia saba (7) ya kesi zote zilizowasilishwa.

Kupitia mpango wa 'Mahakama Popote', jumla ya kesi elfu kumi na tisa na themanini na tisa (19,089) kutoka mahakama zenye mizigo mikubwa zilisambazwa upya kwa vituo vyenye mzigo mdogo wa kazi, na matokeo yake kesi elfu kumi na nne, mia mbili na arobaini (14,240) zilitolewa uamuzi. Kesi mia sita, sabini na saba (677) zilitatuliwa kupitia mifumo mbadala

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ya haki (Alternative Justice Systems – AJS) katika kaunti ambako Mahakama ilikuwa ikifuatilia utekelezaji. Mpango wa kupunguza msongamano wa wafungwa magerezani uliozinduliwa katika Gereza la Eneo la Viwanda (Industrial Area) ulipitia kesi elfu tatu, mia moja Hamsini na saba (3,157), na kusababisha baadhi ya wafungwa kupewa kazi za kuhudumia jamii, kupunguziwa vifungo au kuachiliwa. Mahakama ya Upeo ilitoa maamuzi muhimu kuhusu urithi, uwajibikaji wa mazingira na michakato ya kisheria. Mahakama ya Rufaa ilifafanua masuala kuhusu mirathi, mishahara na mamlaka ya Tribunals, huku Mahakama Kuu ikitoa maamuzi yenye uzito kuhusu haki za wafungwa, makazi, haki za jinai, na uteuzi wa viongozi wa serikali. Mahakama maalum, Baraza Maalum (Tribunals) na Mahakama Ndogo za Madai ziliendeleza tafsiri ya sheria katika nyanja za haki za wafanyakazi, usimamizi wa ardhi, ulinzi wa watoto na utekelezaji wa mikataba. Mifumo mbadala ya utoaji haki pia ilichangia kutatua migogoro tata kupitia njia za kijamii.

Teknolojia iliendeleza ufanisi na upatikanaji wa huduma kupitia Programu ya Rununu ya Mahakama, Mfumo wa Usimamizi wa Wageni na Mtandao wa Mahakama, sambamba na maboresho katika ufuatiliaji wa kesi, uandishi wa hati kwa kutumia teknolojia ya Usemi wa AI kwa Maandishi, na miunganisho ya kidijitali ambayo sasa inafikia mahakama na ofisi mia moja sabini na saba (177) kote nchini.

Ofisi ya Mpatanishi wa Mahakama ilitatua asilimia tisaini (90) ya zaidi ya malalamiko elfy moja mia mbili (1,200) kuhusu huduma, hasa yale yanayohusiana na huduma katika Mahakama za Hakimu. Malalamiko ya uadilifu yalihusu zaidi mahakimu na watumishi wa mahakama, ambapo kesi mia moja na kumi (110) ziliwasilishwa dhidi yao, na kesi mia moja (100) dhidi ya majaji, nusu ya ambazo tayari zimekamilika. Kesi za kinidhamu zilihusisha maafisa wa mahakama kumi (10) na watumishi wa mahakama mia moja na kumi na tano (115), na kusababisha adhabu, kufutwa kazi, kujiuzulu au kurejeshwa kazini.

Miradi ya ujenzi ya Mahakama za Marimanti na Dagoretti ilikamilika, huku miradi iliyopangwa katika Mihang'o na Kasarani ikiahirishwa kutokana na ukosefu wa fedha.

Jumla ya mafaili ya kesi mia tatu ishirini na mbili elfu, mia mbili tisini na tano (322,295) kutoka vituo mia moja ishirini na nane (128) yalihifadhiwa kidijitali chini ya Programu ya Udijitali Mahakamani, sawa na asilimia Hamsini na tatu (53) ya la faili mia sita na kumi na moja elfu, mia tano na themanini (611,580) yaliyolengwa, huku rekodi zingine elfu kumi na tano, mia mbili arobaini na tisa (15,249) pia zikihifadhiwa kwa mfumo wa kidijitali.

Idadi ya watumishi wa Mahakama ilifikia elfu sita, mia tisa sabini na tisa (6,979), sawa na asilimia sitini na nne (64) ya nafasi zilizothibitishwa elfu kumi, mia nane na sabini (10,870). Hii ilijumuisha majaji mia mbili na mbili (202), mahakimu mia tano sitini na sita (566), makadhi arobaini na sita (46), wanachama wa Mahakama Maalum mia moja, arobaini na tatu (143), wasajili arobaini na nane (48), na wasaidizi wa kisheria nia moja Hamsini (150).

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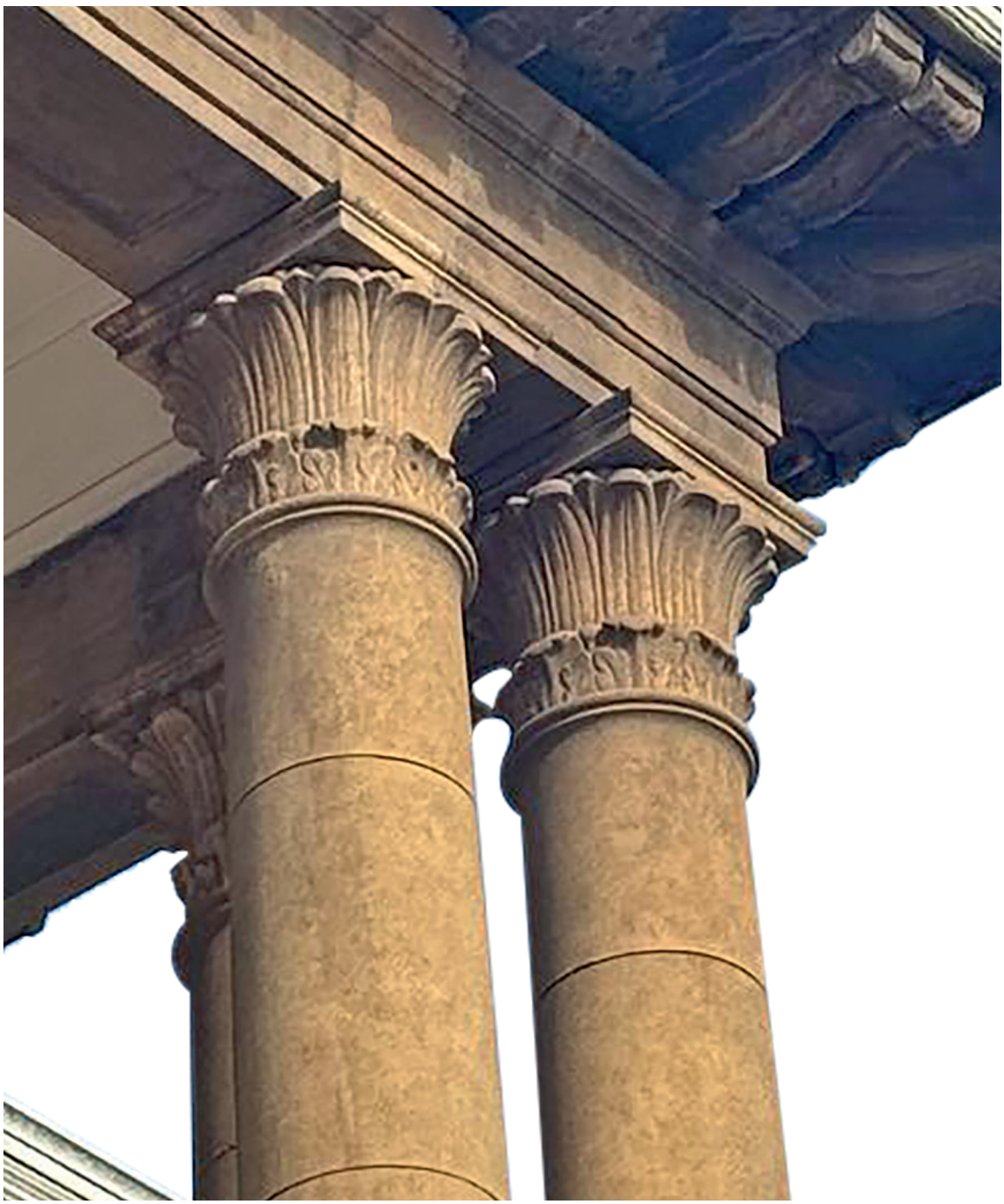
Mahakama ilitengewa KSh 22.78 bilioni dhidi ya mahitaji ya KSh 44.90 bilioni, na kuacha pengo la KSh 22.12 bilioni (asilimia arobaini na tisa (49). Hata hivyo, matumizi ya bajeti yaliboreka hadi asilimia tisini na nane (98) katika mwaka wa fedha 2024/25, huku mapato yakizidi malengo kwa kufikia KSh 2.88 bilioni, hasa kutokana na ongezeko la ada za mahakama na matumizi ya mifumo ya kidijitali.



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THE JUDICIARY'S STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The operations of the Judiciary are anchored in the Social Transformation through Access to Justice Blueprint, which provides the institution's strategic direction for the period 2023 - 2033. The Blueprint responds to constitutional imperatives while aligning the Judiciary to emerging trends in governance, technology, and access to justice.



During Financial Year 2024/2025, the Judiciary pursued a wide range of initiatives designed to strengthen institutional performance, safeguard constitutional mandates, and build lasting public trust. Anchored in the STAJ Blueprint, these reforms addressed governance and integrity, security, gender justice, digitisation, institutional expansion, efficiency in case management, alternative justice pathways, prudent resource management, and staff welfare. Collectively, they reinforced the Judiciary's vision of a responsive, independent, and people-centred institution. These areas reflect both long-term strategic priorities and the need to respond to emerging challenges in the justice sector.



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THE SUPREME COURT OF KENYA

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

JUDICIARY AT A

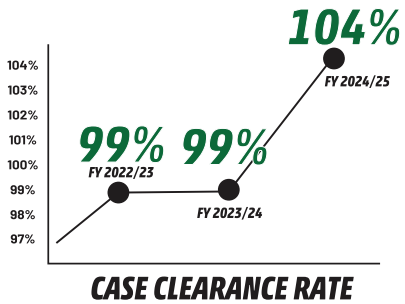
FY 2024/2025

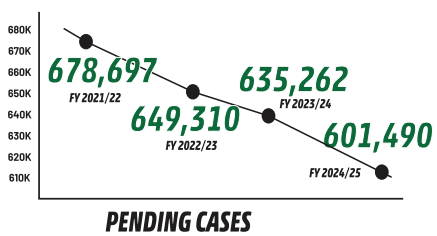
Reducing Case Backlog

Cases Filed: 621,425

Cases Resolved: 647,686

Case Clearance Rate 104%





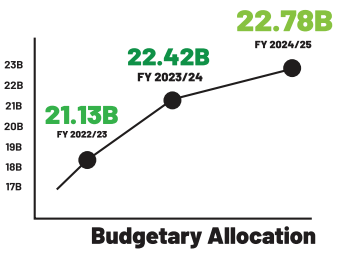
Strengthened Financial Mechanisms

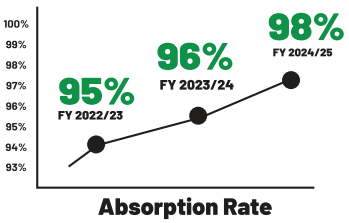
Budgetary Allocation FY 2024/2025

Ksh 22.78B

BUDGETARY GAP KSHs22.12B









Expanding Doorways of Justice

- New 1 COA Sub- Reg
- New 2 HIGH COURTS
- New 6 MAGISTRATES COURTS
- New 3 SMALL CLAIMS COURTS
- New 14 CAM Registries

MAHAKAMA POPOTE
19,089 CASES FILED
14,240 CASES RESOLVED

59 MOBILE COURTS
7,872 CASES FILED
6,751 CASES RESOLVED

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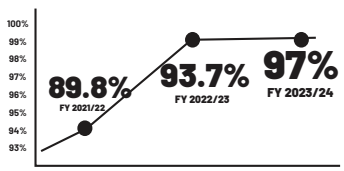
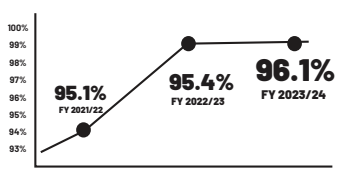
Excellence in Service Delivery

97% **96.1%**



Overall Institutional Performance



Average Individual Performance

Accountability in the Judiciary

1,206 COMPLAINTS & ENQUIRIES

90% RESOLVED

214 COMPLAINTS AGAINST JUDGES

82 CONCLUDED

DISPLINARY CASES	Handled
JUDICIAL OFFICERS	10
STAFF	115

Overall Staff Complement **6,979**

68% FY 2023/24 → **64%** FY 2024/25

Due to an Expanded Establishment

Overall Staff Complement

Judges 202
Magistrates.....566
Kadhis 46
Tribunal members 143
Registrars 48
Law Clerks and Legal Researchers 150
Staff..... 5,824

Leveraging Technology For Delivery Of Justice

322,295
Cases digitized through mahakama digitization programme

Status of Internet connectivity

- No. of stations connected: **177 Stations**
- No. of internet links: **214 Stations**
- Bandwidth Distributed: **7.405 Gbps**
- Technology: FIBER - 95(44%) RADIO - 79(35%) SATELLITE - 32(15%) MODEMS -12(6%)



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SHARED LEADERSHIP

Figure 1.1.2: Leadership and mandate of the Judiciary's leadership teams

1 Judiciary Honours Advisory Committee

Chair
Hon Lady Justice Martha Koome

Consider and propose Judiciary personnel who merit national honours for outstanding service.

2 Employee Protection and Inclusion Committee (EPIC)

Chair
Hon Lady Justice Njoki Ndungu

Oversees the implementation of policies, establishes safe reporting mechanisms for complaints, and reports incidents of sexual harassment to the Chief Justice for appropriate measures.

3 Judiciary Committee on Elections (JCE)

Chair
Hon Lady Justice Njoki Ndungu

Advise the Judiciary on administrative arrangements and measures for efficient processing of election related disputes. The committee also works in collaboration with KIA to develop and implement training programmes on efficient and effective management of election disputes.

4 Integrated Court Management Systems Committee (ICMS)

Chair
Hon Mr Justice Isaac Lenaola

Enhances utilization of ICT in all judicial and administrative functions, including guiding collaboration with other justice sector actors so as to advance the administration of justice.

5 Public Affairs and Communication Advisory Committee (PAC)

Chair
Hon Mr Justice Isaac Lenaola

Develop and implement the Judiciary's Communication Strategy and Policy, and manage information gateways within and outside of the Judiciary.

6 Judiciary Security Committee

Chair
Chair Hon Mr Justice William Ouko

Ensure proper security coverage for all court stations, Judges, Judicial Officers, Staff, Court users and Judiciary installations.

8 Building, Infrastructure and Facilities Development Committee (BIDC)

Chair
Hon Mr Justice William Ouko

Guarantees strict adherence to the Judiciary project masterplan, prudent contract management for all construction projects and proper accountability of the Judiciary's physical assets.

9 Human Resource Management and Administration Committee (HRMC)

Chair
Hon Lady Justice Fatuma Sichale

Operationalise the Judiciary's organisation structure, advise on human resource gaps within the institution, cater for welfare of all employees and institutionalise a performance based culture for operations.

10 Administration of Justice and Performance Management Committee (AJPMC)

Chair
Hon Lady Justice Agnes Murgor

Ensures courts are established in all parts of the country, in line with the STAJ Blueprint. The Committee also undertakes the performance review of all courts and administrative units in the Judiciary.

11 Rules Committee

Chair
Hon Mr Justice G. V. Odunga

Propose rules to guide and facilitate efficient procedures before courts and tribunals to compliment the Civil Procedure Act (Cap 21) and any other applicable law.

12 Judiciary Public Finance Management Steering Committee (JPFMSC)

Chair
Hon Winfridah Mokaya

Ensures the Judiciary Fund is operationalised, equitable allocation of resources to all spending units, and proper utilization of the funds to meet fiduciary requirements. The committee is statutorily chaired by the Chief Registrar of the Judiciary.

LMTs
Leadership and Management Teams
Chaired by Presiding Judges, or Heads of Station to manage the affairs of courts stations

Court User Committees
CUCs
Provide a platform for actors in the justice sector at local or regional level to consider collaborative ways to improve service delivery

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1.2.1 Transparency and Accountability

The Judiciary advanced accountability and transparency through the expansion of e-filing, the Case Tracking System (CTS), and public cause-list portal. These innovations made case progress visible to litigants and the wider public, minimised delays, and enhanced data integrity, thereby strengthening confidence in judicial outcomes.

Recognising that public trust is built on openness and ethical conduct, the Judiciary prioritised communication and integrity as core strategies. Responsive feedback channels were established, and the office of the Judiciary Spokesperson was created to improve public engagement and media relations. Regular public-facing forums such as the Judiciary.

Dialogue Day and Open Days provided opportunities for direct interaction between the public, stakeholders, and the Judiciary, enabling the exchange of ideas and concerns to improve service delivery.

In reinforcing integrity, the Chief Justice launched the Anti-Corruption Strategic Guiding Framework for Kenya's Justice Sector which is aimed at fostering a robust, transparent, and accountable justice system that proactively addresses the multifaceted challenges posed by corruption Within the Judiciary, this was complemented by the operationalisation of codes of conduct, the strengthening of court integrity committees, and sector-wide initiatives under the National Council on the Administration of Justice (NCAJ). Together, these measures supported a culture of transparency, ethical practice, and impartiality, reinforcing the Judiciary's role as a trusted guardian of justice.



March 25, 2025: The Chief Justice and other NCAJ actors and development partners at the launch of the Anti-Corruption Strategic Guiding Framework for Kenya's Justice Sector.

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Access to Justice

Initiatives to Enhance Access to Justice:

The Judiciary continued to expand and innovate to fulfil its constitutional mandate under Articles 6(3) and 48 to ensure equitable access to justice.

Establishment of Courts and Sub-Registries: Access to justice was broadened through the establishment of new courts and registries.

Establishment of courts and sub-registries and transition of Tribunals

Court	FY 2023/24		Established in FY 2024/25		Total	
	Stations	Sub- registries	Stations	Sub- registries	Stations	Sub-registries
Supreme Court	1	2	-	-	1	2
Court of Appeal	6	6	-	1	6	7
High Court	46	7	1	1	47	7
ELRC	10	11	-	-	10	11
ELC	40	3	-	2	40	5
Magistrates Court	137	-	6	-	143	-
Kadhis Court	47	-	-	-	47	-
Small Claims Court	37	1	3	-	40	-
Tribunals (Transited to the Judiciary)	26	3	1	-	27	3

Key Backlog Reduction Initiatives:

Circuits and Mobile Courts: Circuits remained an effective means of taking justice closer to litigants, with 2,956 cases resolved after 79 circuits were conducted across all courts. 59 Mobile courts handled 7,872 new cases and resolved 6,751, serving marginalised and underserved regions of the country.

Strengthening Tribunals' Shared Services: Centralised service centres for Tribunals were launched in Nairobi and Kisumu to streamline services through shared registries, courtrooms, digital hubs, and archives. In Kisumu, over 150 cases were registered within weeks of launch.

Mahakama Popote: This digital innovation redistributed cases across court stations, allowing judicial officers in less busy stations to support high-volume courts. Out of 19,089 redistributed cases, 14,240 were resolved. Guidelines were developed to guide fair and transparent workload allocation.

Service Weeks and Prison Decongestion: Service weeks across the Courts and Tribunals were conducted. 2,507 cases in the High Court and 1,723 Tribunal cases were cleared, with special sessions held for children's matters and succession cases. A Rapid Results Initiative in Nairobi prison handled 3,157 matters to ease prison congestion.

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Social Justice and Pro Bono Services: Efforts to strengthen social justice, such as plea bargaining, community service, and diversion programs were done during the year. The judiciary allocated KSh 86 million for pro bono legal services to support indigent litigants.

Simplifying Court Procedures: User-friendly guides and manuals on court processes were developed and shared across all levels of the Judiciary, including e-guides for self-representing litigants, case management guides for the Court of Appeal, and registry manuals for specialised courts and tribunals.

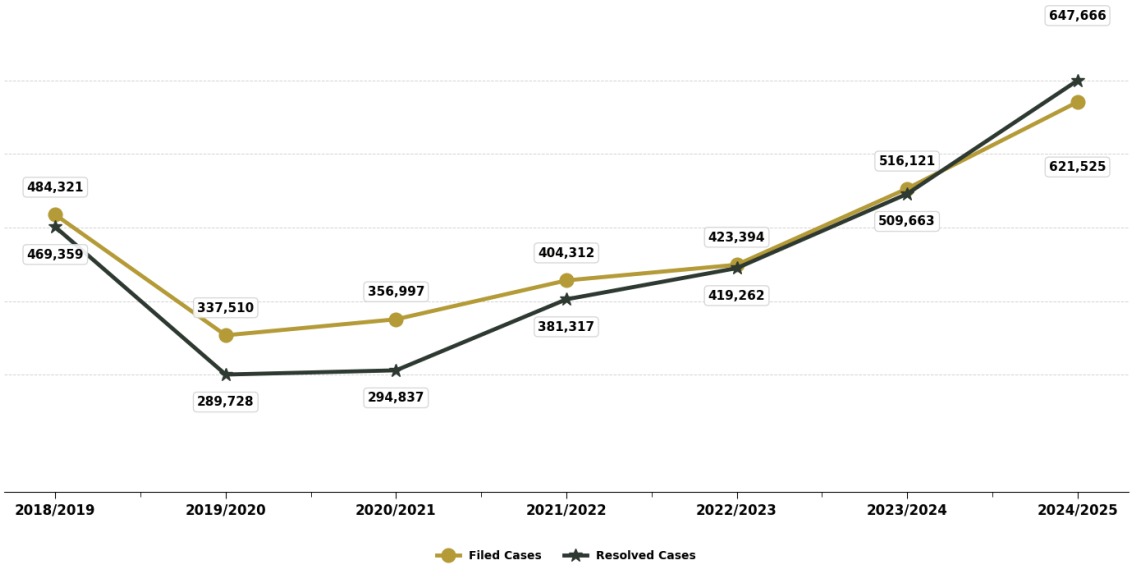
Caseload Statistics:

In FY 2024/25, case filings rose to 621,525 cases, up by 20% from 516,121 the previous year. This is largely due to the expansion of the Small Claims Courts from 11 to 40 stations.

Case resolution also increased by 25% from 509,664 to 647,666 achieving a clearance rate of 104% and reducing pending cases.

Filed Criminal cases declined by 8%, while civil cases filed rose by 58% reflecting efforts of prosecutorial reforms, decriminalization of minor offences, and the growing role of Small Claims Courts.

Resolved criminal cases stood at 263,127 (a slight rise from 262,912 in the previous year). 384,539 civil cases were concluded, reflecting broad increases across most court levels, except for Kadhis' Courts, which registered a decline in resolution.



Trends in Filed and Resolved Cases

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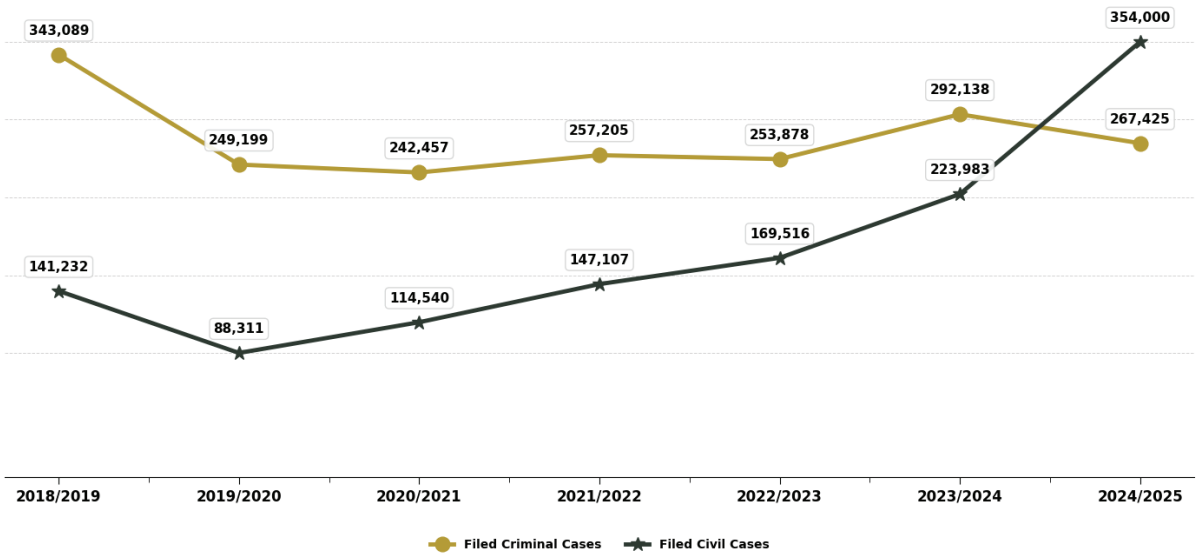
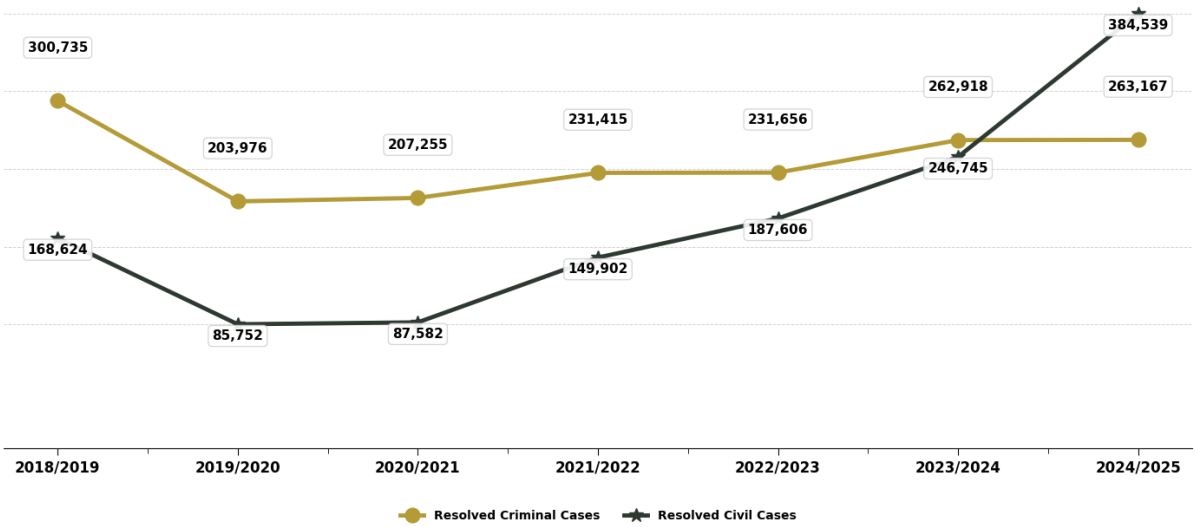


Trends in Filed Criminal and Civil Cases



Trends in Resolved Criminal and Civil Cases

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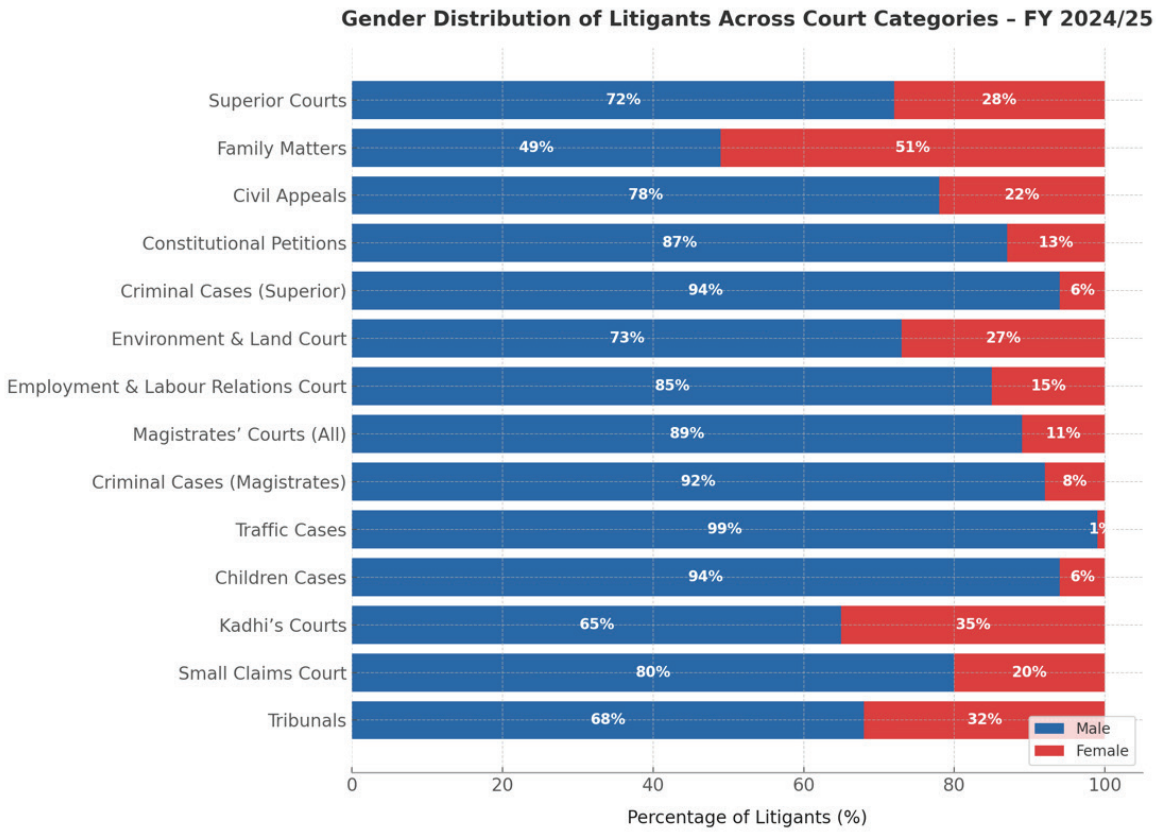
Filed and resolved cases by type and court

Court Rank	Filed Cases			Resolved Cases			CCR (%)
	Criminal	Civil	All	Criminal	Civil	All	
Supreme Court	-	70	70	-	72	72	103%
Court of Appeal	1,269	3,587	4,856	1,177	2,541	3,718	77%
High Court	19,756	28,456	48,212	18,261	38,275	56,536	117%
Employment & Labour Relations Court	-	4,854	4,854	-	6,389	6,389	132%
Environment & Land Court	-	8,923	8,923	-	10,331	10,331	116%
Magistrates' Courts	246,476	124,976	371,452	243,689	144,606	388,295	105%
Tribunals	-	11,246	11,246	-	14,536	14,536	129%
Small Claims Courts	-	158,357	158,357	-	155,227	155,227	98%
Kadhis' Courts	-	13,555	13,555	-	12,562	12,562	93%
All Courts	267,501	354,024	621,525	263,127	384,539	647,666	104%



Case volumes vary sharply across counties.

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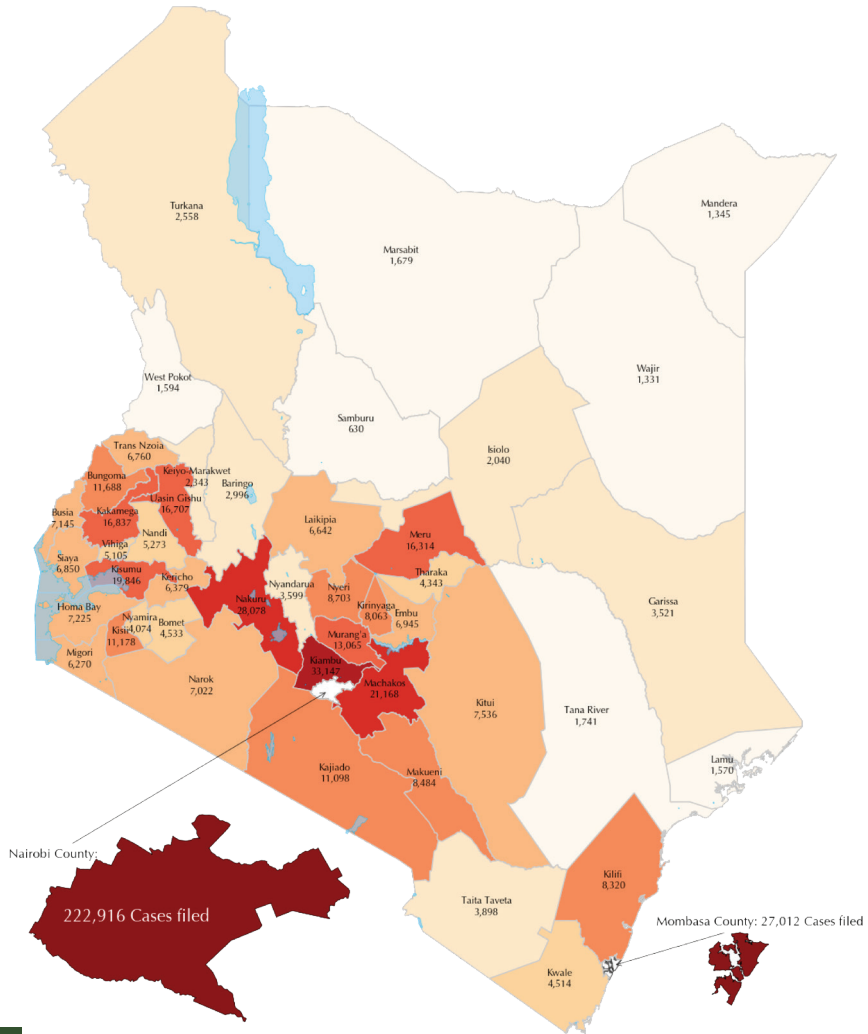
Case Filings by County and Case Type Trends

- **Nairobi County** recorded the highest number of case filings at **222,916,** which is six times higher than the second-highest county, Kiambu (33,147).
- The **top ten counties:** Nairobi **(222,916)**, Kiambu **(33,147),** Nakuru **(28,078),** Mombasa **(27,012),** Machakos **(21,168),** Kisumu **(19,846),** Kakamega **(16,837),** Uasin Gishu **(16,707)**, Meru **(16,314)**, and Murang'a **(13,065)** account for **68%** of all national filings.
- **Samburu, Wajir, Mandera, Lamu, West Pokot, Marsabit, and Tana River** each recorded **fewer than 2,000 filings,** reflecting limited access to justice and smaller populations.
- **Rural and pastoralist counties** such as **West Pokot (83%), Elgeyo-Marakwet (79%), Turkana (78%), and Samburu (78%)** exhibit a **dominance of criminal** cases, linked to socio-economic and geographic factors.
- **Urban counties** including **Nairobi (75% civil), Kisumu (61%)**, and **Uasin Gishu (61%)** show a strong **tilt towards civil disputes,** primarily involving **land, property, contracts, and family matters.**
- These contrasts underscore the **need for differentiated resource allocation,** expanding **criminal courts, prosecutors, and legal aid** in rural regions, while strengthening **civil divisions, mediation frameworks, and case management systems** in urban hubs.



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Case Backlog and Pending Caseload Trends

As of **30th June 2025,** a total of **598,628 cases** were pending across all court stations representing a **3% reduction** from **635,262 cases** recorded the previous year. This decline reflects the impact of ongoing judicial efficiency initiatives such as **Mahakama Popote, service weeks,** and **enhanced case tracking and performance monitoring systems.**

Significant reductions were observed across several court levels, notably in the **High Court (-8%), Environment and Land Court (-11%) Tribunals (-22%), and Magistrates' Courts (-7%).** However, slight increases were recorded in the Court of Appeal (+7%), **Small Claims Courts (+46%),** an **Kadhis' Courts (+41%),** largely due to expanded jurisdiction, growing public awareness, and improved access mechanisms.

Pending Cases per Court Rank

Court Rank	Pending cases as at June 30, 2024			Pending Cases as at June 30, 2025			Change (%)
	CR	CC	ALL	CR	CC	All	
Supreme Court	-	47	**47**	-	45	**45**	-4%
Court of Appeal	3,313	9,340	**12,653**	3,366	10,186	**13,552**	7%
High Court	20,916	45,332	**66,248**	22,450	38,570	**61,020**	**-8%**
Employment & Labour Relations Court	-	6,973	**6,973**	-	5,452	**5,452**	**-22%**
Environment & Land Court	-	12,927	**12,927**	-	11,519	**11,519**	**-11%**
Magistrates' Courts	279,945	224,629	**504,574**	262,332	208,226	**470,558**	**-7%**
Tribunals	-	14,568	**14,568**	-	11,361	**11,361**	**-22%**
Small Claims Courts	-	14,642	**14,642**	-	21,419	**21,419**	**46%**
Kadhis' Courts	-	2,630	**2,630**	-	3,702	**3,702**	**41%**
All Courts	**304,174**	**331,088**	**635,262**	**288,148**	**310,480**	**598,628**	**-6%**

Case Backlog

Backlog reduced by 31%, from 244,267 cases in June 2024 to 169,349 in June 2025. The Magistracy (127,264 cases) and High Court (23,469 cases) accounted for the largest shares. Significant reductions were achieved in the Tribunals (-52%), Kadhis' Courts (-2%), and the Supreme Court (-57%). However, the Small Claims Court backlog more than doubled, rising by 54% from 5,019 in FY 2023/24 to 10,853 cases in FY 2024/25.

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Case Backlog per court rank

Court Rank	Total Case Backlog as at June 30, 2024	Case Backlog as at June 30, 2025			
		1-3 years	Over 3 years	All ages	% Change in Backlog
Supreme Court	7	2	1	3	-57%
Court of Appeal	5,822	3,585	1,832	5,417	-7%
High Court	31,106	9,336	14,133	23,469	-25%
ELRC	4,927	3,455	409	3,864	-22%
ELC	6,625	2,368	2,791	5,159	-22%
Magistrates' Courts	187,370	94,048	33,216	127,264	-32%
Tribunals	8,097	1,145	2,721	3,866	-52%
Kadhis' Courts	313	251	56	307	-2%
All Courts	**244,267**	**114,190**	**55,159**	**169,349**	**-31%**

Table 2.4.4: Adjournment rates per court

Court	Adjournment Rate FY2023/24	Adjournment Rate FY2024/25
Supreme Court	<1%	<1%
Court of Appeal	14%	11%
High Court	7%	4%
ELRC	2%	3%
ELC	14%	12%
Magistrates' Courts	18%	15%
Kadhis' Courts	4%	3%
Tribunals	6%	8%
Small Claims Courts	3%	4%

Reasons for Adjournment

Addressing challenges brought about by adjournment of cases requires a clear understanding of the **key drivers of adjournments,** as this is central to reducing case backlogs and enhancing the efficiency of justice delivery. As illustrated in Figure 2.4.5, external reasons accounted for 53 per cent of all the causes. Figure 2.4.6 highlights the ten leading reasons for adjournments.

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Figure 2.4.5: Internal vis-a-vis external reasons for adjournment

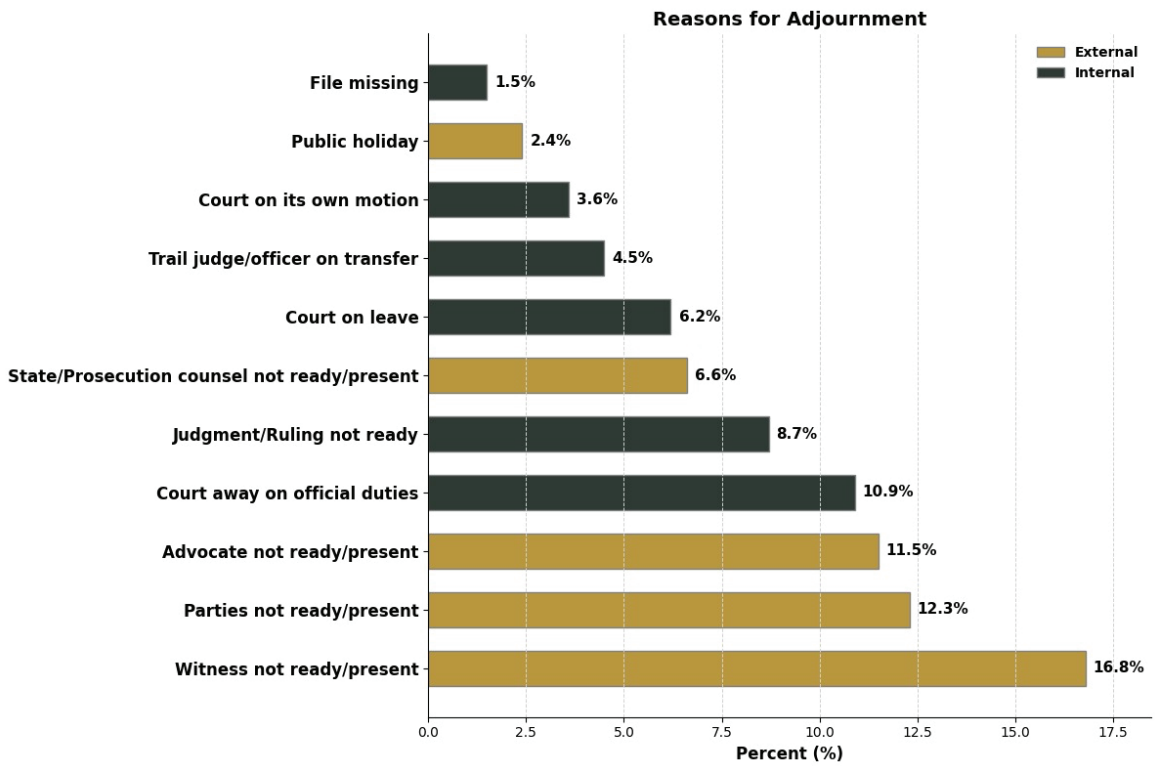

Figure 2.4.6: Top ten reasons for adjournments

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Child Justice

Under the **Child Justice Strategy,** the Judiciary has prioritised the **establishment of specialised children's courts** and the **training of judicial officers** to ensure that cases involving minors are handled with care, professionalism, and sensitivity. Proceedings are conducted in **private, child-friendly environments** designed to protect the **confidentiality and psychological safety** of children.

During the **FY 2024/25, a total of 15,670 children's cases** were filed in magistrates' courts. Of these, **1,054 cases (7%)** involved **children in conflict with the law**, while **14,616 cases (93%)** involved **children in contact with the law.**

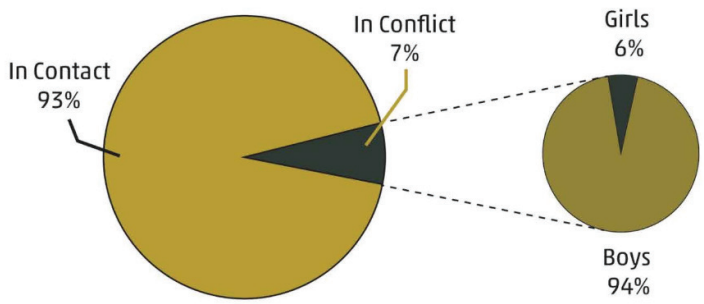
Among children in conflict with the law, **boys accounted for 94%** of the cases. The **leading offence** was **defilement** (268 cases, 25%), followed by **stealing (16%), grievous harm (9%)**, and **breaking into buildings (8%).** Overall, **sexual offences constituted 45%** of all such cases, while **theft-related offences represented 25%.**

For **children in contact with the law,** most filings related to:

- **Custody and Maintenance** – 6,609 cases (45%);
- **Care and Protection** – 6,319 cases (43%).

Gender justice

These patterns highlight the ongoing need for **child-sensitive justice interventions,** including diversion programmes, psychosocial support, and closer collaboration with child protection and welfare agencies.



Filed and concluded SGBV cases

Case Type	Number of Filed Cases	Number of Concluded Cases	CCR
Defilement	6,088	6,847	112%
Rape	1,014	1,058	104%
Sexual Assault	399	312	78%
Grievous Harm and Assault	23,269	22,912	98%
Other Sexual Offences	690	751	109%
Total	**31,460**	**31,880**	**101%**

Specialised courts and procedures for Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) have enhanced access to justice by fast-tracking cases, deploying SGBV-trained judicial officers, and expanding supportive infrastructure such as private testimony rooms and video-link facilities.

In FY 2024/25, 31,460 SGBV cases were filed, a slight 0.9% increase from the previous year reflecting improved reporting, public awareness, and justice system responsiveness. Grievous harm and assault accounted for nearly three-quarters of filings, followed by offences against minors at about 19%. During the same period, 31,880 cases were concluded, achieving a 101% Case Clearance Rate (up from 97%), signalling strengthened case management, coordination, and prioritisation of SGBV matters. Most categories, including defilement, rape, and related offences, recorded clearance rates above 100%, though pending grievous harm, assault, and sexual assault cases increased, highlighting the need for specialised investigations, survivor-centred processes, and enhanced forensic support.

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Judiciary Infrastructure and ICT Modernisation

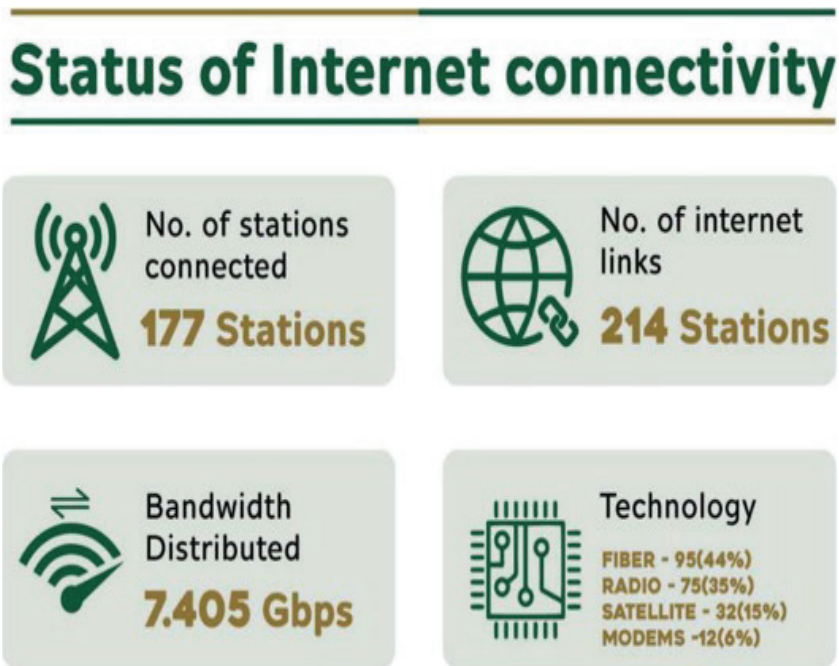
The Judiciary continued to strengthen its **ICT and physical infrastructure** to enhance automation, efficiency, and service delivery across court stations. Key milestones achieved in **FY 2024/25** include:

- **Upgrading ICT infrastructure** to support automation and improved case management systems;
- **Enhancing Data Centre capacity** through new **server upgrades;**
- **Installing Local Area Networks (LAN)** in **42 counties** at a cost of **KSh. 243 million;**
- **Procuring 650 ICT devices,** comprising **201 desktops, 439 laptops,** and **10 iPads;**
- **Expanding internet connectivity** to **177 court stations,** with **major upgrades in 41 courts** to support virtual hearings, e-filing, and remote access.

These investments form part of the Judiciary's ongoing **digital transformation agenda,** aimed at improving access to justice, operational efficiency, and data-driven decision-making.



By June 30, 2025, the app had been downloaded 1,726 times on Google Play Store and 51 times on the Apple Store, with numbers steadily growing as more people embrace this digital solution.



Status of internet connectivity

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Jurisprudential Developments and Landmark Decisions

In the year under review, the courts rendered several **landmark decisions** that significantly shaped Kenya's legal landscape and deepened public confidence in the rule of law. These judgments addressed **constitutional interpretation, human rights, governance, and emerging legal frontiers,** reflecting the Judiciary's central role in promoting justice, accountability, and social transformation.

Supreme Court of Kenya

The **Supreme** Court delivered decisions that settled critical questions of constitutional interpretation and matters of **general public importance.** These included rulings on:

- **Children's inheritance rights under Muslim law.**
- The **evidentiary value of title deeds** in land ownership disputes.
- The **scope of environmental protection obligations** of state organs.
- The **legislative mandate of the Senate** vis-à-vis other arms of government.
- The **constitutional standards for public participation** in the legislative process; and
- The **distinction between mandatory and minimum sentences** in criminal law.

Collectively, these decisions reinforced the supremacy of the Constitution and provided clarity on the limits of state power and individual rights.

Court of Appeal

The **Court of Appeal** continued to play a pivotal role in shaping Kenya's jurisprudence by clarifying the law on appeals from the **High Court and specialised courts.** During the year, it delivered landmark pronouncements on:

- The limits of testamentary freedom in succession law;
- The requirement for exhaustion of administrative remedies before recourse to judicial review;
- The scope of the Salaries and Remuneration Commission's mandate in setting public sector pay;
- The authority of the Council for Legal Education in regulating legal training; and
- The role of local tribunals within the broader judicial system.

These decisions have contributed to greater predictability and coherence in Kenya's appellate jurisprudence.

High Court of Kenya

As the **engine of constitutional enforcement and human rights protection,** the **High Court** continued to address questions of far-reaching constitutional significance. Its decisions in the reporting period included judgments on:

- The **constitutionality of the Affordable Housing Act.**
- The **decriminalisation of attempted suicide;** and

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- The **protection of judicial independence** and institutional integrity.

The Court also issued pronouncements advancing **socio-economic rights, administrative justice, and fair trial guarantees,** underscoring its centrality in the enforcement of the Bill of Rights.

Employment and Labour Relations Court

The Employment and Labour Relations Court (ELRC) strengthened its jurisprudence on **fairness, equality, and dignity** in the workplace. Key determinations clarified:

- Violations of fair administrative action in employment settings.
- The protection of employee privacy.
- Employer obligations in cases involving mental incapacity; and
- The Salaries and Remuneration Commission's authority in setting stipends for interns.

Through these decisions, the Court reinforced the principle that decent work and respect for human dignity are constitutional imperatives.

Environment and Land Court

The **Environment and Land Court (ELC)** deepened Kenya's **environmental and land jurisprudence,** particularly on issues of **sustainable land use and resource governance.** The Court clarified:

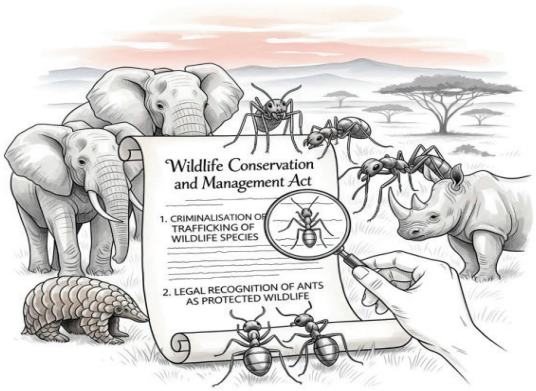
- Procedures for **conversion of community and public land into conservancies.**
- Legal safeguards in **excision and de-gazettement of forest land;** and
- The **state's fiduciary duty** in the management of public resources.

These rulings continue to fortify environmental stewardship and sustainable development in line with Article 42 of the Constitution.

Magistrates' Courts

As the **first point of contact** for most Kenyans seeking justice, the **Magistrates' Courts** made significant contributions in expanding access to justice. In the year under review, the courts rendered noteworthy decisions on:

- The **protection of children born through surrogacy;** and
- The **criminalisation of wildlife trafficking,** including recognition of **non-traditional species** under the *Wildlife Conservation and Management Act*



Such decisions underscore the evolving and responsive nature of Kenya's lower court jurisprudence.

Kadhis' Courts

The **Kadhis' Courts** continued to provide clarity in the interpretation and application of **Muslim law** in matters of **marriage, divorce, and inheritance.** In the year under review, the courts delivered key rulings that:

- Affirmed procedural safeguards in the registration of marriages; and
- Restated the objectives and principles of marriage under Islamic law.

These pronouncements enhanced coherence in the administration of personal

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law and protected the rights of Muslim litigants.

Small Claims Courts

The **Small Claims Courts (SCC)** consolidated their transformative role in providing **quick, affordable, and accessible justice.** Notable decisions during the year clarified:

- Due process requirements in auctioning property for third-party debts; and
- The **enforceability of oral contracts** alleged to be tainted by illegality.

These rulings continue to strengthen confidence in the SCC as a key pillar of efficient justice delivery.

Tribunals

The Judiciary's **Tribunals** advanced administrative justice and sectoral regulation across diverse domains, including **sports, land acquisition, cooperative governance, and legal education**. Their determinations elucidated:

- The **principle of exhaustion of internal remedies.**
- **Fair administrative action** in compulsory land acquisition; and
- The **legal validity of admission criteria** in professional training institutions.

Collectively, these rulings contributed to better governance and accountability within specialised sectors.



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Accountability, Integrity, and Performance Management

The Judiciary upholds **accountability and ethical governance** as foundational pillars of judicial independence and public trust. In the reporting period, sustained efforts were made to strengthen systems for **complaints management, disciplinary action, integrity assurance, and performance monitoring.**

Through these measures, the institution continues to advance transparency, responsiveness, and professionalism ensuring that justice is not only done but seen to be done.

Complaints Handling and Resolution

The Judiciary continued to enhance its **Complaints Management System** to ensure prompt and transparent handling of grievances from court users and stakeholders. In **FY 2024/25,** a total of **1,206 complaints** were processed, comprising **1,107 new complaints** and **99 carried forward** from the previous year.

- **Resolution Rate:** Out of these, **1,086 complaints were resolved,** achieving a **90% resolution rate.**
- **Channels of Submission:** Most complaints were received via **email (44%)** and letters (38%), indicating a growing reliance on digital platforms for public engagement.
- **Nature of Complaints:**
  - **93%** related to **court services,** with the **Magistrates' Courts** recording the highest volume.
  - The most common issues were:
    - **Exercise of judicial discretion –** 27%
    - **Adjournments and delayed trials** – 12.7%
    - **Lost files –** 11.9%

While the high-resolution rate reflects progress, the Judiciary recognises the need to address persistent **systemic challenges** such as file management inefficiencies, adjournments, and communication gaps to further enhance public confidence in judicial services.

Category of Complaints and Resolution Rate

Nature of Complaint	Carried Forward FY23/24	Registered FY24/25	Total Complaints Handled	Resolved	Pending	% Resolution
Merits/ Judicial Discretion	22	304	326	302	24	92.60%
Adjournments & Delayed Trials	11	142	153	144	9	93.70%
Lost Files	14	130	144	130	14	90.30%

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Nature of Complaint	Carried Forward FY23/24	Registered FY24/25	Total Complaints Handled	Resolved	Pending	% Resolution
Delayed Orders	2	61	63	57	6	90.50%
Delayed Judgments/Rulings	7	60	67	60	7	89.60%
Integrity - Judicial Officers	1	57	58	45	13	77.60%
Date Allocation	6	51	57	54	3	94.70%
Abuse of Court Process	5	48	53	50	3	94.30%
Cash Bail/ Deposits/ Securities Refund	6	50	56	49	7	87.50%
Slow Service	3	45	48	43	5	89.60%
Integrity - Judicial Staff	9	51	60	46	14	76.70%
Information Requests	0	30	30	26	4	86.70%
Typing of Proceedings	2	22	24	21	3	87.50%
Tampered Files	2	14	16	16	0	100%
Poor Public Relations	1	9	10	9	1	90%
Intimidation	1	11	12	7	5	58.30%
Referral to Stakeholders	0	6	6	6	0	100%
Departmental Service Delivery	1	5	6	5	1	83.30%
Employee Negligence	0	3	3	3	0	100%
Human Resource	1	2	3	3	0	100%
Integrity - Judges	0	2	2	2	0	100%
Sexual Harassment	1	3	4	3	1	75%
Damaged/Lost Exhibit	0	1	1	1	0	100%
Total	**99**	**1,107**	**1,206**	**1,086**	**120**	**90.00%**

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143 **petitions against judges** were received during the period compared to 100 in 2023-24. The increase in petitions reflects growing public awareness and confidence in the Commission's complaints processes.

Number of Petitions against Judges

Details	2023/24	2024/25
Petitions brought forward	41	71
Petitions received during the year	100	143
Total Petitions handled	141	214
Petitions concluded	70	82
Petitions carried forward	71	132

- 10 cases against magistrates and Kadhis were processed.

Disciplinary matters against Judicial officers

Item	Description	Number
1.	Matters concluded	2
2.	Matters awaiting final decision	3
3.	Matters admitted for hearing(ongoing)	4
4.	Matters referred for further inquiry	1
5.	**TOTAL MATTERS HANDLED**	**10**

- 115 cases against staff, mostly for desertion/absence from duty (51.3%) and bribery (14.8%). Court Assistants accounted for the majority (57.4%). A total of 41 cases were finalised, resulting in reprimands, terminations, resignations, and reinstatements.

Nature of Offences in Disciplinary Cases against Judicial Staff

Disciplinary Offence	Number of Staff
Desertion of duty	32
Absence from duty without leave/permission	27
Soliciting and receiving a bribe	17
Court Cases/Criminal Charge	16
Audit Query	8
Financial Malpractices	6
Negligence of duty	6
Sexual Harassment	3
TOTAL	**115**

Disciplinary Action and Ethical Oversight

The Judiciary continued to enforce discipline and ethical conduct among judicial officers and staff through transparent processes anchored in the **Judicial Service Act**, the **Judicial Code of Conduct,** and related policy instruments.

The **Office of the Judiciary Ombudsman** and the **Judicial Service Commission (JSC)** collaborated closely in handling disciplinary matters. During the year, several cases of **misconduct, absenteeism, conflict of interest, and abuse of office** were investigated and addressed through fair and transparent procedures. Sanctions ranged from **warnings and reprimands to suspensions**

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and dismissals, depending on the gravity of the offence.

In addition, the Judiciary intensified **ethics sensitisation programmes,** ensuring that all officers especially those in administrative and frontline roles understood and upheld the Judiciary's core values of integrity, **professionalism, fairness, and accountability.**

Integrity Assurance and Anti-Corruption Measures

The Judiciary continued to implement comprehensive **anti-corruption and integrity assurance measures** to uphold the highest ethical standards in service delivery. Key milestones achieved in FY **2024/25** include:

- **Establishment of Court Integrity Committees in all court stations,** tasked with promoting ethical culture, monitoring integrity compliance, and serving as focal points for integrity reporting.
- **Implementation of the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) recommendations** on strengthening the Judiciary's administrative and registry processes, enhancing internal controls and procedural transparency.
- **Deployment of Integrity Assurance Officers (IAOs)** to monitor compliance with ethics standards and support early detection of misconduct.
- **Strengthening of internal audit and risk management functions,** particularly in procurement and human resource management.
- **Expansion of the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP)** system for real-time performance monitoring and audit trail generation.
- **Enhanced stakeholder dialogues and public engagement** on integrity and justice delivery.
- **Institutionalisation of Judiciary Dialogue** Days as an annual platform for dialogue with stakeholders, fostering transparency, accountability, and co-creation of justice reforms.
- **Mainstreaming anti-corruption awareness and training,** including collaboration with the **EACC** on targeted capacity-building for judicial officers and staff.
- **Operationalisation of whistleblower protection mechanisms** to encourage confidential and safe reporting of unethical conduct.

These efforts collectively deepened the Judiciary's **institutional integrity,** enhanced **public trust,** and strengthened its resilience against corruption and malpractice.

Performance Management and Results-Based Accountability

To improve institutional efficiency, the Judiciary continued to embed **performance management systems** within the broader **Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP)** framework. This integration enabled data-driven monitoring of **case clearance rates, backlog reduction, resource utilisation, and service quality** across all court levels.

Performance reviews were operationalised through **Service Weeks, Court Performance Committees, and Peer Review Mechanisms,** ensuring continuous learning and accountability at both individual and institutional levels.

Through these measures, the Judiciary reinforced a **results-based performance culture** grounded in transparency, measurable outputs, and citizen-focused service delivery.

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Performance Management

- **Court Performance:** Overall, **94% of courts and units** were rated Very Good or Good, with no entity falling into the Outstanding, Excellent or Poor categories.

Distribution of PMMU Performance Ratings by Implementing Units, FY 2023/24

Implementing Units	Outstanding	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Total
Supreme Court	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Court of Appeal	0	0	2	4	0	0	6
High Court	0	0	25	21	4	0	50
ELRC	0	0	6	2	0	0	8
ELC	0	0	11	23	1	0	35
Magistrates' Courts	0	0	24	109	3	0	136
Small Claims Court	0	0	0	16	8	0	24
Kadhis' Courts	0	0	33	8	1	0	42
Tribunals	0	0	4	9	1	0	14
Registrars	0	0	7	0	0	0	7
Directorates	0	0	5	6	0	0	11
Other Implementing Units	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
Total	**0**	**0**	**120**	**199**	**18**	**0**	**337**



May 16, 2025: Mr Jeremiah Nthusi, Director of Supply Chain Management Services, receives a certificate awarded to the Directorate from LSK Vice President Mwaura Kabata, during the launch of the PMMU Report for FY 2023/2024 at the Supreme Court Building. Looking on is AJPMC Chairperson, Hon Lady Justice Agnes Murgor.

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Outlook and Reform Priorities

In the next reporting period, the Judiciary will prioritise:

- **Full automation** of complaints and disciplinary management systems.
- **Enhanced file tracking and digitisation** to eliminate lost records and delays.
- Continued **capacity building** for Integrity Committees and Integrity Assurance Officers.
- Strengthened **collaboration with oversight institutions** including the EACC and the Commission on Administrative Justice.
- Expansion of **Judiciary Dialogue Days** and stakeholder engagement to entrench participatory accountability; and
- Continuous **ethics education** for all Judiciary staff and partners.

These initiatives are designed to entrench a Judiciary that is **transparent, accountable, and anchored in public confidence.**

Financial Accountability

The Judiciary continued to strengthen **financial governance and accountability** through the implementation of robust compliance mechanisms, regular audits, and enhanced risk management practices. These measures are aimed at ensuring the prudent, transparent, and lawful use of public resources in line with the **Public Finance Management Act, 2012**and the **Judiciary Financial Management Policy.**

The **Internal Audit and Risk Management Directorate** conducted periodic audits of financial statements, payroll, procurement processes, and operational expenditure to assess compliance with financial regulations and internal controls. Audit recommendations were followed up through structured management action plans to address identified weaknesses and improve efficiency.

In addition to internal reviews, the Judiciary's financial statements are **submitted annually to the Office of the Auditor-General** for independent scrutiny and assurance. The **audit for FY 2023/24** resulted in a **qualified opinion,** indicating that while the financial statements were generally credible, certain areas required further improvement to fully meet public sector accounting standards.

The Judiciary has since initiated corrective actions to address these observations, including:

- Strengthening **financial reporting and reconciliation processes.**
- Enhancing **capacity-building for accounting and procurement officers.**
- Implementing **risk-based internal audits;** and
- Improving **compliance monitoring mechanisms** across all spending units.

These reforms reaffirm the Judiciary's commitment to **sound financial stewardship, institutional integrity,** and **public accountability** in the management of resources entrusted to it.

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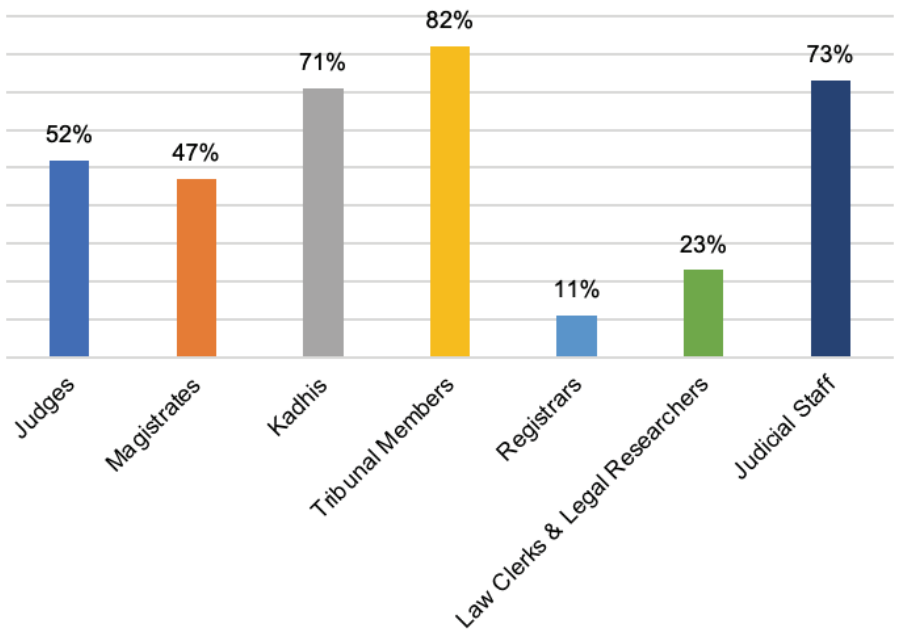
Human Capital Development

Human Capital Overview

As at June 30, 2025, the Judiciary workforce stood at **6,979 staff (49.6% male; 50.4% female),** representing **64% of the approved establishment of 10,870.** Staffing levels varied across categories, with Tribunal members (82%) and judicial staff (73%) relatively well-staffed, while Registrars (11%) and law clerks/researchers (23%) were most under-staffed.

Judges and Magistrates had moderate staffing at 52% and 47%, respectively. Significant gaps were also evident in key functional areas: **Strategy & Planning** had only 7 of 84 positions filled, **Audit & Risk Management** 21 of 100, and **Building Services** 27 of 134. These gaps highlight critical under-staffing in support functions essential for efficient judicial operations.

An additional 1,000 Digital Agents supported digitization under the Mahakama Digital Programme (MADIP).



Designation	Approved Establishment	In post	Staffing Level
Judges	388	202	52%
Magistrates	1,200	566	47%
Kadhis	65	46	71%
Tribunal Members	175	143	82%
Registrars	428	48	11%
Law Clerks & Legal Researchers	666	150	23%
Judicial Staff	7,948	5824	73%
Total	**10,870**	**6,979**	**64%**

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Employee Diversity:

Judges Profile

Gender: Of the 202 judges, 58% are male and 42% female, with higher courts (Supreme and Court of Appeal) more male-dominated, while lower courts show a more balanced gender distribution.

Age: The **judiciary bench is** heavily skewed toward older cohorts, with **34.2% aged 56-60 and 22.8% aged 61-65.** Notably, 15% (30) **of Judges Are due to retire within 5 years,** necessitating succession management.

PWD: Seven (7) Judges out of the 202 were persons with disabilities, representing 3.5 per cent, which is below the 5 per cent statutory threshold

Magistrates' Profile

Gender: The magistracy comprises 242 (43%) male and 324 (57%) female magistrates. Higher ranks of Chief Magistrates (63% male and Senior Principal Magistrates (64% male) are predominantly male, while mid- and lower ranks (Principal, Senior Resident, and Resident Magistrates) are predominantly female, indicating a female majority overall but male-dominated leadership positions.

Kadhis are all male (100%), Tribunal members are **62% male,** Registrars are **69% female,** law clerks and legal researchers are 81% female.

Age: Magistrates' age profile shows a **relatively young workforce:** 35.1% of magistrates are below 40 years, 30.1% are aged 41–45 only 4.1% are 56–60 years. Overall, **more than two-thirds of magistrates are below 45 years,** highlighting a youthful composition in the magistracy.

Persons with Disability (PWD): Out of the 564 magistrates, 10 (1.8 per cent) were persons with disabilities (PWDs). The representation was evenly split by gender, with 5 male and 5 female magistrates

Judiciary Staff Profile

Gender: judicial staff are **evenly split** (50.2% male; 49.8% female), reflecting a mixed gender composition across support roles. However, gender distribution varies by grade where **men dominate senior leadership** (55%) while **women predominate in middle ranks** (57%) highlighting persistent underrepresentation of women at the top. At the operational level and **entry-level positions,** have slightly more women (53%).

Age: The workforce is predominantly young, with over 55% aged 26–40 years, and only a small share under 25 (5.9%) or between 56–60 years (5%), reflecting a youthful composition.

Persons with Disability (PWD): Out of the 5,824 staff, 148 (2.6 per cent) identified as persons with disabilities. Of these, 89 (60.1 per cent) were male and 59 (39.9 per cent) were female.

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Designation	Male		Female		Total
	Number	%	Number	%	
Supreme Court Judges	4	**57%**	3	**43%**	7
Court of Appeal Judges	19	**68%**	9	**32%**	28
High Court Judges	51	**54%**	44	**46%**	95
ELRC Judges	13	**62%**	8	**38%**	21
ELC Judges	30	**59%**	21	**41%**	51
Total	**117**	**58%**	**85**	**42%**	**202**
Chief Magistrate	46	**63%**	27	**37%**	73
Senior Principal Magistrate	56	**64%**	31	**36%**	87
Principal Magistrate	73	**40%**	109	**60%**	182
Senior Resident Magistrate	28	**30%**	65	**70%**	93
Resident Magistrate	39	**30%**	92	**70%**	131
Total	**242**	**43%**	**324**	**57%**	**566**
Kadhis	46	**100%**	0	**0%**	46
Tribunal Members	88	**62%**	55	**38%**	143
Registrars	15	**31%**	33	**69%**	48
Law Clerks and Legal Researchers	29	**19%**	121	**81%**	150
Judicial Staff	2,923	**50%**	2,901	**50%**	5,824
Overall	**3,460**	**49.6%**	**3,519**	**50.4%**	**6,979**



Capacity Building

During the period under review, the Kenya Judiciary Academy (KJA) delivered 11 Continuous Judicial Education (CJE) programmes, training 317 participants representing 74.5% of judicial officers. The Academy also hosted the Magistrates' and Kadhis' Colloquium, which attracted 542 participants. Specialized learning interventions covered diverse areas including tax law, counterterrorism, arbitration, gender-based violence, plea bargaining, and data protection. These thematic programs enhanced professional competence and jurisprudential depth across the Judiciary.

Capacity building for Judiciary staff remained comparatively low, reaching 151 officers (2.6% of 5,817 in-post staff). Nonetheless, targeted initiatives such as pre-retirement preparation, Continuous Professional Development (CPD) facilitation, and online sensitization sessions supported staff growth and institutional learning.

The Judiciary also benefitted from international exchange programmes with the United States, India, Zanzibar, and Colombia, which enriched collaboration on judicial governance, technology adoption, and gender justice.

Despite financial constraints, these efforts collectively strengthened the skills, innovation, and resilience of the Judiciary's human resource base affirming its commitment to transformative justice delivery and institutional excellence.

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Resource Mobilisation and Utilisation

Automation of the Judiciary Fund Management

The Judiciary Fund (Art. 173, Constitution) was digitized through the Jumuika ERP system, integrating budgeting, procurement, payments, and asset management. This improved transparency, efficiency, compliance, and internal controls. Staff were trained nationwide to ensure effective system use.

Budget Preparation and Allocation

The Judiciary adopted a consultative budgeting process guided by the Constitution and PFM laws. Public forums in five regions shaped priorities such as:

a) Establishment of High Courts and Magistrates' Courts in underserved areas.
b) Youth engagement through Ajira/ MADIP and AGPO procurement.
c) Expanded access via Huduma Service desks.
d) Strengthened ADR and Small Claims Courts, which saw a major increase in cases.



May 12, 2025: Hon Gitonga Murugara, Chairperson of the Justice & Legal Affairs Committee of the National Assembly, consults with the Committee's Fiscal Analyst Omar Abdirahim during a meeting with the Chief Registrar of the Judiciary to deliberate on the Judiciary and the JSC's FY 2024/25 budget performance and annual budget estimates for FY 2025/2026 at the Pride Inn Hotel, Mombasa.

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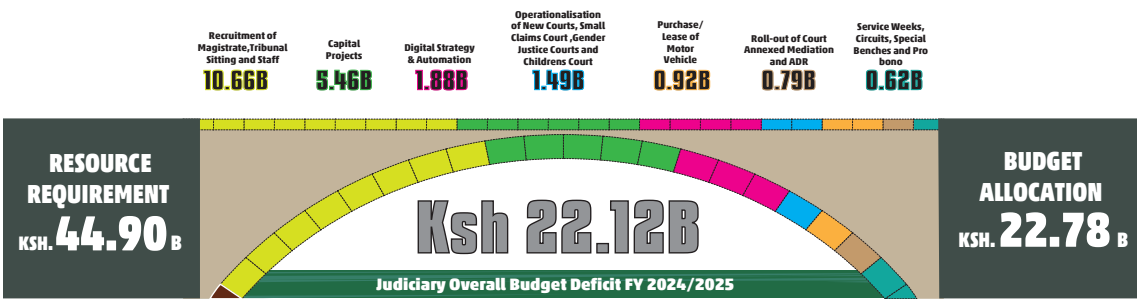
In the Financial Year 2024/25, the Judiciary was allocated KSh22.78 billion, reflecting a modest increase of 1.6 per cent from the KSh22.42 billion received in FY 2023/24.

Table 6.2.2: Resource Requirements Vs Allocation over the last three fiscal years

Financial Year	2022/23			2023/24			2024/25		
	Requirements	Allocation	Funding Gap	Requirements	Allocation	Funding Gap	Requirements	Allocation	Funding Gap
Recurrent (KSh Billion)	32.59	19.23	13.36	35.81	21.02	14.79	38.62	21.96	16.66
Development (KSh Billion)	6.96	1.90	5.06	7.36	1.40	5.96	6.28	0.82	5.46
Overall	**39.55**	**21.13**	**18.42**	**43.17**	**22.42**	**20.75**	**44.90**	**22.78**	**22.12**



Judiciary Resource Sharing

Funds were shared using a data-driven, priority-based model, with most going to staff compensation (69.6%). Operations and maintenance received 29.6%, while development allocation was very limited. Magistrates' Courts received the largest O&M share due to workload.

Absorption and Utilisation of Judiciary Budget

Budget absorption improved to 99% in FY2024/25, reflecting better planning and financial discipline. Recurrent spending dominated, while development expenditure focused on ICT and refurbishment remained constrained.

Analysis of Programme Expenditure

The Judiciary implemented the Dispensation of Justice programme, divided into: Access to Justice (70% of budget, covering case management, new courts, and technology) and administration & Support Services (30%). Expenditure trends showed steady growth in justice service investments. Pending bills, especially in development, continued to challenge service delivery. Under accrual accounting, unpaid balances are treated as accounts payable. As of FY2024/25, pending bills stood at KSh64.14M, down from KSh1.38B the previous year.

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Revenue & Deposits

Court Revenue came mainly from fees (47.4%) and fines (42.3%), supplemented by interest on deposits (10.1%) and rent. Total collection was KSh2.88B (101.7% of target). While fees grew, fines declined due to fewer criminal cases and improved compliance. Deposits held in trust stood at KSh8.25B, with unclaimed deposits managed jointly with UFAA.

Collaboration With Development Partners and Other Stakeholders

Partners supported the Judiciary in key thematic areas:

a) **Capacity Building:** Training on SGBV, labour rights, tax adjudication, counterterrorism, and judicial colloquia.
b) **Green Justice:** Solar installations in six courts; environmental crime initiatives.
c) **ICT Infrastructure:** LAN installation in 42 counties, digital justice forums, and data protection training.
d) **Inclusivity:** Initiatives for PWDs, vulnerable populations, and victims of gender-based violence, supported by the Ford Foundation and others



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Emerging Issues and Key Policy Recommendations

THEME	EMERGING ISSUE	KEY POLICY RECOMMENDATION	ACTOR
1. Governance & Strategy Implementation	Dialogue Days and Integrity Committees not fully institutionalised.	Conduct Annual Dialogue Days and operationalise Integrity Committees in all stations to entrench a culture of accountability.	Judiciary NCAJ
	Security gaps with makeshift courts still in operation	Operationalise the Directorate of Security Services, install surveillance systems, and phase out makeshift courts in favour of permanent, secure facilities. Allocate adequate funding to support infrastructural development	Judiciary The National Assembly Judicial Service Commission
	Need to review the Judiciary Organisational Structure to address emerging needs in courts and administrative offices	Review the Judiciary Organisational Structure to secure organisational efficiency, enhance employee satisfaction and meet organisational access to justice goals.	Judiciary
	Lack of a clear Risk Management Policy Framework for the Judiciary	To establish an integrated Judiciary Risk Management Policy Framework (JRMPF) that provides a structured approach for identifying, assessing, mitigating, monitoring, and reporting institutional risks across all levels of the Judiciary.	Judiciary Judicial Service Commission
2. Access to Justice	Access gaps in under-served areas.	Operationalise all gazetted court stations and establish at least 20 additional stations in priority underserved counties.	Judiciary Judicial Service Commission The National Treasury The National Assembly
	Inadequate funding of the pro bono services scheme	Transition the pro bono scheme to the National Legal Aid Services (NLAS) and allocate adequate funding for its full operations.	Judiciary Office of the Attorney General NLAS The National Treasury The National Assembly
	Maximising the potential of alternative forms of dispute resolution.	Increase CAM/AJS uptake with enabling policies, enhanced funding, and continuous sensitisation.	Judiciary Judicial Service Commission NaSCI-AJS
	Rising caseload in Small Claims Courts and burnout among Adjudicators.	Recruitment of Adjudicators fully dedicated to the Small Claims Court to meet the rising caseload. Separate SCC from Magistrates Courts and appoint a Registrar of the SCC.	Judicial Service Commission Judiciary
	Bail and bond policy guidelines	Update the Bail and Bond policy	Judiciary NCAJ
		Enact Bail and Bond Legislation	The National Assembly
	Delay in enactment of the Tribunals Bill	Expedite enactment of a legal framework for the transitioning of Tribunals to the Judiciary and their management within the institution	Judiciary The National Assembly

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THEME	EMERGING ISSUE	KEY POLICY RECOMMENDATION	ACTOR
	Enhancing Tribunals' effectiveness	Improve the effectiveness of Tribunals by establishing a dedicated appellate court process through legal and administrative reforms.	Judiciary The National Assembly
	Aligning Judiciary Case Tracking System (CTS)	Align the Judiciary Case Tracking System with court needs for usability, involving system upgrades, optimization, and training efforts within the Judiciary.	Judiciary
	Securing the Judiciary cyber space	Establish a secure, resilient, and trusted Judiciary digital ecosystem through a comprehensive cybersecurity governance framework aligned with national security standards and global best practices.	Judiciary
	Strengthening the Children Courts' administrative structures	Appoint and fully facilitate the office of Registrar, Children Courts in line with the Children Act.	Judicial Service Commission Judiciary
	Safeguard and sustain the gains of the specialised courts	Continue to invest financial resources and capacity into Gender Justice Courts.	Judiciary Judicial Service Commission
	Lack of interoperability and integration of information systems of actors across the justice chain	Revitalize discussions by actors in the justice chain to ensure the interoperability and integration of the various information systems tun by the different actors Prioritise automation of justice sector agencies Develop policy and legal framework for e-justice	NCAJ Actors
3. Jurisprudence & Demosprudence	Limited awareness and weak infrastructure for dissemination of decisions.	Establish a comprehensive decisions portal as a repository for all court decisions.	Judiciary Judicial Service Commission
	Lack of a statutory framework to govern public participation	Establish a legislative framework to standardise and regulate the process of public participation	The National Assembly
	AJS jurisprudence not mainstreamed.	Strengthen AJS Committees to integrate community practices into formal jurisprudence with trackable data and outcomes.	Judiciary Judicial Service Commission NaSCI-AJS
		Institutionalise cross-court jurisprudential dialogue forums for harmonisation	Judiciary
4. Accountability	Complaints management system underutilised.	Scale up Judiciary Complaints Management System to cover all courts and tribunals.	Judiciary
	Integrity committees not fully operationalised.	Fully operationalise Integrity Committees in all stations, backed by a National Judiciary Integrity Committee.	Judiciary NCAJ
	Public dialogue	Institutionalise Judiciary Dialogue Days to reinforce public accountability.	Judiciary

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THEME	EMERGING ISSUE	KEY POLICY RECOMMENDATION	ACTOR
5. Human Capital Management and Development	Shortage of Judges, Judicial Officers and Judicial Staff	• Allocate resources to support the recruitment of additional judges, judicial officers and judicial staff • Recruit additional judges, judicial officers and judicial staff in accordance with the approved staff establishment	The National Assembly Judicial Service Commission
	Under-representation of persons with Disabilities in the workforce	Implement recruitment policies and procedures to ensure the Judiciary's workforce complies with the statutory minimum threshold (5%) of Persons with Disabilities.	Judicial Service Commission
	Security exposure in courts operating from makeshift facilities	Replace or refurbish makeshift facilities, prioritising high-volume and high-risk stations Allocate funds for infrastructural development	Judiciary National Assembly
	Unclear succession planning	Implement succession mechanisms for leadership roles to ensure continuity and effective transitions.	JSC Judiciary
	Limited wellness programs.	Expand wellness, occupational safety, and mentorship programmes. Institutionalise Judicial Wellbeing Day as an annual event to enhance staff resilience.	Judiciary
6. Resource Mobilisation and Utilization	Budget shortfalls.	Enhance Judiciary's allocation to at least 3 percent of the national budget and anchor it in law.	National Assembly
	Limited fiscal autonomy	Amend the Public Finance Management Act, Judiciary Fund Act, JF Regulations, and Judicial Service Act to strengthen fiscal autonomy and smooth operations of the Judiciary Fund.	National Assembly
	Pending Bills.	Develop strategies to clear pending bills and strengthen resource mobilisation through partnerships.	Judiciary

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