



## **JUDICIAL SERVICE COMMISSION**

**10<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

### **THE JUDICIAL SERVICE COMMISSION NOMINEES FOR APPOINTMENT AS JUDGES OF THE HIGH COURT AND THE ENVIRONMENT AND LAND COURT**

*Members of the Fourth Estate*

*Fellow Kenyans*

The Judicial Service Commission (JSC) has today concluded the recruitment and selection process of Judges of the High Court and Environment and Land Court.

As you may recall, the Commission advertised vacancies for fifteen (15) Judges of the Court of Appeal, twenty (20) Judges of the High Court and ten (10) Judges of the Environment and Land Court on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

These vacancies attracted a strong and competitive response. The Commission received 95 applications for the Court of Appeal and shortlisted 35 candidates; 377 applications for the High Court, from which

100 candidates were shortlisted; and 243 applications for the Environment and Land Court, with 50 candidates shortlisted.

Following the conclusion of the recruitment and selection process of the Court of Appeal, the JSC nominated fifteen (15) persons, who were subsequently appointed by His Excellency the President on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

These appointments resulted in the elevation of four (4) Judges from the High Court and two (2) Judges of the Environment and Land Court(ELC). One Judge from the ELC court also retired during the recruitment process, thereby creating vacancies within those courts. To address these gaps efficiently and avoid the cost and delay of initiating fresh recruitment processes, the Commission invoked Rule 20(2) of the First Schedule to the Judicial Service Act. This decision was guided by the High Court's judgment in Petition E377 of 2022, *Okoiti v Judicial Service Commission & another; Kiprotich & 6 others*, which affirmed that the Commission may exercise its discretion to fill additional vacancies arising during an ongoing recruitment process, provided such action is reasonable, transparent, and promotes access to justice.

Accordingly, the Commission increased the number of positions to be filled from twenty (20) to twenty-four (24) for the High Court, and from ten (10) to thirteen (13) for the Environment and Land Court.

The Commission successfully concluded selection interviews for the appointment of Judges to the High Court on 5th March 2026, and Judges to the Environment and Land Court on 9th April 2026.

These processes were rigorous, transparent, and competitive, and were conducted in full view of the public through live broadcast. They entailed public advertisement of vacancies, public participation prior to shortlisting, and comprehensive vetting of candidates in strict compliance with the Constitution of Kenya, the Judicial Service Act, and applicable regulations.

In arriving at its nominations, the Commission was guided by the constitutional principles of merit, integrity, fairness, gender equity, inclusivity and regional balance. Each candidate was assessed on professional competence; written and oral communication skills; integrity and sound judgment; legal and life experience; and a demonstrable commitment to public service, the rule of law and constitutionalism.

Pursuant to Article 166(1)(b) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, the Commission is in the process of transmitting the names of the nominees to His Excellency the President of the Republic of Kenya for appointment.

Upon appointment, the number of Judges in the High Court will increase from ninety-one (91) to one hundred and fifteen (115), while those in the Environment and Land Court will rise from forty-eight (48) to sixty one (61).

This expansion of judicial capacity will enhance access to justice by improving the judge-to-case ratio, expediting the hearing and determination of cases, and contributing to the sustained reduction of case backlog.

The Commission congratulates the nominees on their achievement and thanks all candidates and applicants who participated in this process. The JSC also appreciates members of the public and institutions that submitted memoranda and engaged with the process for their valuable contribution.

The Judicial Service Commission reaffirms its unwavering commitment to upholding the rule of law and to the effective, efficient, and transparent administration of justice.

The JSC has nominated the following persons for appointment as Judges of the High Court:

<b>JSC NOMINEES FOR JUDGE OF THE HIGH COURT</b>	
1. Hon. Robinson Ondieki Kebabe	13. Hon. Richard Kipkemoi Koech
2. Hon. Roseline Akinyi Oganyo	14. Mr. Emmanuel Omondi Bitta
3. Hon. Paul Kipkosgei Rotich	15.Hon. David Wanjohi Mburu
4. Hon. Joyce Mkambe Gandani	16.Mr. Dominic Kipkemoi Rono
5. Hon. Joseph Maloba Were	17.Ms. Winnie Narasha Molonko

6. Hon. Dickson Odhiambo Onyango	18. Ms. Judith Chelangat Mutai
7. Hon. Alex Kimanzi Ithuku	19. Mr. Joseph Kipkoech Biomdo
8. Hon. Martha Wanzila Mutuku	20. Ms. Anne Mary Auma Okutoyi
9. Mr. Benard Wafula Murunga	21. Mr. Abdi Mohamud Hassan
10. Hon. Francis Nyungu Kyambia	22. Dr. Nabil Mokaya Orina
11. Hon. Letizia Muthoni Wachira Rwigira	23. Ms. Patricia Naeku Leparashao
12. Hon. Kennedy Lenkamai Kandet	24. Ms. Catherine Akaigwa Kassim

The Commission has also nominated the following persons for appointment as Judges of the Environment and Land Court:

<b>JSC NOMINEES FOR JUDGE OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND LAND COURT</b>	
1. Mr. John Walter Wanyonyi	8. Dr. Robert Omondi Owino
2. Hon. Jecinta Atieno Orwa	9. Hon. Lillian Tsuma Lewa
3. Mr. Peter Muneeno Musyimi	10. Ms. Bellinda Akoth Akello
4. Hon. Cyprian Mugambi Nguthari	11. Hon. Ben Mark Ekhubi
5. Hon. Charity Chebii Oluoch	12. Mr. Josphat Ngeria Kuyioni
6. Hon. Gerhard Gitonga Muchege	13. Hon. Elena Gathoni Nderitu
7. Hon. Charles Nchore Ondieki	

**Before I conclude, allow me to address a matter of public importance.**

The Judicial Service Commission has taken note of the *Kenya National Gender and Corruption Survey 2025* released by the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday.

The report has profiled corruption in the wider public sector, including the Judiciary.

Earlier today, the Chief Registrar of the Judiciary, who is also the JSC Secretary - together with our technical team - met with the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission to begin a structured review of the findings and recommendations to enable the JSC and the Judiciary develop concrete action.

**Our position is simple - and firm: we do not tolerate corruption.**

And we will act wherever integrity is compromised.

This is not a new commitment. It is a sustained one.

We have taken deliberate steps to close gaps, strengthen systems, and hold ourselves to higher standards:

- ❖ In 2021 we invited the EACC to conduct an independent systems audit of Judiciary processes - so that weaknesses are identified and addressed and we have had continuous engagement in this regard.
- ❖ The Judiciary has since established Integrity Committees across court stations to reinforce accountability at every level.

- ❖ The Judiciary has institutionalized Judiciary Dialogue Day's with the public as a sensitization and feedback mechanism to enhance service delivery
- ❖ To bolster transparency and minimize human interactions that may breed corruption, the Judiciary has enhanced automation in its court and administrative processes.

The JSC has finalized the development of Regulations to govern the processing of petitions against Judges.

This is the direction of travel: more transparency, more accountability, and less room for misconduct.

We will continue to work openly and constructively with the EACC and other oversight institutions to strengthen integrity within the Judiciary.

As a Commission, we remain firmly anchored in our constitutional mandate under Article 172—to promote and enforce accountability.

We also call upon Kenyans:

If you encounter corruption - report it. Whether it involves a Judge, a Magistrate, Kadhi, Registrar, or a member of staff.

Accountability is a shared responsibility.

And finally, to all Judges, Judicial Officers, and members of staff – we must remember that judicial authority is derived from the people of Kenya and must be exercised with integrity, impartiality and unwavering fidelity to the Constitution.

Public trust is our greatest asset.

We must; Protect it; Uphold it and Earn it - every single day.

I thank you.

**Hon. Justice Martha K. Koome, EGH**

**Chairperson**

**JUDICIAL SERVICE COMMISSION**