



JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE JUDICIAL SERVICE COMMISSION AND THE JUDICIARY LEADERSHIP TEAM ON STRENGTHENING ACCOUNTABILITY, INTEGRITY, PERFORMANCE AND PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

14 August 2026

1. The Judicial Service Commission (JSC) and the Judiciary Leadership Team (JLT) held joint deliberations on 14th August 2026 on measures to strengthen the administration of justice, judicial accountability, institutional integrity, performance and public confidence in the Judiciary.
2. The deliberations were guided by the shared conviction that judicial independence and accountability are mutually reinforcing constitutional principles, and acknowledgement that an independent Judiciary must equally be accountable, responsive, efficient and worthy of the confidence of the people it serves.
3. The JSC and the JLT acknowledged the concerns raised by court users, advocates and the wider public regarding delays in the delivery of justice, integrity, judicial and staff performance, responsiveness to complaints and the need for greater transparency.
4. Following the deliberations, the JSC and the JLT agreed on the following priority commitments:
 - a. Strengthening Leadership and Accountability***
5. Heads of Courts, Heads of Stations and all persons exercising supervisory responsibility will be required to take greater responsibility for the effective functioning of courts and stations under their leadership. This includes proactive action on case

backlog, delayed judgments and rulings, absenteeism, underperformance, misconduct, registry services and other challenges affecting the experience of court users.

6. Performance, integrity and backlog management will be regularly reviewed at leadership and court-management levels to ensure that emerging concerns are identified and addressed early.

b. Accelerating the Delivery of Justice and Reducing Backlog

7. The Judiciary will strengthen active case management and implement measurable and time-bound interventions to reduce case backlog and delays in the delivery of judgments and rulings. Greater use will be made of performance dashboards, court data and other technology-enabled monitoring mechanisms to identify delays and facilitate timely interventions. Workload, staffing and recruitment decisions will also increasingly be informed by reliable data to ensure that judicial resources are deployed where they are most needed.

c. Fair, Accurate and Transparent Judicial Performance Reporting

8. The JSC and Judiciary remain committed to greater transparency in judicial performance. However, performance information released to the public must be accurate, verified and a true reflection of the work undertaken by individual Judges and Judicial Officers.
9. The existing criteria for individual performance reporting will therefore be reviewed to properly take account of matters such as multi-Judge benches, shared judicial work, case complexity and other relevant responsibilities.
10. Individual performance information will be published after the foundational data and methodology have been sufficiently verified to ensure fairness, accuracy and credibility.

d. Strengthening the Framework for Handling Complaints

11. The JSC engaged the National Assembly's Committee on Delegated Legislation on the Complaint Handling Regulations on 14 May 2026. The Commission will follow up with the Committee on the finalization of the Regulations, which are intended to establish a clear, predictable and procedurally fair framework for the handling of complaints concerning Judges and Judicial Officers, thereby strengthening accountability, transparency and public confidence in the complaints-handling process.

e. Strengthening Integrity and the Fight Against Corruption

12. The Judiciary and JSC reaffirmed their commitment to zero tolerance for corruption and misconduct within the Judiciary. Existing Judiciary integrity and accountability structures will be reviewed to clarify their mandates, eliminate duplication and strengthen coordination, follow-up and reporting.
13. Greater attention will also be given to misconduct involving Judiciary staff, including registry and frontline personnel, recognising that every interaction between a court user and the Judiciary contributes to public confidence in the justice system. Integrity mechanisms will increasingly be required to demonstrate clear, measurable outcomes, including action taken on complaints and identified integrity concerns.

f. Shared Responsibility for Integrity Across the Justice Sector

14. The JSC and the Judiciary recognise that corruption in the administration of justice cannot be addressed by any institution acting alone, and that the responsibility to safeguard the integrity of justice rests on all actors participating in the administration of justice.

15. The Judiciary will therefore strengthen engagement with the Law Society of Kenya and other justice-sector stakeholders to develop shared approaches to professional integrity, corruption and misconduct across the justice chain.

g. Improving Responsiveness to Court Users

16. The Judiciary recognises that timely and respectful communication is an important part of access to justice and public service. Heads of Courts, Heads of Stations and relevant Judiciary offices will be expected to improve the handling of letters, complaints, enquiries and representations from advocates, litigants and members of the public. Clearer feedback mechanisms will be developed so that persons raising concerns are appropriately informed of the status or outcome of matters, subject to confidentiality and applicable law.

h. Strengthening Public Communication and Engagement

17. The Judiciary and the JSC will enhance their communication approach from one that is predominantly responsive during moments of controversy to a more proactive, regular and transparent engagement with the public.
18. The public will receive clearer information on reforms, institutional performance, backlog-reduction initiatives, integrity measures, service improvements and challenges being addressed.
19. The Judiciary and the JSC will also strengthen public education on court processes, judicial independence and institutional accountability, particularly during periods of heightened public interest.

i. Protecting Judicial Independence While Enhancing Accountability

20. The Judiciary and the JSC reaffirm that judicial independence must be fully protected and that no Judge or Judicial Officer should be subjected to disciplinary action merely because of an

unpopular judicial decision. At the same time, judicial independence cannot be invoked to shield corruption, misconduct, incompetence or other conduct inconsistent with the Constitution and the judicial oath.

21. The JSC and the JLT will continue deliberations on strengthening the framework for addressing judicial misconduct, including conduct that may warrant accountability but does not meet the constitutional threshold for removal from office.

j. Clarifying Institutional Mandates

22. The JSC and the Judiciary will work towards clearer and complementary statutory and institutional frameworks defining their respective responsibilities, including through proposals for legislative reform where necessary. The objective is to eliminate unnecessary overlap, strengthen coordination and ensure that each institution can discharge its constitutional mandate effectively and independently.

k. Supporting Wellness While Maintaining Standards

23. The Judiciary and the JSC recognise that health and wellness can affect judicial performance. Appropriate frameworks will therefore continue to provide for medical assessment, psychosocial support, rehabilitation and early intervention, while ensuring that persistent non-performance or misconduct is addressed through fair and appropriate accountability mechanisms.

l. Judiciary's preparedness for Election Dispute Resolution

24. The JLT discussed the Judiciary's preparedness for Election Dispute Resolution (EDR) and approved the EDR curriculum to guide the training and capacity-building of Judges, Judicial Officers and relevant staff ahead of the electoral cycle.

m. Judiciary Infrastructure Masterplan

25. The JLT also discussed the Judiciary's infrastructure needs following extensive internal and external stakeholder consultations on the state, adequacy and future requirements of Judiciary infrastructure. The JLT approved the Judiciary Infrastructure Masterplan as the comprehensive framework for addressing the Judiciary's short-, medium- and long-term infrastructure needs.
26. The Masterplan encompasses court construction, rehabilitation and maintenance; ICT and digital infrastructure; adoption of alternative and green energy solutions; and the progressive development of model constituency courts to enhance access to justice and bring court services closer to the people. It is underpinned by a costed implementation plan to support effective planning, resource mobilisation and allocation, absorption of available resources, phased implementation, and the sustainable maintenance of Judiciary infrastructure over time.

n. Ensuring Implementation and Public Accountability

27. The JSC and the JLT will develop a joint implementation and accountability framework to translate the agreed resolutions into measurable action. Progress will be reviewed regularly, with responsible offices required to account for implementation. The success of these commitments will ultimately be measured by their impact on the people of Kenya through:
- more timely and efficient justice;
 - reduced case backlog and delays;
 - higher standards of integrity and accountability;
 - fair and credible judicial performance reporting;
 - greater responsiveness to court users;
 - stronger institutional transparency; and

- increased public confidence in the administration of justice.

28. The Judicial Service Commission and Judiciary Leadership Team reaffirm their shared commitment to a Judiciary that is independent, accountable, efficient, responsive and firmly anchored in service to the people of Kenya.

HON WINFRIDAH B. MOKAYA, CBS
CHIEF REGISTRAR OF THE JUDICIARY / SECRETARY, JSC & SECRETARY, JLT