REPUBLIC OF KENYA

JUDICIAL SERVICE COMMISSION

13th November 2026

PRESS RELEASE

APPOINTMENT OF THE CHIEF KADHI OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA

The Judicial Service Commission (JSC) is pleased to announce the appointment of **Hon. Hassan Omar Daffa as the Chief Kadhi of the Republic of Kenya**, pursuant to Article 172 of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010.

Hon. Daffa brings to the Office extensive experience in Islamic jurisprudence and judicial service. Prior to his appointment, he served as a Principal Kadhi. He holds a Master's Degree in Source Methodology in Islamic Jurisprudence and a Bachelor's Degree in Sharia and Islamic Studies, both from Umm Al-Qura University in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Hon. Daffa also holds a Bachelor of Laws degree from Mount Kenya University and is an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya.

The Office of the Chief Kadhi, established under Article 170(1) of the Constitution, occupies a unique and important place in Kenya's justice system. It plays a central role in the administration of justice in matters of Muslim law relating to personal status, marriage, divorce and inheritance.

As the head of all Kadhis' Courts in the Republic, the Chief Kadhi bears a significant responsibility in upholding the rule of law, safeguarding the dignity of those seeking justice and strengthening public confidence in the administration of justice. The Office also carries deep religious and cultural significance for the Muslim community in Kenya.

The appointment follows the passing of the late Chief Kadhi, Sheikh AbdulHalim Hussein, whose dedicated service to the Judiciary and the people of Kenya was marked by integrity, humility and an unwavering commitment to justice. The Commission once again honours his contribution and the legacy he left behind.

The recruitment process commenced with the declaration of the vacancy on 16th January 2026. The Commission received fourteen (14) applications, out of which nine (9) candidates were shortlisted.

Recognising the unique place of the Office of the Chief Kadhi in the administration of justice and the lives of the Muslim faithful, the Commission undertook public participation in June 2026. This provided an opportunity for members of the Muslim community and other stakeholders to share their views on the qualities, values and leadership expected of the next Chief Kadhi.

Interviews for the shortlisted candidates were subsequently conducted on 2nd and 3rd November 2026. In keeping with its commitment to openness and accountability, the Commission invited observers drawn from the Muslim community to witness the proceedings, further strengthening transparency and public confidence in the recruitment process.

The Commission expresses its sincere appreciation to Hon. Sukyan Hassan Omar, who has been serving as the Acting Chief Kadhi, for his leadership and dedication in ensuring continuity and stability during the transition.

We also extend our gratitude to the members of the Muslim community, observers and other stakeholders whose participation and valuable contributions enriched the recruitment process. The Commission equally

appreciates all the candidates who offered themselves for consideration and demonstrated their willingness to serve the people of Kenya.

The Commission warmly congratulates Hon. Hassan Omar Daffa on his appointment and wishes him wisdom, strength and success as he assumes this important responsibility.

The Judicial Service Commission remains steadfast in its commitment to **fair, competitive, transparent and merit-based recruitment**, guided by the Constitution and the principles of good governance. Through these efforts, the Commission continues to strengthen the administration of justice and build public trust and confidence in the Judiciary.

Hon. Justice Martha K. Koome, EGH
Chairperson
JUDICIAL SERVICE COMMISSION