



JUDICIAL SERVICE COMMISSION

19th May 2026

**REMARKS BY HON. JACQUELINE INGUTIAH, MBS – JSC
COMMISSIONER DURING THE LAUNCH OF TRIBUNALS SHARED
SERVICES, NYERI**

- ✓ *The Chief Justice and President of the Supreme Court of Kenya,
Hon. Justice Martha Koome*
- ✓ *The Deputy Chief Justice and Vice President of the Supreme Court
of Kenya, Hon. Lady Justice Philomena Mbete Mwilu*
- ✓ *The Governor Nyeri County, His Excellency Dr. Mutahi Kahiga*

Allow me to ride on the protocol already established

It is a privilege to be here in Nyeri - a county whose legacy of resilience, enterprise, and civic pride runs deep - as we mark another significant step in Kenya's journey toward effective and specialized justice.

Since the integration of Tribunals into the Judiciary, 27 Tribunals have transitioned, the most recent being the Public Benefit Organizations (PBO) Disputes Tribunal. This steady expansion is not merely an

institutional milestone; it reflects a deepening national commitment to specialized dispute resolution as a cornerstone of justice delivery.

The numbers tell a compelling story. In the last three quarters alone, over 10,296 matters were filed across the 27 Tribunals, while 10,699 were finalized, a clear demonstration of both growing public confidence and strong performance. Approximately 10,959 matters remain pending, with sustained upward trends in filings and clearances, particularly within the Business Premises Rent Tribunal, Rent Restriction Tribunal, Co-operative, and Tax Appeals Tribunals. These are not mere statistics. Behind each of those numbers is a person who walked through the doors of a Tribunal with a problem they could not resolve on their own. They came because they believed that the system would be fair, that it would be timely, and that it would treat their matter with the seriousness it deserved. Kenyans are turning to Tribunals, and we must ensure Tribunals are ready to serve them.

That readiness demands sustained institutional investment. The JSC Strategic Plan 2022–2027 places at its very core a commitment to promoting and facilitating the effective and effective administration of justice. This is not an aspirational phrase. It is a constitutional imperative drawn directly from Article 172 of our Constitution — the very foundation of this Commission’s mandate. A mandate that we take seriously.

This financial year, the Commission facilitated key appointments and renewals across multiple Tribunals, including four (4) Co-operative Tribunal Members, six (6) HIV and AIDS Tribunal Members, three (3) Retirement Benefits Appeals Tribunal Members, one (1) National Environment Tribunal Member, and eight (8) Tax Appeals Tribunal Members. Acting Chairperson appointments were also made at the Energy and Petroleum Tribunal, Political Parties Disputes Tribunal, Capital Markets Tribunal, Co-operative Tribunal, Business Premises Rent Tribunal, National Civil Aviation Administrative Review Tribunal, and Standards Tribunal — ensuring continuity and uninterrupted service to litigants.

We are equally pleased to report meaningful progress on long-standing operational challenges. The Public Private Partnerships Petition Committee, which had been inactive since 2023, is now fully constituted and actively handling matters following the appointment of seven (7) members. The Public Benefit Organizations Disputes Tribunal is now fully operational following the swearing-in of four (4) members and is poised to make significant contribution in resolving disputes within the non-profit and NGO sector.

This year also marked a historic first: the Commission undertook renewals for Tribunal Members who were originally appointed under various Ministries, before the legal clarifications that affirmed the place of Tribunals within the Judiciary and the JSC's mandate over their

membership. It was an important step in consolidating institutional coherence.

We gather today to celebrate the launch of the Tribunals Shared Services Registry here in Nyeri — and to mark a milestone in a journey that has been steadily, purposefully expanding across the country. Nyeri is the third such Registry, following the establishment of those in Nairobi and Kisumu, and together these three hubs are designed to serve not just their host cities but the wider regions surrounding them. This is a practical, people-centred initiative that reflects what is possible when institutions collaborate in genuine service to the public. We are deeply grateful to the County Government of Nyeri and all partners whose support made this a reality.

As I conclude, it is important to state that as a Commission, we do not take lightly the concerns raised by Tribunals leadership through various engagements and consultative forums. I want to assure every Chairperson, Member and staff: those concerns are heard, and they remain under active consideration within the appropriate frameworks. The Commission is committed to strengthening Tribunals while safeguarding their independence and institutional integrity

We commend the Registrar of Tribunals, Hon. Ann Asugah, whose tireless leadership continues to drive the transformation of the Tribunal ecosystem. I thank all Chairpersons, Members, and staff whose commitment sustains these institutions day after day.

May this Shared Registry deepen access to justice, strengthen public trust, and stand as a testament to what committed institutions can build together.

Thank you.