



National Integrity Alliance
Leadership With Integrity

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Judicial Accountability Must Be Resolved to Restore Public Confidence in the Administration of Justice

The National Integrity Alliance (NIA) stands in solidarity with the Law Society of Kenya (LSK) following its targeted boycott of proceedings before specified judges and judicial officers. The targeted boycott, which commenced on 23rd July 2026 after the general boycott, is a response to unresolved concerns surrounding judicial accountability and ongoing proceedings involving the Judiciary Service Commission (JSC), Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC), and the Directorate of Criminal Investigation.

While the boycott is, on its face, a professional response by members of the Bar, it raises much broader questions that affect the cost of justice to every Kenyan: What does it cost when public confidence in the justice system begins to erode? Who ultimately bears the cost?

Justice is not measured only by the outcome of the court cases. It is measured by the confidence that citizens have in the institutions entrusted to administer it. A judiciary that is independent, impartial and accountable strengthens democracy, protects constitutional rights and assures citizens that disputes will be resolved fairly. Conversely, when accountability processes become prolonged, contested or lack public transparency, confidence in the administration of justice is inevitably affected.

At the heart of this conversation lies another challenge that cannot be ignored-judicial corruption. The [Kenya National Gender and Corruption Survey 2025 report](#) released by the EACC, in collaboration with the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), the National

Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) and Transparency International Kenya, revealed that **magistrates pocket the largest average cash bribes among all public officials in Kenya, averaging Sh164,367 per transaction.**

Similarly, in [Kenya Bribery Index report, 2025](#) released by Transparency International Kenya, **the judiciary was ranked as the worst institution in terms of the average size of bribes, with an average of Kshs.18,800,** a 33% increase compared to 2017. Whether perceived or actual, corruption within the justice sector has greatly weakened the legitimacy of judicial institutions, the rule of law and diminished public trust in the judiciary.

Equally damaging is the perception that all allegations of misconduct are not investigated promptly or that accountability mechanisms are ineffective or selectively applied. A judiciary that is free from corruption is indispensable to the fight against corruption across all sectors, as it is the institution ultimately entrusted with enforcing the Constitution, protecting rights and holding public officials accountable. Addressing judicial corruption demands robust preventive measures, effective enforcement of ethical standards and sustained institutional reforms that reinforce both judicial independence and public confidence.

The current developments therefore extend beyond the interests of the legal profession. They speak directly to the integrity of Kenya's constitutional order. They remind us that judicial independence and judicial accountability are not opposing ideals. Rather, each depends on the other. Independence protects judicial officers from improper influence, while accountability ensures that public power is exercised transparently and responsibly.

For ordinary *mwanaichi*, these institutional challenges often translate into a higher cost of justice. Delays in resolving disputes, uncertainty within the justice sector and declining public confidence can discourage citizens from seeking legal remedies, prolong commercial and personal disputes, and weaken trust in the rule of law. The cost is therefore borne not only by institutions, members of the Bar, but by every citizen and business that relies on an effective justice system. Ultimately it is the entire society and economy that bears the brunt of judicial corruption.

The question is not simply how the current dispute is resolved, but how the country can build a justice system that commands enduring public confidence and remains accountable to the people it serves. It is for this reason that we continue advancing the Cost of Justice Campaign,

a civic initiative aimed at fostering informed national dialogue on judicial corruption, constitutional and fiscal dimensions of the justice sector.

We, the NIA, recognize that the issues giving rise to the current boycott must be addressed without delay and in strict adherence to the Constitution. The responsibility to restore public confidence rests with all institutions charged with safeguarding the administration of justice. Timely, transparent and lawful accountability processes are essential to preserving the legitimacy of the Judiciary and reinforcing the rule of law.

We therefore demand the following;

1. The **JSC** to expedite the lawful resolution of all disciplinary and administrative processes affecting judicial officers, while ensuring that such processes are conducted transparently, fairly and in strict compliance with the Constitution and the principles of natural justice;
2. The **EACC** to independently conduct all investigations involving corrupt judicial officers and for the **ODPP** to prosecute where evidentiary threshold is met;
3. The **Judiciary** to strengthen the institutional measures for preventing, detecting and addressing judicial corruption by enhancing and enforcing its internal integrity systems, ensuring timely handling of complaints against judicial officers and fostering a culture of accountability that reinforces public confidence in the administration of justice;
4. The **Judiciary** should establish safe and efficient whistleblowers, complaints, compliments and feedback systems for all judicial services and lead a criminal justice sector reform agenda for eradicating corruption and unethical behaviour among all the criminal justice actors.
5. The **Judiciary** should lead a criminal justice sector reform agenda for eradicating corruption and unethical behaviour among all the criminal justice actors including the investigators, prosecutors, lawyers, and judicial officers. This should also be complemented by expeditious and judicious determination of corruption cases to deter corrupt practices including expeditious administrative and judicial actions against any criminal justice actors engaged in corrupt practices in the discharge of their duties; and
6. All justice sector actors, including the LSK and CSOs continue to engage constructively in advancing reforms that strengthen judicial independence while promoting transparency, accountability and public trust in Kenya's justice system.

The administration of justice is not the concern of judges and lawyers alone. It is a matter of public interest. Every Kenyan has a stake in ensuring that justice remains accessible, accountable, transparent and worthy of public trust.

About the National Integrity Alliance (NIA)

The National Integrity Alliance (NIA) is a citizen-centered integrity and anti-corruption coalition comprising Transparency International Kenya (TI-Kenya), Inuka Kenya Ni Sisi! The Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC) and The Institute of Social Accountability (TISA). NIA seeks to breathe life into the constitutional promise on Integrity by catalyzing frontline ethics and anti-corruption institutions, and active citizens to Detect, Deter, Disrupt and Defeat corruption at all levels of society.

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Signed by:

- Transparency International-Kenya
- Inuka Kenya Ni Sisi! Ltd
- Kenya Human Rights Commission
- The Institute of Social Accountability