SUPREME COURT
REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA

Hon. Justice Martha Koome, EGH
Chief Justice and President
Supreme Court of Kenya

Hon. Justice Philomena Mbete Mwilu, EGH
Deputy Chief Justice and Vice-President
Supreme Court of Kenya

Tartu, 29 October 2026

Honourable Chief Justice Koome,
Honourable Deputy Chief Justice Mwilu,

Please accept my sincere gratitude for the warm hospitality I experienced during my internship in Supreme Court of the Republic of Kenya from 5 to 19 October 2026 in framework of the judicial exchange program of the International Association of Supreme Administrative Jurisdictions.

The reception at your court was of a high standard, both in terms of the substance of the meetings and the logistical arrangements. First of all, I would like to thank you personally, Madam Chief Justice, and you, Madam Deputy Chief Justice, for the discussions we held at the beginning and end of my visit.

I also owe a thank you to Hon. Justice Isaac Lenaola for his in-depth overview of the Kenyan Constitution. The Registrar, the Hon. Thomas Nzyoki, and his colleagues not only gave me a tour of the Supreme Court's historic building but also provided me with a thorough overview of the functioning of both the Supreme Court and the entire judiciary.

The extensive and goal-oriented use of information technology within the Kenyan judicial system is impressive. The independence and efficient functioning of the Kenyan courts deserve international recognition. The opportunity to observe court hearings in five cases proved to be a particularly valuable experience for me.

Honourable Ladies, as Estonia follows the civil law and Kenya the common law tradition, our legal systems differ greatly in detail. At the same time, I had to acknowledge that the challenges facing the courts are largely common, and at the level of principles, solutions are sought in a rather similar manner. A good example is the disputes over the social safeguards for judicial independence, which are currently a topical issue in both countries.

Estonia is currently reforming the way its courts are administered. Based on my recent visit, I am well placed to provide my colleagues with many examples of the efficient functioning of the court administration. In both countries, we must continue to develop the courts' information systems in order to ensure citizens' access to justice and reasonable trial times. I very much hope that the exchange of experiences, which has already proved successful on several levels, will continue.

My Ladies, I wish you and your colleagues every success in safeguarding a stable democracy, the constitution and fundamental rights. Thank you once again for the opportunity to gain an in-depth insight into the work of the Supreme Court of Kenya.

Yours sincerely,



Ivo Pilving
Chairman of the Administrative Law Chamber
Supreme Court of Estonia