



Kenya: Legalisation of Kenyan documents

The following note describes the legalisation procedure in Kenya.

The note is based on an interview conducted in Nairobi, in January 2020.

Kenya is not part of the Apostille convention, and therefore some Kenyan documents must be legalised for them to be accepted abroad. Some countries only require Kenyan documents to be notarised.

When a Kenyan document is legalised, the document must first be notarised by a notary public, an Advocate of High Court of Kenya. The notary public verifies the document by checking with the authority of issuance or requesting the original document from the owner if they submitted a copy. The notary public gives the applicant a certificate.¹ The applicant submits the document to High Court and receives another certificate. When having obtained these two certificates the applicant must go to the Kenyan Ministry of Foreign Affairs for legalisation, where the applicant is once again given a certificate.

Legalisation of the document is not completed until all three certificates have been issued. According to a local lawyer, a person who got a document legalised, should be able to provide the three certificates.²

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¹ Local lawyer, Nairobi, January 2020.

² Local lawyer, Nairobi, January 2020.

References

Oral source

Local lawyer (January 2020): Interviewed in Nairobi, Kenya.