



Press Release

THE JUDICIARY

Plot 2, The Square High Court Building
P. O. Box 7085, Kampala Uganda

IN ANY CORRESPONDENCE ON
THIS SUBJECT PLEASE QUOTE NO.

Judiciary halts action on Bunyoro land tittle file

KAMPALA-6 August 2017: The Judiciary has given the Assistant Registrar of the Masindi High Court seven days to explain the circumstances under which she issued an order cancelling all land titles in Bunyoro Region.

Ms. Julia Acio on 27 July 2017 made a ruling in a Land Miscellaneous Application No. 43 of 2017, entering a default judgment in favour of Bunyoro Kitara Reparation Agency Ltd which sued seven District Land Boards in Bunyoro under Masindi Civil Suit No. 44/2016. The order extracted declared all land titles issued by the District Land Boards of Masindi, Kiryandongo, Buliisa, Hoima, Kagadi, Kakumiro and Kibale null and void.

In a letter to Ms. Acio on 4 August 2017, the Judiciary Chief Registrar, Gadenya Paul Wolimbwa, ordered the Assistant Registrar to immediately forward the file containing the orders to him for “perusal and advice”. She was also ordered to “cease taking any legal steps in the suit”.

“As you must be aware, the unintended consequences of your orders have caused a lot of concern in the country; key among them that all land titles in Bunyoro Region have been cancelled, which is false.”

“In view of the challenges created by your orders, I direct you to...explain the circumstances that let you issue the contested default judgment, when you know that the Constitutional Court had stayed actions in the matter. Let me have your explanation by 11 August 2017,” Mr. Gadenya’s letter to Ms. Acio read in part.

After the review in Kampala, the file will be returned to the Masindi High Court Resident Judge, Justice Rugadya Atwooki, for the rectification of the order on 22 August 2017.

Explaining the mishap in Ms. Acio’s orders, Judiciary’s Public Relations Officer, Mr. Vincent Emmy Mugabo, said the Assistant Registrar had signed and sealed the order in error.

“Justice for All”

T: +256 414 233 420/3 E: info@judiciary.go.ug W: www.judiciary.go.ug

“The Judiciary would like to assure the affected parties to stay calm, no titles were cancelled in the impugned order. There should be no cause for alarm,” added Mr. Mugabo.

Mr. Gadenya’s letter was copied to the Chief Justice, Bart M. Katureebe, Principal Judge, Dr. Yorokamu Bamwine, Justice Rugadya Atwooki and Registrar High Court, Isaac Muwata.

ENQUIRIES

Solomon Muyita - Senior Communications Officer, Judiciary

Mobile: +256 (0)77 220 0089, Email: smuyita@judicature.go.ug