



News Release

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Interference of court processes undermines judicial independence

The Judiciary is deeply concerned by various media reports where the Ntungamo Resident District Commissioner Geoffrey Mucunguzi continues to justify meddling in court matters claiming they are administrative interventions. These acts compromise the integrity of the court system and the administration of justice as a whole.

Judicial and institutional independence is a cornerstone of any functioning democracy, ensuring that courts can adjudicate cases impartially and without external pressures. Any interference in this process not only jeopardizes cases in court but poses a significant threat to the foundation of our legal system. The core function of the Judiciary is to administer justice through resolving disputes between individuals, and between the State and individuals. Also to promote the rule of law and contribute to the maintenance of order in society.

The Chief Justice, Alfonse Chigamoy Owiny – Dollo stated that while the Judiciary recognizes the importance of robust public discourse and debate, such discussions should not infringe upon its (Judiciary's) autonomy. "Attempts to influence court decisions or cast doubt on the credibility of the legal process erode public trust and undermine the very essence of justice," he said.

He noted that where a court has issued an order, it should be respected. "...Where one is dissatisfied with the court, the law provides for avenues of redress."

The Chief Justice reiterated the need for all stakeholders and the general public to allow the courts operate independently, free from undue external influences, in order to maintain the rule of law and protect the rights and liberties of all citizens.

He also called upon all relevant authorities to thoroughly investigate any allegations of interference in court processes and take appropriate actions to safeguard the independence of the Judiciary.

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