

17TH ANNUAL JUDGES' CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS

The 17th Annual Judges Conference - 2015 was a four-day Conference of all Judges and Registrars of all the High Court Divisions and Circuits; Constitutional/Court of Appeal; and the Supreme Court, held between 22nd and 26th February 2015 at the Imperial Golf View Hotel, Entebbe.

The 2015 Conference was organized under the theme *"The Role of the Judiciary in Accelerating the Transformation of Uganda's Economy"*. The theme put the Judiciary's role in accelerating the development of Uganda under the spotlight and calls upon judges to examine their adjudicative role within the prism of supporting and enabling development in Uganda.

The Conference was officially opened by President Yoweri Museveni, attended by the Acting Chief Justice, Hon. Steven B.K. Kavuma, the Principal Judge, Hon. Dr. Yorokamu Bamwine, Justices of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal, judges of the High Court, registrars, judicial officers. It was also attended by visiting judges from Kenya, Tanzania and India, members of the JLOS Development Partners Group, the legal fraternity and selected experts, among others, and it was officially closed by the Justice and Constitutional Affairs Minister, Maj. Gen. Kahinda Ottaffice.

Conference Resolutions

Session	Resolutions	Action Officer
1. The Role of ICT in Transforming the Judiciary into an Efficient, Effective and Competitive Institution	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Judiciary should adopt the use of information and communication technology in all judicial processes.2. The Draft ICT Strategic Plan for 2014-2018 should be refined and adopted, and funding secured for the purpose of setting the Judiciary on the right course towards the adoption of ICT in our courts.3. Training of personnel at all levels (including technical staff) should be undertaken so that the human resource is prepared to adopt the new technology.	

<p>2. Leadership and Change Management</p>	<p>4. Independent funding should be secured to increase budgetary allocation for the Judiciary.</p> <p>5. The Judiciary should adopt a comprehensive mechanism of measuring performance, against which parameters excellence should be rewarded, and failure addressed.</p>	
<p>3. The Performance on the Performance of the Supreme Court, Court of Appeal and High Court in Case Disposal</p>	<p>6. A Division for handling Civil Reviews should be established.</p> <p>7. Efficiency of courts should be improved especially in the recording of proceedings, by recruiting and training transcribers to enhance performance.</p> <p>8. Cases where Records of Appeal are missing should be sent back for retrial.</p> <p>9. All parties concerned must ensure that the resources available are adequately utilised.</p>	
<p>4. Stakeholders Views on the Performance of the Judiciary</p>	<p>10. All Judicial Officers should ensure that the interests of stakeholders are not prejudiced in the administration of justice, especially where specific Constitutionally Mandated Institutions are concerned.</p> <p>11. There should be continuous sharing of information and standardisation of performance expectations in order to curb inefficiencies in the</p>	

	<p>administration of Justice.</p> <p>12. The Judiciary should work hand in hand with other sector institutions to ensure transparency and efficiency in the administration of justice.</p>	
5. Managing Judicial Training for Improved Judicial Performance	<p>13. The Judicial Studies Institute should be provided with sufficient funds to ensure training for all judiciary staff.</p> <p>14. The JSI Strategic Roadmap 2015 should be adopted and implemented, and should be the basis for securing funding for the Institution's programs.</p>	
6. The Progress of the Performance Enhancement Tool	<p>15. The Performance Enhancement Tool should be improved and adopted to accommodate transparency and fairness, and implemented according to the work plan.</p>	
7. Report of the JLOS Judicial Integrity Committee	<p>16. The judiciary should allocate more funds to ensure holding of more sessions.</p> <p>17. Sensitisation on interventions such as plea bargain should be carried out.</p> <p>18. Steps should be taken to the adoption of more friendly court attire for judges, including reforms on the requirement to wear wigs and robes.</p>	
8. Judiciary Agenda to Improve Service Delivery in the Next Year	<p>19. There should be a balance between investment in physical infrastructure and operations.</p> <p>20. The Judiciary should apply innovative methods to its work, including the</p>	

	<p>adoption of technology, positive attitudes to work and team work.</p> <p>21. Corporate branding should be done to boost the public image of the Judiciary and to manage our stakeholder expectations.</p> <p>22. There should be deliberate construction, maintenance and preservation of customised court infrastructure.</p> <p>23. A reporting mechanism should be put in place to monitor the implementation of these resolutions.</p>	
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THE JUDICIARY