



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

THE 16TH ANNUAL JUDGES CONFERENCE 2014

PERFORMANCE OF THE LAND DIVISION AND EMERGING
TRENDS IN THE LAND JUSTICE SYSTEM.

26TH -30TH JANUARY.

1. INTRODUCTION

The High court Land Division (herein after “the land division”) as indicated during the last judges conference remains committed to timely delivery of quality justice, within the available resources and unlike last year, the Land division is now run by 6 judges. All these judges are new in the division and have done commendable work since their deployment.

2. THE JUDICIAL TEAM:

The Judicial team for the period under review was as follows:-

January – June. 2013

1. Hon. Justice Opiro Rubby Aweri
2. Hon. Lady Justice Solomy Balungi Bbossa
3. Hon. Justice Mike J Chibita
4. Hon. Justice Joseph Murangira
5. Hon. Lady Justice Percy Night Tuhaise
6. His Worship Festo Nsenga

July – December 2013

1. Hon. Justice. J. Wilson Kwesiga (Head of Division)
2. Hon. Justice Owiny-Dollo (Attached to Land Division)
3. Hon. Justice Dr. Andrew Bashaija
4. Hon. Lady Justice Monica Mugenyi
5. Hon. Lady Justice Elizabeth Kabanda
6. Hon. Lady Justice Damalie Lwanga
7. Hon. Lady Justice Eva K. Luswata
8. H/worship Ajiji Alex
9. H/worship Harriet Nalukwago Ssali

It is worth noting that, Hon. Justice Owiny Dollo of the international crimes and Execution continues to actively dispense Land Justice in this division. This increased number of Judges, which has helped a lot to reduce backlog of cases in the Division.

Not only was the number of judges increased, but the support staff was also beefed up and this has helped in the improvement of service delivery at this division.

We thank the administration for these developments, because this has helped the division to address some of the pressing challenges the division had.

There was a physical count of files and update in order to enable the Judges to handle files that have over stayed. This enabled us to remove all the files that had been redundant over years and we disposed of those that had been over taken by events. This has tremendously reduced on the backlog.

3. CASE STATUS

As at the end of December 2013, we had a case load of **5317** assorted cases, as per Table 2 below:

Table 1- Case load as of December 2012

CASE CATEGORY	-A- CASES FROM 2011	B/F YEAR	-B- REGISTERED CASES AS OF 31 ST DECEMBER 2012	-C- COMPLETED CASES AS 31 ST DECEMBER 2012	PENDING CASES CARRIED FORWARD TO JANUARY 2013
CIVIL SUITS	1853		591	274	2169
MISC. CAUSES	190		90	73	202
MISC.APPL	1838		1050	797	2089
CIVIL APPEALS	148		86	61	173
ORIGINATING SUMONS	29		13	13	24
MISC. APPEALS	26		8	18	16
CIVIL REVISION	29		25	17	36
TOTAL	4113		1863	1253	4709

Table 2- Case load as of December 2013

CASE CATEGORY	-A- CASES FROM 2012	B/F YEAR	-B- REGISTERED CASES AS OF 31ST DECEMBER 2013	-C- COMPLETED CASES AS 31ST DECEMBER 2013	PENDING CASES CARRIED FORWARD TO JANUARY 2014
CIVIL SUITS	2169		652	411	2596
MISC. CAUSES	202		91	146	165
MISC.APPL	2089		1294	1198	2255
CIVIL APPEALS	173		71	65	213
ORIGINATING SUMONS	24		10	12	28
MISC. APPEALS	16		5	4	19
CIVIL REVISION	36		17	15	41
Total	4709		2140	1851	5317

New case registration has steadily increased over the years, with 1563 cases registered in 2010, 1638 in 2011, 1996 in 2012, and 2140 in 2013.

4. Challenges

- There is need for more Research Assistants because there are only 3 and yet the Judges are 6.
- The work load in the division is too much for one Registrar.
- There is still need for a motor cycle or two for the process servers.
- Twed Towers is out of town, necessitating a van for support staff.
- Twed Towers has other constraints, including incessant and rather embarrassing power cuts, threatened water dis-connections.
- The premises are both unsuitable and in adequate, we have no space for a library, court rooms and stores of exhibits and other items that need secure storage.

5. Way forward

- We intend to pursue sessions further in accordance with our already submitted work plan, targeting at least 840 Cases. This shall however require assistance from the Administration, by provision of funds and personnel.
- The Division should have one Deputy Registrar and 2 Assistant Registrars with one specifically for mediation.
- We intend to also carry out a comprehensive weed out exercise targeting especially miscellaneous applications.
- The planned mediation committees reflected in our last year report are yet to be functional we intend with the assistance of the administration to peruse mediation more aggressively.
- The division needs special training for the Judges and Registrars in ADR approach. This is urgent.

Conclusion

Land is a very vital asset, and due to population pressure, land has become even more valuable, with conflicts becoming ever rampant and serious. This makes Land Justice a critical area that may reflect favorably upon the Judiciary as a whole.

The land division takes this opportunity to thank everyone for the support rendered during the year 2013 and wish you a fruitful 2014.

In particular we would like to thank the Uganda Land Alliance for providing facilitation for the Land User Committee meetings during the year 2013. In the same vein we would like to thank U.L.S for parternering with us and always publishing our cause lists and day to day co-operation.

Equally we thank all the stake holders for their invaluable concern in the affairs of Land matters in the Division. Last but not least, as the Head of Division, I thank all the Honorable Judges of the Division and in particular predecessors in the Land Division for setting the pace.

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Justice J. W. Kwesiga.

Head Land Division

A LIST OF SUPPORT STAFF FOR THE HIGH COURT LAND DIVISION

1no	Name	title
1.	Owino Ojowomoko	Office supervisor
2	Nanteza Damalie	Accounts
3	Kwaga Stella Rita	Reseach Ass
4	Namugga Jeannie	Research Ass
5	Twinomugisha Patience	Research ASS
6.	Mboyo Stephen	Systems administrator
7	Kinkumu Micheal	Data entry clerk
8	Egessa Odoki	Clerk
9	Magala s.k.b	Clerk
10	Nabirye betty	Clerk
11	Namutebi Eva	clerk
12	Akullu Keren	Records Assistant
13	Atyang Faith	Records Assistant
14	Kibirango Joyce	Records ASS
15	Apollo Dillis	Records ASS
16	Kirunze Moses	Records ASS
17	Abu Mayanja	Records ASS
18	Bwayo Edwin William	Records ASS
19	Mubeezi Ruth	Pool stenographer

20	Natabi Robinah	Pool stenographer
21	Namboze Gladys	Pool stenographer
22	Kaddu Sunny	Perssonal SEC
23	Iterera Daniel	Personal sec
24	Kyokumusimma Julia	Process server
25	Busulwa Joseph	Process server
26	Nakazibwe Mable	Process server
27	Acai Toby	Office attendant
28	Kugumisiriza Agripin	Office attendant
29	Wanaicinge Martha	Office attendant
30	Atuhaire Prim	Office Attendant
31	Nassanga Ruth	Office attendant
32	Kodi Robert	driver
33	Odong Simon	Driver
34	Mungono Moses	Driver
35	Kabugu Ali	Driver
36	Mulunyu Tom	Driver
37	Mugabe Alex	Driver
38	Barongo Jonathan	Driver
39	CPL Arinitwe Dues	Bodyguard
40	CPL Mugasira Charles	Bodyguard

41	WPC Kamugisha Judith	Bodyguard
42	PC Lwanga Ali	Bodyguard
43	WPC Sylvia Katugume	Body guard
44	WPC Biira Scovia	Body guard
45	Nanseera Hasipher	transcriber
46	Nakibirango Susan	Transcriber
47	Naziri Bena	Transcriber