



# Chambers of the Chief Justice

SUPREME COURT OF UGANDA

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

IN ANY CORRESPONDENCE ON  
THIS SUBJECT PLEASE QUOTE NO. **CJ/C.7**

21<sup>st</sup> June 2021

## CIRCULAR

The Hon. The Deputy Chief Justice  
The Hon. The Principal Judge  
The Hon. Justices of Supreme Court  
The Hon. Justices of Court of Appeal/Constitutional Court  
The Hon. Judges of High Court  
The Permanent Secretary/Secretary to The Judiciary  
The Chief Registrar  
The Registrars, Deputy Registrars and Assistant Registrars  
The Chief Magistrates  
The Magistrates Grade I  
The Magistrates Grade II  
All Staff of the Judiciary

### **REVISED CONTINGENCY MEASURES BY THE JUDICIARY TO PREVENT AND MITIGATE THE SPREAD OF COVID-19**

Reference is made to the earlier Guidelines issued by the Chief Justice on 19<sup>th</sup> March, 26<sup>th</sup> March, 29<sup>th</sup> April, 5<sup>th</sup> May, 27<sup>th</sup> May, 6<sup>th</sup> June, 29<sup>th</sup> June, 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2020 as well as on the 29<sup>th</sup> January and 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021, which are all still in force; and in line with the Directives issued by HE the President on 6<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of June 2021 for prevention and mitigation of the spread of COVID-19.

*"Justice for All"*

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**WITH THE ESCALATING LEVELS OF COVID-19 INFECTION WHERE A NUMBER OF PIVOTAL STAFF HAVE UNFORTUNATELY LOST THEIR LIVES AND SEVERAL OTHERS ARE HOSPITALIZED IN CRITICAL CONDITION;**

I HEREBY, pursuant to the powers conferred upon the Chief Justice under Article 133 of the Constitution, issue these **Revised Guidelines** which shall remain in force for 42 days with effect from the **18<sup>th</sup> of June, 2021**.

### **Scaling Down operations to 10% Staff attendance**

1. All Courts and Departments are hereby directed to immediately scale down operations to **10% physical presence** and ensure that only critical staff remain to attend to the Court/Office business on a daily basis.
2. The Heads of Courts and Departments within the Metropolitan Kampala confluence should immediately submit to the Chief Registrar/Secretary to Judiciary the **names of the staff** who are required to physically attend at the workplace together with the **Registration Numbers of vehicles** and personal **National Identity Card Identification Numbers (NIN)** of the respective staff who are expected to work during the 42 days for purposes of processing their Movement Permits.
3. Registrars and Magistrates from other Districts are required to work out similar arrangements with the respective Chief Administrative Officers(CAOs) to facilitate movement of the essential staff whose physical presence at Court/office may be required.
4. Following the ban on public transport:
  - (a) Only the staff who have official vehicles/motorcycles may report for work when required to do so;

(b) All staff who have private vehicles/motorcycles with Movement Permits/ Stickers may report for work when required to do so;

(c) All the other staff, not falling in the two categories above, shall work from home; except where the office arranges means of transport for such staff.

### **Hearing of cases**

5. All Court hearings and appearances remain suspended, with the exception of only the urgent matters.
6. All execution proceedings and processes remain suspended, including any matter(s) where execution process had commenced.
7. Judicial Officers must operate from home, except where there is an urgent matter that requires their physical attendance at the Court.
8. Judicial Officers should continue to write judgments and rulings; and deliver them virtually.

### **Matters of Bail**

9. Bail applications in critical cases may be entertained using online systems where possible.
10. All accused persons on bail should stay home; and only report to Courts for mention of their respective cases after 42 days.

### **Coordination with Stakeholders**

11. Coordination between stakeholders in the respective Courts through the Regional Coordination Committees (RCC); District Coordination Committees



(DCC) and Court User Committees should be maximized during this period to ensure that urgent matters are attended to.

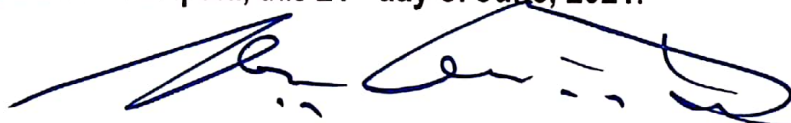
### **Court email addresses**

12. E-mail addresses for all Courts shall be created and shared with the Uganda Law Society by Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2021 to facilitate online filing of pleadings, notices, submissions and other correspondences to the respective Courts.
13. Judicial Officers are accordingly instructed to pay attention to the communications through e-mail addresses to ensure timely response to the Court Users whenever necessary.

### **Observance of Covid -19 Preventive Measures (SOPs)**

14. All Staff **MUST** strictly observe the Covid-19 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) issued from time to time by the President of Uganda, the Ministry of Health and the Chief Justice.
15. These Guidelines are issued in addition to the other Guidelines previously issued, which remain in force.
16. All Judicial and Support Staff are reminded to follow and observe the Presidential Directives issued on 6<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of June 2021.
17. These Guidelines may be amended or reviewed from time to time in line with the National Health Policy.

Dated at **Kampala**, this **21<sup>st</sup> day of June, 2021**.



**Alfonse Chigamoy Owiny – Dollo**  
**CHIEF JUSTICE**