



Harnessing the Digital era for judicial excellence & accountability

Unpacking the Judiciary's 5 year strategy 2015/16-2019/20

20TH ANNUAL JUDGES' CONFERENCE

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Chair, ICT Committee - EACJ
Chair, ICT/Law Reporting – Judiciary Uganda

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OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

1. Statement of the problem.
2. Overall strategy & rationale .
3. Adopting a modern case management system.
4. Unpacking the new strategy.
5. Advantages of the strategy.
6. Challenges.
7. Way forward.

Statement of the problem

FAILED CASES FOR OVER 10 YEARS

471

Cases that have stayed unresolved in courts for over ten years across the country.

254

Cases that have been lying in the High Court registry for the last ten years

217

Cases which are still lying in the lower Magistrate's Courts.

BACKLOG CASES

48.8%

Central region

19%

Western region

16.8%

Eastern region

15%

Northern region



"Some files had been mismanaged, with some having long injunctions imposed on them."

JUSTICE HENRY PETER ADONYO, THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COURT CENSUS TASK FORCE

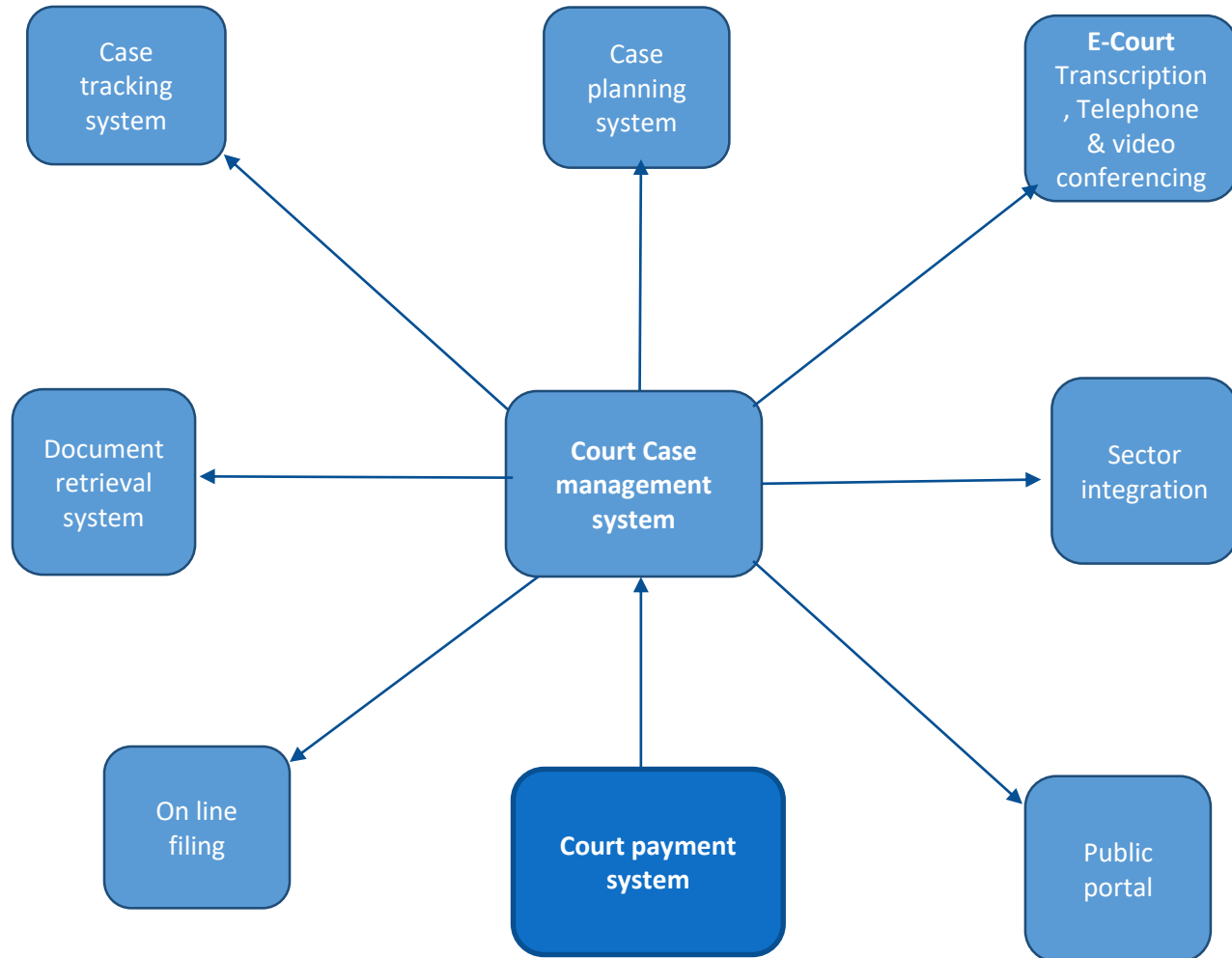
Overall strategy & rationale

1. reducing delay, improving economy efficiency & effectiveness.
2. Technologies adopted for use within the court.
3. ICT & communication exchange between courts parties and the general public.

Just like other institutions we wish to effect a migration from a manual & analogue business process to a progressively digital one.

Modern case management system

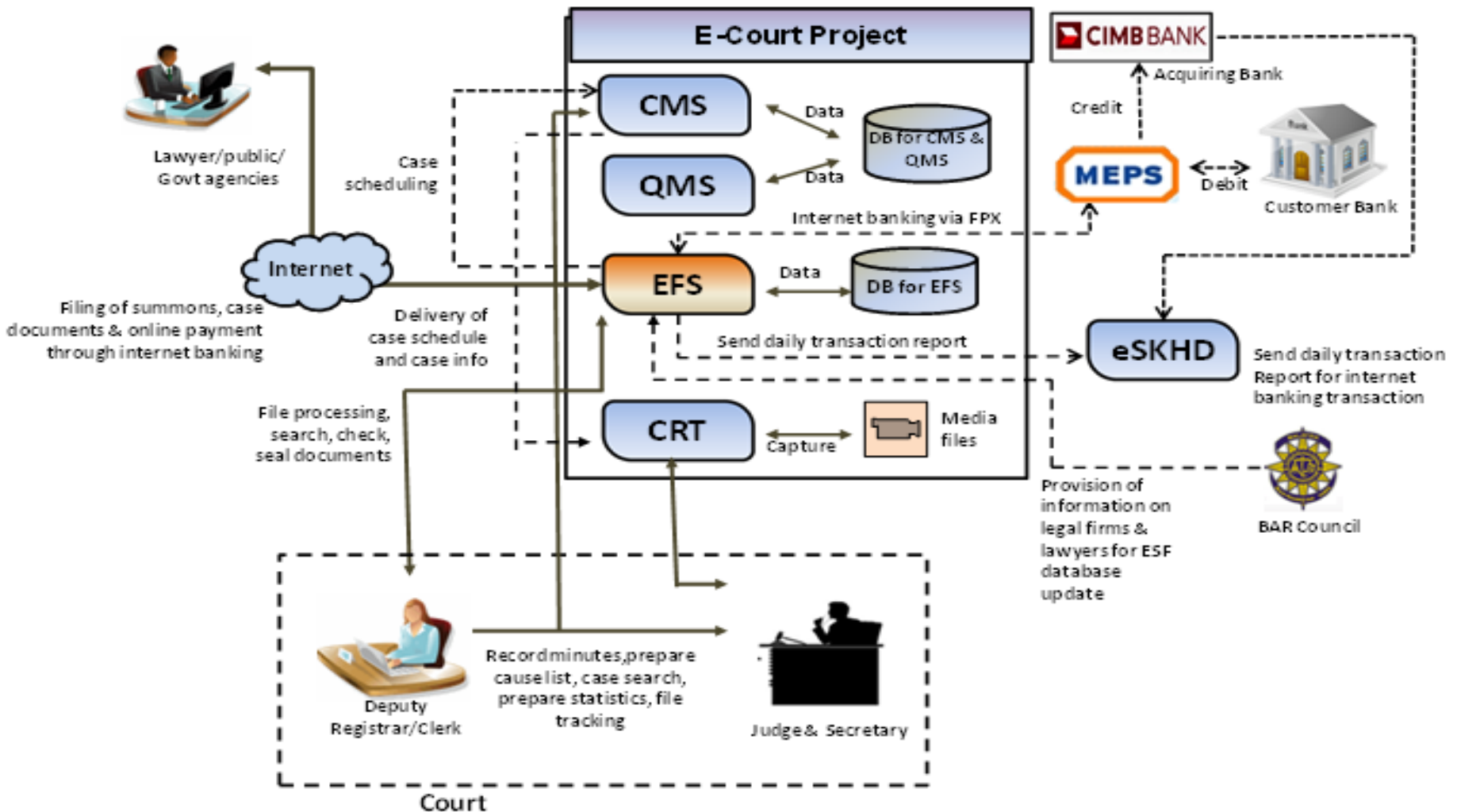
matrix



Pillars of the Strategy = 9

- Enabling regulatory environment
- Adequate management information systems
- Reliable hardware infrastructure
- Adequate software platforms & tools
- Security of ICT systems
- Human resource
- Statistical & management resources & capabilities
- Sponsorship & supportive decision making
- Analytical, development & implementation methodologies

Enter E-Justice and E-Court

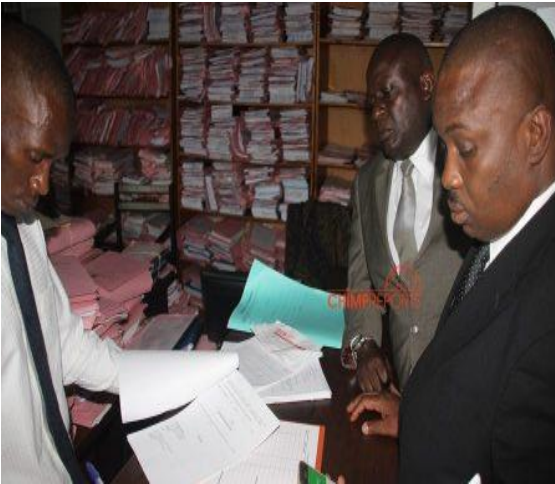


Migration from paper to digital



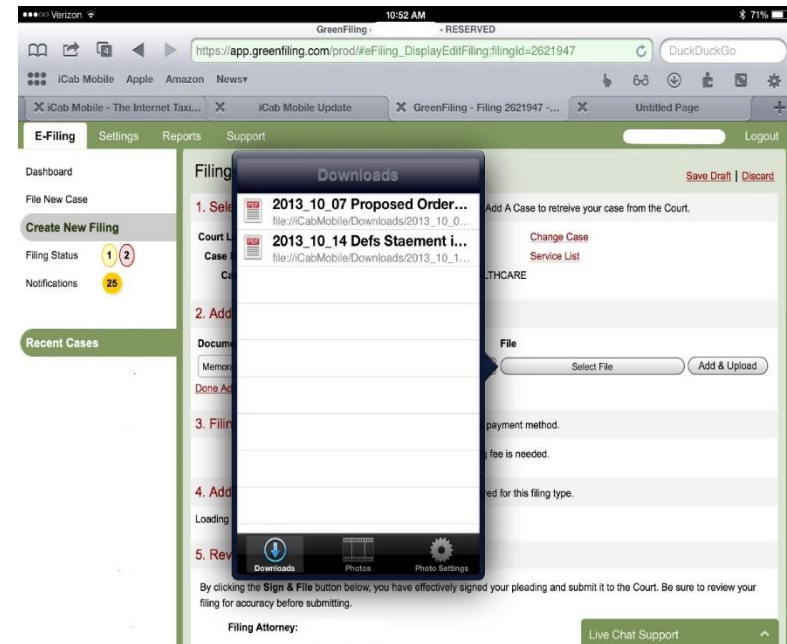
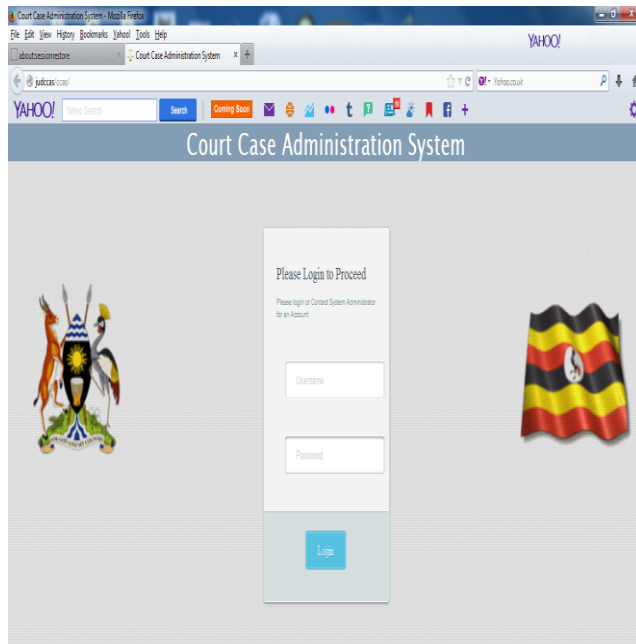
E-filing as a new component

- Filing from chambers or designated kiosks



From data to full case management

Move from CCAS to ECMIS.



Easier case retrieval

- 24/7 multiple case retrieval



E-enabled court rooms

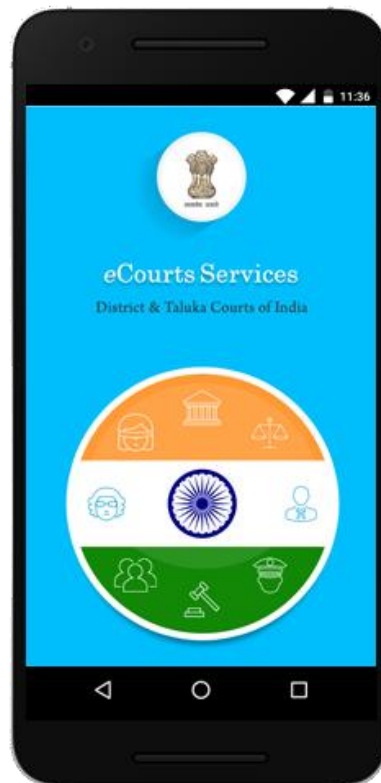


E-tools & Apps



New court user portals

- Enhanced transparency kiosks, mobile phones, computers, IVRs etc



Sector integration

DPP –Prisons- Police- URA/Banks- ID(NIN)
Lands etc



Applications & data integration
platform NITA (U)



UGANDA JUDICIARY SILO

Advantages of use of ICT in the courts

- Improved efficiency and cost effectiveness
- Improved court productivity and reduced delays
- Improved access to justice
- Improved accountability and public confidence in the justice system

Early birds

- voluntary e- service
- Mobile apps from in house developers (mini clerk)

Challenges

- IT is costly and difficult to procure
- Training (status quo & BBC syndrome)
- Buy in by the legal profession.
- Standardisation of processes.
- Increased pre trial protocols.
- Wider disclosure.
- Hardware challenges
- Internet coverage.
- Intermittent Power
- The rise of the virtual court and On line dispute resolution.

Way forward

- Reform the court business processes
- Develop a user driven ICT strategy
- Ensure horizontal and vertical integration
- Train judicial officers and manage attitudinal change.
- Budget for ICT and use a scale up model
- Involve the bar and public in ICT uptake

The End

The future is actually already here



Thank your kind attention
Justice Geoffrey Kiryabwire