



JUDICIARY AGENDA TO IMPROVE SERVICE DELIVERY FOR 2015/16 FY

PRESENTED AT THE 17th ANNUAL JUDGES' CONFERENCE 2015,
HELD AT IMPERIAL GOLF VIEW HOTEL, ENTEBBE
22ND – 26TH FEBRUARY 2015

Dorcas W. Okalany (Mrs),
Secretary to the Judiciary

Agenda



- Key initiatives
- Challenges
- Way forward

Funding judicial activities



- ❑ Unbalanced allocation of National resources
 - Executive took 95%, Parliament (4.4%)
 - Judiciary got paltry 0.6% share for salaries/wages, capital development and re-current expenditure in 2013/14 FY
 - Budget could not meet even a half of our basic needs
 - To propose at least 2% national budget
- ❑ Key funding priorities
 - Court sessions & land justice
 - Building new courts, rent and utilities
 - Technology
 - Image building
 - Anti-corruption campaigns

Payment reforms



1. Court Payments

- ❑ Support easy payment of litigation-related Court fees and fines, like bail money
 - To introduce a Mobile Money facility for payment at court
 - Negotiations in advanced stages with a local bank to establish banking services at major court premises
- ❑ Expected benefits
 - To operate until 7.00pm to ensure that remand suspects granted are not returned to prison because banks closed
 - To enhance value for money – at times costs of payment court fees are more than the fees
 - Enable quick turnover of court transactions with the public.

Payment reforms....

2. OBT

- ⦿ This tool was introduced to enable Government allocate funding based on out puts expected
- ⦿ This tool is used to link Government expenditure to targeted outputs
- ⦿ Various courts are allocated funding based on targets that are developed during the budgeting process e.g. Cases to be disposed or No. of Judicial Officers to be trained etc..

Payment reforms....

2. OBT

- ⦿ The budgeting is consultative and planning and budgeting workshops will be conducted annually.
- ⦿ Funds are released in line with the approved budget at item level.
- ⦿ Unbudgeted expenditure tantamount to misallocation of funds.
- ⦿ Endeavour to spend funds in line with the approved budget to avoid audit queries.

3. Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS)

- ⦿ This is a computerised financial Management System
- ⦿ Introduced in 2003 and has been operational and improved over time
- ⦿ Used for payment processing and reporting on financial transactions
- ⦿ It archives all records of financial transactions at individual payment level.
- ⦿ A history of transactions to a single recipient over a specified period can be retrieved within 5 minutes.

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4. Integrated Personnel and Payroll System (IPPS)

- IPPS is a system introduced in 2011 that is designed to manage the HR processes from entry to exit including salary and pensions payrolls.
- It is intended to create efficiency and introduce controls in management of salary and pension
- An Electronic Document Management System (EDMS where scanned copies of personal files are maintained in softcopy is interlinked with IPPS.
- The IPPS will be interfaced with the Performance Management Tool for the Judiciary.
- With effect from January 2015, the Justices and Judges were accessed on to the IPPS with a special payroll code to facilitate payment of salaries by the 10th of the month.
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4. Integrated Personnel and Payroll System (IPPS).....

- ◎ Pay slips will be sent electronically to the respective Justices and Judges and hard copies provided.
- ◎ The IPPS/IFMS has been interfaced to facilitate the decentralized system of payment of salaries and pensions.
- ◎ The Judiciary is required to budget for the pensions.

5. IPPS/IFMS Interface

- The new payment system requires Judicial and Administrative personnel to have valid Supplier numbers to be accessed on the payroll and for set up on the IFMS. .
 - Changes in the payment data such as change of bank accounts or request for a supplier number will no longer be effected by the MOFPED.
 - With effect from March 2015 the changes will be initiated by the respective Judicial Officers/Administrative Staff using the MoFPED E-Registration portal; requests will be verified by the HR Department and approved by the Accounting Officers.
 - This requires Tax identification Numbers (TIN) to log on to the system.
 - Guidelines will be issued to guide the process.
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7. Auditing

- ❑ Auditors have view rights to the IPPS and IFMS to audit the transaction.
- ❑ They can view all the payments effected Therefore accountability for advances is very important in order to access more funds.
- ❑ An advance should be accounted for within 2 weeks otherwise the funds the funds can be recovered from the salary.

Benefits

- ❑ Faster payment processing through automatic upload of data.
- ❑ Elimination of arithmetic errors (accuracy).
- ❑ Reduction in risks associated with manipulation of data.
- ❑ Ease of access and retrieval of records.
- ❑ Improved reporting and access to HR and payment data.



Inspectorate & Quality Assurance



- Have only three inspectors
- Plan to strengthen inspectorate of courts and quality assurance
- To have a Registrar at center, supported by four deputies
- A deputy registrar at every High Court Circuit to act as sub-registrar
- Regional High Court judges to carry out sub-inspection

Provision of legal reference materials



- Monthly law reports
- Uganda Legal Institute (ULII) to provide law reports from Uganda and other jurisdiction
- Bench books for judicial officers
- Reform of laws used by courts (Trial on Indictment Act, Magistrates Courts Act, Civil Procedure Act, Criminal Procedure Code Act + all Subsidiary Legislation made under these laws)



Computerization of Courts

- Recording of proceedings for every Court of record and Chief Magistrates Court.
- Tablet, laptop and desktop computers for Supreme Court and Court of Appeal Hon. Justices.
- Laptop and desktop computer for every Registrar & Chief Magistrate
- Computer access for every Grade one Magistrate
- Reform & Automate Registries
- To Introduce online filing of cases (e-filing) to eliminate unnecessary human conduct and unprofessional behavior
- Implement the ICT Strategy under development

Communication & Stakeholder relationship



- ❑ Revamp of the Public Affairs & Communication division
 - ✓ Recruited a Senior Communications Officer to coordinate communication and manage stakeholder relationships
 - ✓ To recruit a Communications Officer soon
 - ✓ To provide adequate resources for improved institutional-wide communication
 - ✓ Communication Strategy to guide improved stakeholder relations and community outreach campaigns.
- ❑ Corporate branding
 - ✓ To boost the Judiciary public image through corporate branding to manage our stakeholder expectations
 - ✓ TOR were developed for a credible agency to provide us with a unified brand strategy and logo and official colours
 - ✓ Guidelines for implementing the brand shall be provided

Infrastructure



- Need customized infrastructure for all courts to enhance safety, court user's comfort, staff performance and public confidence in the administration of justice
- Judiciary owns 81 customised court houses to date – funded by development partners
- Government funding directed mainly towards court furnishing and maintenance
- Rents/shares 67 customised court houses with other gov't institutions
- Ugx77bn required for construction of 43 court houses to meet current office demands within 5yrs

Infrastructure



- ❑ Construction of Judiciary Headquarters, to house SC, COA and HC, starts later this year.
- ❑ Project is funded through PPP under JLOS frameworks - to add about 25,000 square meters of office space.
- ❑ Completed construction of Justice Centres at Kayunga; Registry of Planning offices; Judicial Studies Institute at Nakawa; Kabale High Court; Magistrates Court buildings at Ngora and Koboko.
- ❑ On-going construction of Justice Centres at Ibanda, Wakiso, Mityana and Lamwo; court houses are being constructed at Kibuku and Bulambuli – to be completed by 2015.

CHALLENGES



- Not focusing on our core business i.e. adjudication of cases.
- Inadequate resources (human, financial and , infrastructure).
- Poor attitude towards work. This should be discouraged.
- Increasing backlog.

CHALLENGES.....



- Lack of team spirit as the Judiciary
- Failure to use innovative approaches in solving our challenges without referring to monetary resources.
- Intrigue in the Judiciary is on the increase. There is need to positively market the Judiciary as our institution.

WAY FORWARD



- Client-oriented service – aim serving public and not our individual interests
- Apply innovative solutions in our work.
- Judiciary should embrace technology (e-services) for efficient service delivery.
- The Judiciary staff should change their attitude towards work and get job satisfaction.
- Team work: Institutional issues should be above our personal issues
- Call center numbers have been allocated by the Communications Division and we should endeavour to use them.



THANK YOU