



# News Release

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## Judiciary establishes eight Court of Appeal Circuits to enhance access to justice

The Judiciary has established eight Court of Appeal Circuits across the Country in a major reform aimed at taking appellate justice closer to the people, reducing case backlog, shortening appeal timelines, and lowering the cost of accessing justice. It is also intended to improve efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of justice by decongesting the Court of Appeal in Kampala.

This development is anchored in Legal Notice No. 21 of 2025 – *The Constitution (Creation of the Court of Appeal Circuits) (Practice) Directions, 2025*, issued by Chief Justice Emeritus, Justice Alfonse Chigamoy Owiny - Dollo, pursuant to Article 133(1)(b) of the Constitution, on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2025.

Under the new arrangement, the Court of Appeal will sit in Arua, Fort Portal, Gulu, Jinja, Masaka, Mbale, Mbarara, and Mubende, enabling advocates and litigants to access appellate services closer to their regions of operation and residence.

This reform forms part of the Judiciary's broader commitment to strengthening access to justice, enhancing public confidence in the justice system, and improving service delivery nationwide.

The operationalisation of the Court of Appeal Circuits will be undertaken in a phased manner, beginning with Gulu and Mbarara, upon completion of the construction of the respective courthouses.

As a transitional measure, all appeals and constitutional petitions currently pending before the Court of Appeal in Kampala that fall within the jurisdiction of newly created Circuits, and which have not yet been heard, will be transferred to the respective Circuits upon operationalization.

Below is the list of the newly established Court of Appeal Circuits and their jurisdictions;

### COURT OF APPEAL, KAMPALA

Court of Appeal, Kampala	High Court Divisions	High Court Circuit
Court of Appeal, Kampala	Family Division Land Division Criminal Division International Crimes Division Civil Division Commercial Division Anti-Corruption Division	Wakiso, Luwero, Entebbe

### CIRCUITS OF THE COURT OF APPEAL

	Court of Appeal Circuit	High Court Circuits
1.	Arua	Arua, Moyo and Nebbi.
2.	Fort Portal	Fort Portal, Hoima, Kasese and Masindi.
3.	Gulu	Gulu, Apac, Dokolo, Kitgum, Lira and Patongo.
4.	Jinja	Jinja, Bugiri, Iganga, Lugazi and Mukono.
5.	Masaka	Masaka, Rakai and Mpigi.
6.	Mbale	Mbale, Pallisa, Tororo, Soroti, Kumi and Moroto.
7.	Mbarara	Mbarara, Bushenyi, Ibanda, Kabale, Rukungiri and Ntungamo.
8.	Mubende	Mubende and Kiboga.

### ENQUIRIES

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