



# THE JUDICIARY

## INSIDER

## When President Museveni commissioned the Supreme Court & Court of Appeal buildings



**Benedicto Kiwanuka: The Chief Justice who died for justice**



- » Inside the new Magisterial Areas
- » Lady Justice Olive Kazaarwe – Mukwaya: UJOA’s new president shares her experience
- » When the Judiciary hosted African Chief Justices

# PICTORIAL



The Judiciary Permanent Secretary, Dr. Pius Bigirimana leads members of the Judicial Service Commission on a guided tour of the health club at the Supreme Court on February 20, 2024.



Dr. Pius Bigirimana inspecting equipment to beef Judiciary security on May 6, 2024.



The Vice President, Her Excellency Maj. Jessica Alupo (Rtd) at the graduation ceremony of the Chief Justice and 10 others for the award of a Masters Degree in Dispute Resolution and Certificate in Commercial Arbitration from Pepperdine University on March 4, 2024.



Public awareness campaigns at Ibanda Chief Magistrates Court on March 20, 2024



The Chief Justice, Alfonse Chigamoy Owiny - Dollo, launched Kitgum High Court Circuit on March 11, 2024.



The Principal Judge, Dr. Flavian Zeija handing over registers to Justice Amos Kwizera, the Resident Judge of Bushenyi. Looking on is the Court's Deputy Registrar, Goretti Arinaitwe.



## Embracing ADR: A Path to Efficient and Amicable Justice

The need for swift, cost-effective, and amicable resolution of disputes has never been more pressing as it is today. Article 126 of the Constitution directs the courts to promote the peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with our norms, values, and aspirations. This Constitutional imperative is founded on the principles of “Ubuntu” - a form of African humanism and communalism, which prioritizes reconciliation and forgiveness as a sustainable way of maintaining harmony through peaceful coexistence of societies.

The modern court system, while essential, often falls short of meeting these needs due to its inherent complexities, costs, and time constraints. This is where Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms step in, offering a much-needed compliment to the overburdened judicial system.

ADR is important because it offers a faster, cheaper, and more flexible way to resolve disputes. It preserves relationships, maintains confidentiality, and provides parties with more control over the outcome. By embracing ADR, we can create a more efficient and accessible justice system that better meets the needs of individuals and businesses alike.

At the Ugandan Judiciary, we are on course in reengineering ADR in the court system and we have made several interventions on that front. This resonates well with this year’s theme; A People Centered Approach to Justice.

In June 2023, the Judiciary launched the Alternative Justice System Strategy (AJS) and successfully organized the first High Level National Summit on ADR to lay strategies for the implementation of the AJS. In March 2024 we hosted the Africa Chief Justices’ Summit on Alternative Dispute Resolution where we resolved, inter alia, that the Judiciary should be the champion of ADR in any country. The Chief Justice commissioned 72 court accredited mediators, a group of highly distinguished individuals who have graciously accepted to participate in our transformation agenda of making justice more accessible and convenient to the people of Uganda.

As we mark the 7<sup>th</sup> Chief Benedicto Kiwanuka Memorial Lecture, we remember the Chief Justice who died for justice. Read about this and more in this issue of the Judiciary Insider.

Have a great read

**HW Sarah Langa Siu**  
Chief Registrar/Editor-in-Chief

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# Benedicto Kiwanuka: The Chief Justice who died for justice

**Benedicto Kiwanuka was born to Flugensio Musoke and Eularia Nalubowa on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1922 at Kisaabwa Bukomansimbi. While pursuing studies at St Peters Nsambya, Kiwanuka joined the Kings African Rifles and later fought in the World War II in Kenya, Egypt and Palestine. Upon return he was employed as a Court Clerk and later Librarian at the High Court of Uganda. Thereafter he joined the Catholic College of Basutoland from where he got a scholarship to study law at the University of London.**

**K**iwanka started his legal career at Gray's Inn, London in 1956. On 1<sup>st</sup> July 1961, he became Uganda's pre-independence Chief Minister, Leader of Government Business and Chairman of the Legislative Council (LegCo). On the roadmap to independence, he became Uganda's first Prime Minister in the new National Assembly on 1<sup>st</sup> March 1962, when Uganda achieved internal self-government.

After the failed assassination of President Milton Obote, at Lugogo Stadium on 19<sup>th</sup> October 1969, Benedicto Kiwanuka, Paul Ssemwogerere, Muhammad Ssebaduka and several others were arrested and jailed, until 25<sup>th</sup> January 1971 when they were released by President Iddi Amin Dada after the coup de tat.

Upon release from prison, Kiwanuka settled down to his law Chambers on Salisbury Road (Nkrumah Road) and employed brilliant young advocates who included Joash Sendege, Remmy Kasule and John Kawanga. He embarked on fighting for the release of political prisoners he had left in Luzira Prison, with considerable success.

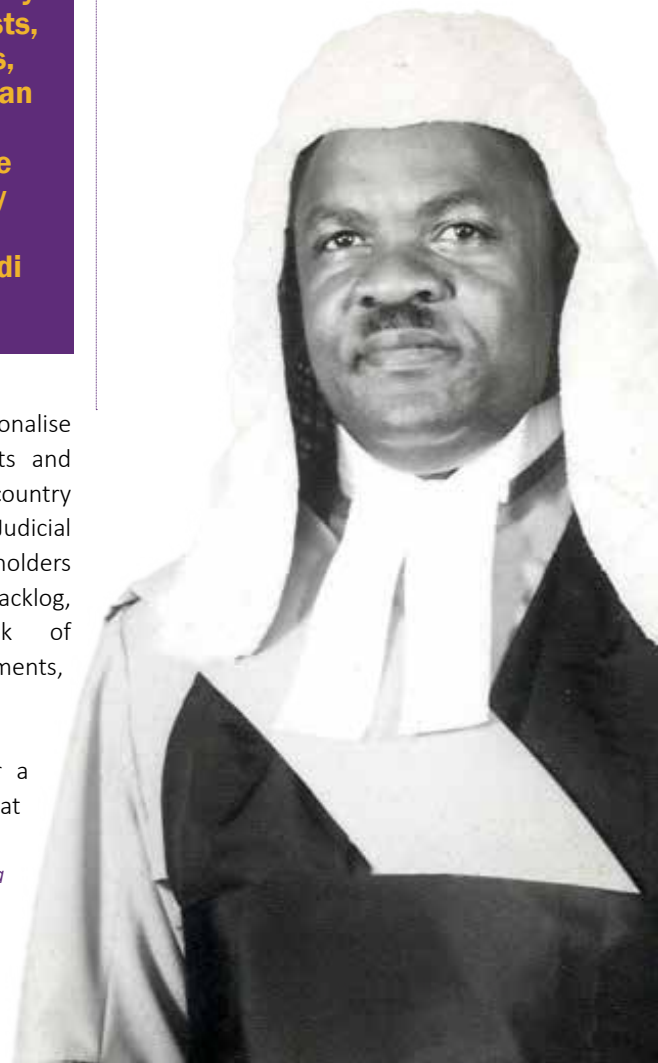
On 27<sup>th</sup> June 1971, Kiwanuka was surprised by an appointment by President Iddi Amin Dadda as Chief Justice of Uganda. After assuming office,

**“**  
**Today marks 52 years since Hon. Chief Justice Benedicto Kagimu Mugumba Kiwanuka was last seen alive. The Chief Justice was martyred for his unflinching advocacy against arbitrary arrests, extra judicial killings, torture, abuse of human rights and the utter disregard for the rule of law, that painfully characterised the infamous President Idi Amin Dada regime.**

Kiwanuka undertook to revolutionise the Judiciary. He visited Courts and prisons facilities across the country and organised meetings with Judicial Officers and justice service stakeholders to address problems of case backlog, tardiness, drunkenness, lack of impartiality and delayed judgments, among others.<sup>1</sup>

On 7<sup>th</sup> July 1971 he called for a meeting of all judicial officers at

the Uganda Conference Centre. He was empathic on the need to hear cases expeditiously and deliver judgments in time. He condemned delays and undue adjournments and called for an end to arbitrariness and exercise of partiality in decision making. He condemned lengthy remands and mismanagement of files and directed the Magistrates to hear cases expeditiously including conducting sessions at the Luzira Prison premises.



<sup>1</sup> See: *Jonat Hon. L. Earle & J. J. Carney: Contesting Catholics, Benedicto Kiwanuka and the Birth of Post-Colonial Uganda, Fountain Publishers, 2021, p. 189.*



The Chief Justice leading a procession of Judicial Officers and advocates during the 6th Benedicto Kiwanuka Lecture.



Dr. Ruhukana Rugunda, a Special Envoy for Special Duties, Office of the President represented the President.



L-R: Deputy Attorney General, Jackson Kafuuzi; Chief Registrar, HW Sarah Langa Siu; Chief Justice, Alfonse Chigamoy Owiny - Dollo; Permanent Secretary/ Secretary, Dr. Pius Bigirimana; the and Special Envoy for Special Duties, Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda.

It is reported that Chief Justice Kiwanuka dug his grave when he issued a writ of *habeas corpus*, directing the Military Authorities to produce Daniel Stewart, before Court, whom he released, on application of Sir Charles Slatter, the British High Commissioner. Daniel Stuart was a British businessman and the General Manager of Madvani Sugar Factory in Kakira Town. He was well

known for living a luxurious life and owned a rare Mercedes Benz Sports car. It is not clear why this young man was extra-judicially arrested and detained in Makindye Military Barracks before he was transferred to Luzira Prison.

A few days after releasing Stewart, rumour went around that President Dada wanted to arrest the Chief Justice, but the latter ignored them. On the morning of 21<sup>st</sup> September 1972, the Chief Justice went to his Chambers at the High Court and dressed in his red

judicial Robes preparing to join Justice Benna Luta and the team from the East African Court of Appeal to kick start a Court session. While preparing to leave, two armed men stormed into his Chambers, grabbed him like a chicken thief, and forced him downstairs into a Peugeot 504 Reg. No. UUU 171 and drove off down City Square to Makindye Military Barracks, from whence he has not been seen to date.<sup>2</sup>

After this incident, the regime hunted down all possible witnesses to this

<sup>2</sup> Robert Ssempe: *Benedicto Kagimu Kiwanuka: The Chief Justice Who Died for Justice*, Vimu Printers, 2020, p. 143



## CHIEF JUSTICE BENEDICTO KIWANUKA

tragedy, ranging from the Chief Justice’s secretary to all those who had encountered the tragedy at the barracks and at Luzira Prison and severally exterminated them. These included: *Rev. Fr. Clement Kiggundu*, an editor of Munno Newspaper, who had questioned the legality of the arrest; *Joseph Kibira*, the Chief Justice’ Secretary, who witnessed his horrible arrest; and

Kigonya, the then Officer-in-Charge Luzira Prison, who had witnessed his initial burial; among many others.

Today marks 52 years since Hon. Chief Justice Benedicto Kagimu Mugumba Kiwanuka was last seen alive. The Chief Justice was martyred for his unflinching advocacy against arbitrary arrests, extra

judicial killings, torture, abuse of human rights and the utter disregard for the rule of law, that painfully characterised the infamous President Idi Amin Dada regime. The martyrdom of Ben Kiwanuka was a consequence of his determination to assert the judicial independence in the face of the Chief Executive who had no regard whatsoever for the rule of law.

## Highlights of the awards ceremony at the 6<sup>th</sup> Chief Justice Benedicto Kiwanuka Memorial Lecture

**The first Principal Judge, Hon. Justice Herbert Ntabgoba, who passed on in April 2020, was awarded the Benedicto Kiwanuka Life Award in honor of his distinguished service in the Judiciary.**

**T**he family of the longest serving Principal Judge, having held the position from 1989-2004, described the posthumous award as a “prestigious gift award.”

The Principal Judge, Dr. Flavian Zeija, had this to say of the former Principal Judge. “The Hon. Ntabgoba is therefore hailed for opening doors to Public Interest litigation in Uganda, which enhanced access to justice for all and sundry, especially the common poor and the defenceless.

Justice Ntabgoba stood for his straightforwardness. He was a judicial



icon who lived to the words of the judicial oath. He juggled administrative work and hearing of cases. This made

him a very influential Judicial officer who closely supervised colleagues in the execution of their work. He made every Judge under his supervision accountable for his or her actions. His work ethic and time keeping were incredible and he expected other Judicial officers to tag along without any excuses.

Besides his impeccable work ethic, he came to personify candour in the Judiciary. He was always principled and charismatic and administered the High Court like the colossus. He was forthright both during court sessions and even out of court, in his daily life.”



The Justice Ntabgoba family shortly after receiving the award.



President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni commissioning the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal buildings on April 18, 2024.

# When President Museveni Commissioned Supreme Court & Court of Appeal Buildings

**President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni on April 18 commissioned two twin courthouses which will be home to the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal buildings which have operated in rented premises since inception.**

**T**he President said, “this was all done with Government money. It was not a grant from some place or a loan. Now this proves what National Resistance Movement has been telling you right from the start. We told you that there’s nothing that you cannot do but we need to plan and prioritise. This is what we really advise Ugandans. Don’t try to touch too many things because if you try to do so, you end up doing nothing,” he said.

The buildings billed at Shs 115 billion are located on Plot 2 The Square where the Judiciary headquarters are found.

“The commissioning of these buildings confirm that there’s nothing that you cannot do, if we prioritise. Everything is important but what do we need immediately that cannot wait? and which one should we handle to push us to a higher threshold? If we take that line, we shall manage and we are managing.”

President Museveni, on the other hand, reassured the Judiciary that the government still maintains its target of increasing the court system budget to Shs800 billion.

The Chief Justice Alfonse Chigamoy

Owiny – Dollo, described the moment as a “historic milestone” in the Judiciary of Uganda. He shared how both the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court had never had homes since inception.

Noting that both courts used to operate in the old building of the High Court and then later on went to Mengo, Parliament Avenue, Kololo, Twed Towers, Wandegeya and finally their respective homes.

Justice Owiny- Dollo said that operating courts in rented premises compromised the security of the courts and also the Courts would operate in premises



designed as business arcades or residential apartments with unsuitable facilities often shared with bars, banks, restaurants and other businesses not compatible with Court work.

Furthermore, the Chief Justice said cases can arise where the Landlord is a litigant and the same court is expected to preside over the case. "There are also instances where rent payments are delayed and the Landlord threatens to evict a Court or to take the Court to court for non-payment of rent," Justice Owiny - Dollo said adding that it's for those reasons that he appreciates President Museveni for his undertaking and unwavering commitment to provide a home for the two appellate Courts.

"I also seize this occasion to hail my predecessor Chief Justices: Samuel Wako Wambuzi, Benjamin Jesse Odoki, and Bart Magunda Katureebe for their role in the pursuit of a home for each of the appellate Courts. The cultivation of the seed, and the tendering of the tree, whose fruits we are harvesting today are directly attributable to each one of these eminent Judiciary administrators," the Chief Justice said.

On his part, the Deputy Chief Justice Richard Buteera, who heads the Court of Appeal, which doubles as the Constitutional Court, shared the plight of being accommodated in rented premises which at times affects court business.

"The buildings commissioned today are going to save the Judiciary and government generally from spending billions of shillings in renting court and office space for Justices of the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court. The two towers now stand in the middle of Kampala with a strategic view for our

### Notable Quotes



Chief Justice Alfonso Chigamoy Owiny - Dollo said: ***"The commissioning of the appellate courts is a significant milestone in the history of the Judiciary. For 57 years now, the appellate courts have been wandering homeless, depending on private people to rent premises to them. We are grateful that we are finally liberated from this mess. We are also grateful to the Government that has always found money and that at no time were any of our courts evicted. We now have more reasons to celebrate and be glad in our new home. We intend to construct regional courts of appeal in Mbarara and Gulu and we pray that the Government enhances our budget to sh800b."***



Deputy Chief Justice Richard Buteera said: ***"For me as head of the Court of Appeal I wish to say on behalf of all Justices and support staff that we are happy to have a home where now we shall permanently sit without interruptions of other businesses not related to court activities. My chambers at Twed towers were above a restaurant and a bar, it could be noisy at times. That is no more."***



**President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, on the other hand, reassured the Judiciary that the government still maintains its target of increasing the court system budget to Shs800 billion**

foreign visitors, local tourists and our court users to appreciate the beauty of Kampala and the presence of the Judiciary in the City Centre. We shall always be proud of our twin towers," Justice Buteera said.

Dr. Pius Bigirimana, the Permanent

Secretary/Secretary to the Judiciary, explained that the idea of constructing the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal was conceived in 1999 but remained on the shelf until 2014 when it was approved by the Judiciary's Top Management. Even then, he said, that it remained on the wish list because of lack of funding.

"In July 2019, Top Management decided to start with the construction of the superstructure with whatever funds were available. The rest would be considered as funds became available. On 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019, through an open tender advertisement, seven firms responded and the successful contractor was Seyani Brothers & Co. Ltd. and Parabat Siyani Construction joint venture at a total cost of Shs.63.9billion for only a nine-floor superstructure," the Judiciary Accounting Officer said.





“The Procurement was transparent. That is why there were no administrative reviews. Thanks to the then Contracts Committee Chairperson headed by HW Sarah Langa Siu, the current Chief Registrar, who ensured fairness and transparency in the procurement process,” he said.

The Permanent Secretary/Secretary to the Judiciary, Dr. Pius Bigirimana thanked the President for his support when he directed those funds be made available by enhancement of Judiciary budget in the year 2021/22, saying this was a game changer in the life of the project.

Construction was supposed to take three years including the defects liability period Dr. Bigirimana said

“

**Besides the Presidential awards, Chief Justice Owiny - Dollo recognized six Staff of the Judiciary for the different roles they played in ensuring that buildings were constructed.**

but this didn't happen because an additional floor on both the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal was factored into the construction to cater for Conference facilities which have been draining money from the budget

to hold them in hotels.

Another idea of interior design, Dr. Bigirimana said, was introduced to include wellness fitness facilities. “The above together with the installation of Information Communication Technology facilities (ICT), Heating Ventilation and Air Condition facilities (HVAC) and Firefighting equipment pushed the construction completion to an estimated four years. Actual excavation started in March 2020.

Construction started in May 2020. Today 18th April 2024, the Judiciary is entering before the four years. This is a big statement to confirm that after all Government can deliver especially when the players have an Abundance Mentality coupled with patriotism. All the funding has been from the Government of Uganda revenue,” Dr. Bigirimana said.

The commissioning was punctuated with the President awarding the current Chief Justice and the three of his predecessors for the various roles they played in ensuring the Twin Towers that now host the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court come to reality.

Besides the Presidential awards, Chief Justice Owiny- Dollo recognized six Staff of the Judiciary for the different roles they played in ensuring that buildings were constructed. These included the Permanent Secretary/Secretary to the Judiciary, the Chief Registrar, the Commissioner Estates and Technical Services, Eng. Dr. Christopher Ebal, the Under Secretary, Ms Maureen Kasande, the Commissioner Human Resource, Ms Apophia N. Tumwine and Mr. Deo Kasozi, the head Procurement and Disposal Unit. ●

## Notable Quotes

Judiciary Permanent Secretary, Dr. Pius Bigirimana said: **“By constructing the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal, the Government will save sh6b in terms of rent annually. With the conference halls, all seminars, workshops and conferences will be held in-house thereby saving more money which was being spent in the outside expensive premises.”**



Chief Registrar, HW Sarah Langa Siu said: **Looking at the magnificent towers that stand before us today, I can say, the project was worth undertaking. The year 2024 will remain remarkable in the history of the Judiciary. Let there be no doubt, the challenges ahead are still many for the Judiciary, but we look to the future with optimism that the new premises will be of great value. I welcome you to the Permanent Home for the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal of Uganda. Not only have the buildings resolved one of our oldest problems – lack of a home for the Appellant Courts, they have also come with other modern facilities, including spacious chambers with befitting judicial ambiance, large court rooms to accommodate our users, boardrooms and conference facilities among others.**





The Chief Justices receiving their awards from the President.

# President Museveni awards Chief Justices, Senior Judiciary managers recognised

**President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni awarded the current Chief Justice and three of his predecessors for the various roles they played in ensuring the Twin Towers, that now host the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court, become a reality.**

In recognizing Justice Samuel Wako Wambuzi, the three-time Ugandan Chief Justice, President Museveni said, “This is in recognition of His Excellent Leadership as the Chief Justice of Uganda in Conceptualizing of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal Buildings project from 1999 to 2001.”

The second to be appreciated by the President was Justice Benjamin Odoki for “His Excellent Leadership as the Chief Justice of Uganda in Concretizing the Designs of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal Buildings project from 2001 to 2013.”

It was during Justice Bart Katureebe’s reign that the building of the Twin Towers started and in recognizing his efforts the President said, “This is in recognition of your Excellent Leadership as the Chief Justice of Uganda in Initiating the Construction of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal Buildings project from



**Chief Justice Wambuzi’s award was received by his daughter Diane and her husband Eckow Ssenyonjo.**

2015 to 2020.”

The current Chief Justice Alfonse Chigamoy Owiny - Dollo was appreciated by the President for “His outstanding Strategic Leadership as the Chief Justice of Uganda in the Construction of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal Buildings project from 2020 to 2024.”

Besides the Presidential awards, Chief Justice Owiny- Dollo recognised six Staff of the Judiciary for the different roles they played in ensuring that buildings were constructed.

Dr. Pius Bigirimana was recognized for “Excellent Performance as Secretary to the Judiciary and Accounting Officer of the Judiciary in the efficient and effective Procurement, Financial Mobilization, Construction supervision and timely delivery of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal Buildings project from 2019 to 2024.”

The Chief Registrar HW Sarah Langa Siu was recognised for her “Excellent Performance as the Chairperson Contracts Committee in the transparent Procurement, Construction supervision and timely delivery of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal Buildings project from 2019 to 2024.”



**Dr. Pius Bigirimana was recognized for his Excellent Performance as Secretary to the Judiciary and Accounting Officer of the Judiciary.**



**The Chief Registrar HW Sarah Langa Siu was recognised for her Excellent Performance as the Chairperson Contracts Committee.**



**The Chief Justice recognized Eng. Dr. Christopher Ebal for his Excellent Performance as the Project Manager of the twin towers.**



**The Under Secretary, Ms Maureen Kasande was recognized for her Excellent role as Chairperson of the Evaluation Committee.**

The Chief Justice recognized Eng. Dr. Christopher Ebal for his “Excellent Performance as the Project Manager in the Formulation, Designing, and Managing the Construction of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal Buildings project from 1999 to 2024.”

The Under Secretary, Ms Maureen Kasande was recognized for her “Excellent role as Chairperson of the Evaluation Committee in the transparent Procurement of the construction of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal Buildings project in 2019.

The Commissioner Human Resource, Mrs Apophia Namutamba Tumwine was recognized for “Excellent Performance as Focal Person in the Interior Design of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal



**The Commissioner Human Resource, Ms Apophia Namutamba Tumwine was recognized for Excellent Performance as Focal Person in the Interior Design of the new courthouses.**

Buildings project from 2023 to 2024.”

Mr. Deo Kasozi, the head of the Judiciary Procurement and Disposal Unit was recognized for his “Excellent



**Mr. Deo Kasozi, the head of the Judiciary Procurement and Disposal Unit was recognized for his Excellent Performance as Secretary of the Evaluation Committee**

Performance as Secretary of the Evaluation Committee and Head of Procurement and Disposal Unit in the Procurement of the Construction of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal Buildings.” ●



# Inside Uganda's Supreme Court operations

By Ritah Mukundane

**The Supreme Court - the highest court in the land - has of late been a site of activity as various constitutional appeals, petitions and normal appeals from the Court of Appeal are heard. This is good news after years in which the court has been going through setbacks starting with 2022 when the Chief Justice's office at the Court's rented premises caught fire forcing suspension of activity.**

There is more about the Supreme Court operations than the fire. "A few documents that were on the table and the like could have been affected but luckily enough most of the files are not kept in the chambers so there is no big alarm about the effect of the fire," Jamson Karemani then Judiciary spokesperson said.

Though no serious damage was reported, the Chief Justice Alfonse Chigamoy Owiny-Dollo, who didn't want to take chances, ordered the Supreme Court to temporarily relocate to Plot 5

Lourdell Road. "The Supreme Court can't move within two weeks as some people are saying that we are now bowing to pressure. The process started in August. We initially wanted the court to relocate to the Judicial Training Institute in Nakawa and also the High Court but both options aren't possible," Justice Owiny – Dollo said.

The main objective, he said, was always to relocate the Supreme Court to its permanent home - the twin tower that was under construction just in front of the High Court's Criminal Division. "The

initial plan was to move into the new permanent home by the end of this year, we kept on waiting but due to the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine, the delivery of lifts was delayed, and now we expect to get done with the construction of the Supreme Court around March next year," the Chief Justice said in 2022.

Ultimately it was at the beginning of this year (2024) when President Museveni opened the twin-tower buildings in a historic event that ended the idea of appellate courts ever occupying rented premises.





The Chief Justice's Chambers.



One of the boardrooms at the Court



The Court has more than one courtroom.

## Historical perspective

Giving the background to these courts, the Chief Justice said the first time the Court of Appeal was established was in 1967. He added that it was referred to as the East African Court of Appeal with each member country setting up its court. "So, when the East African Community broke up, Uganda remained with its court until 1987 when it was renamed the Supreme Court," he explained. Adding: "The Court didn't have its premises and we had to be housed at Mengo, one of the properties of Buganda kingdom until it relocated to Kololo in 2010 at Plot 10, Upper Kololo Terrace opposite Protea Hotel during Justice Benjamin Odoki's reign as Chief Justice."

The Chief Justice further revealed that the court remained operational in the rented premises in Kololo until about two years ago when the fire gutted his chambers, making the building unfit for occupancy, forcing the court to relocate again to Nakasero, opposite the Ministry of Health.

"During that time of looking for where to relocate following the fire incident, we were like in the wilderness. We didn't work. We tried to get space for the justices at the High Court but still things didn't work," the Chief Justice said, adding that the Supreme Court which

has been wandering in the wilderness for the last 57 years has got its beautiful permanent home.

## What it means for the Supreme Court to have a permanent home

Dr. Pius Bigirimana, the Permanent Secretary and Secretary to the Judiciary explained that with the completion of the towering buildings, the Judiciary is to save Shs6b annually that they have been spending on rent for the two courts. Annually, the Judiciary was spending over Shs10b in rent for the courts countrywide, this shows that it's the two appellate courts that were



Dr. Pius Bigirimana.

taking the lion's share in rent. "The cost of the building when everything including furniture is in; is Shs110b. The Government is now going to save about Shs6b in annual rent." Dr. Bigirimana said adding that the Government will now be going forward, paying only Shs4b in rent for the remaining courts occupying rented premises countrywide. The Court has also been short of labour following the death of Justices Stella Arach Amoko and Rubby Opio-Aweri. However, new energy was injected into the court following the appointments of Justices Elizabeth Musoke, Stephen Musota, Christopher Izama Madrama, Catherine Bamugemereire and Monica Mugenyi – all elevated from the Court of Appeal/Constitutional Court. Their appointments coincided with the retirement of Lady Justice Faith Mwendha, who completed her service in June after reaching the mandatory retirement age of 70.

The current justices at the Court are Hon. Lady Justice Dr. Esther Kisaakye, Hon. Lady Justice Prof. Lillian Tibatemwa Ekirikubinza, Hon. Lady Justice Percy Night Tuhaise, Hon. Justice Mike Chibita, Hon. Lady Justice Elizabeth Musoke, Hon. Justice Stephen Musota, Hon. Justice Madrama Izama Christopher, Hon. Lady Justice Dr. Catherine K. Bamugemereire, and Hon. Lady Justice Monica Kalyegira Mugenyi. ●



The Chief Justice in a group photo with Judges and justice actors to mark the first National Court Open Day.

# What you missed at the first National Court Open Day

The Kololo Ceremonial Grounds was a beehive of activity on April 15 as the Judiciary for the first time, held the first National Court Open Day, marking a significant milestone in its commitment to a people centered approach to justice

Court Open Days are deliberate efforts by the Judiciary to strengthen accountability, scale up stakeholder engagements, sensitise court users and obtain feedback on services provided by the Judiciary. The Day is a best practice benchmarked from Denmark where for years from 1996 to 2016 where many Judicial Officers particularly, Magistrates Grade One were trained for a period of one month.

## Highlights

The Day was presided over by the Chief Justice Alfonse Chigamoy Owiny - Dollo, who noted that Judiciary’s role was equal to the other branches of government, where its accountability to Ugandans was a core principle.

He emphasized the importance of outreach and sensitization to educate court users and the public about the Judiciary’s functions and avenues for addressing grievances.

In line with this, the Chief Justice stated that deliberate efforts were being undertaken by the Judiciary to strengthen the Inspectorate of Courts by having regional presence. This, he said, would help to streamline complaint handling mechanisms within the Judiciary and reduce the burden of court users having to travel long distances to file complaints.

Furthermore, he endorsed Alternative Dispute Resolution Methods such as Mediation, Plea Bargaining and Small Claims Procedure to expedite case resolution and foster peace within communities.

The Chief Justice said as a means to improve physical access to justice, more courts were set to be established to improve accessibility to judicial services. He called for cooperation of all stakeholders in advancing the Judiciary’s transformation agenda.

The Deputy Chief Justice, Richard Buteera said the Day’s theme aligned to the Judiciary’s vision of “Justice for All.” He emphasized the importance of engaging stakeholders in the administration of justice, focusing on objectives such as highlighting Judiciary services and receiving public feedback to drive improvements.

## Bridge between the public and courts

Justice Buteera also stressed the need to enhance public trust and understanding of the Judiciary, citing the Open Day as an opportunity for the public to familiarize themselves with court processes. He expressed optimism that increased awareness of court processes and procedures would facilitate smoother access to justice.

Hon. Norbert Mao, the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, highlighted the significance of the National Court Open Day in bridging



All participating courts had dedicated spaces where they explained their services to the public.



Some of the participants at the Court Open Day.

the gap between courts and the public. He cautioned against interference with the Judiciary's independence and urged the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) to robustly uphold the integrity of the Judiciary.

The Principal Judge, Dr. Flavian Zeija, who was the Chairperson of the Organizing Committee for the open day, noted, "as the organizing committee, we ensured that all key stakeholders in the administration of justice were invited. I therefore, call upon the general public to use this chance to visit the exhibition tents. Many actors in the justice delivery chain are here to tell you what services they offer, answer your queries and respond to your complaints."

The Principal Judge reassured the public that the Day had been held for the general public to interact with the court-

for them to get acquainted with services offered- and for the Judiciary and other justice actors to get feedback, on how they can improve services and to serve the people better.

The Chief Inspector of Courts, Justice Stephen Musota encouraged participants to utilize the Inspectorate's services. He emphasized the Inspectorate's role in promoting good governance, ensuring adherence to statutory standards, upholding quality assurance, and enforcing the Judicial Code of Conduct.

Ms Sharon Lesa Nyambe, the Country Representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), which co-funded the event, noted that it was a privilege to witness inclusive active citizen engagement & participation is key in creating a justice system that is

effective, fair, humane and accountable to all individuals.

Adding that the partnership with the Judiciary was contributing to opening court processes for inclusive citizen engagement and participation and enhanced public awareness campaigns.

The event served as a platform for engagement between the Judiciary, court users, and the public, reaffirming its (Judiciary's) commitment to accountability, stakeholder engagement, and service improvement.

The hierarchy of courts was represented, right from the Supreme Court to the Magistrates Courts. Justices of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal, Judges of the High Court, Registrars and Magistrates freely interacted with members of the public to respond and address their concerns and queries. The different courts also made presentations. This was followed by a question and answer session where people freely expressed their concerns.

The Director of Programmes was the Chief Registrar HW Sarah Langa Siu who was assisted by the Judiciary Public Relations Officer, HW James Ereemye Jumire Mawanda. ●



# Key outcomes of the first African Chief Justices' ADR Summit

**The Judiciary has embarked on the process of reengineering Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) as a case management tool. As part of the efforts to promote ADR, Ugandan Judiciary hosted the Africa Chief Justices' Summit on ADR on March 5 – 6, under the theme, “Reengineering the Administration of Justice on the African Continent.”**

The Summit drew participation from 16 countries including Uganda, Botswana, Eswatini, Tanzania, Malawi, South Sudan, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The other participants were from Somalia, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, East African Court of Justice, Benin, Ghana, Kenya, Gambia and Rwanda.

At the Summit, President Yoweri Museveni pledged to provide financial support to the Judiciary towards rejuvenating the traditional methods of dispute resolution as opposed to the colonial way of litigation.

The President's promise was contained in a message delivered by Vice President, Jessica Alupo while officially flagging off the Summit.

President Museveni noted the African Traditional way of resolving conflicts is cheaper, and timely and leaves warring parties contented as opposed to prolonged processes. “The pre-colonial methods of

“  
**At the Summit, President Yoweri Museveni pledged to provide financial support to the Judiciary towards rejuvenating the traditional methods of dispute resolution as opposed to the colonial way of litigation.**”

handling disputes must be studied. They have some positive elements, within them, that the present legal systems must emulate,” he said.

“One of the core principles of the African jurisprudence was truth-finding. This differs from the current legal system which we inherited from the British. In the

current system, one hires an advocate to cover his or her mistakes in a courtroom. The lawyer's job is to minimize his client's mistake and maximize his innocence.”

Some studies have found that the customary justice system offers a big advantage over the state judicial system in terms of physical access and costs.

According to the President, there is a need to formalize Alternate Dispute Resolution mechanisms to clear case backlog.

## Why ADR?

On his part, Chief Justice Alfonse Chigamoy Owiny- Dollo noted that only five percent of Ugandans can access the Court adding it was high time that African courts embrace Alternative Dispute Resolution due to its overwhelming benefits including promoting communal peace.

He gave an example of the war-torn Northern Uganda where guns stopped 18 years ago but the formal justice system



Some of the Chief Justices and heads of delegations in a group photo with the Vice President, Her Excellency Maj. Jessica Alupo (Rtd) at Mestil Hotel and Residences.





**The Vice President exchanges pleasantries with the Deputy Chief Justice. Looking on; the Chief Justice, Justice Musa Ssekaana and Prof Danny DeWalt.**

has done nothing to bring justice and healing to the society which up to date seeks reconciliation for the atrocities mounted against them by the LRA.

The Chief Justice further listed a number of cases including assault, adultery, and theft which are effectively mediated by the African Traditional mechanisms whereas capital offences such as murder are solved through payment of cattle.

For Uganda, the Chief Justice said the Judiciary had successfully applied ADR in the resolution of mainly: commercial disputes, labour disputes, tax disputes, land disputes, family, property and administration causes; and construction and infrastructure disputes.

## Key outcomes

At the end of the Summit, the Chief Justices from Africa came up with 16 resolutions that included - Encourage Chief Justices to lead the reform initiatives to promote Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) and Alternative Justice Systems (AJS) as part of

promoting SDG 16.

Call upon Judiciaries in Africa to support the regular convening of the Africa Chief Justices' Summit on ADR and AJS. Encourage Chief Justices to appoint ADR Focal persons in their respective countries to act as lead focal contact persons for ADR who will be tasked to facilitate the implementation of resolutions arising from the Africa Chief Justices' Summit on ADR.

Advocate for African Governments to budget and allocate sufficient funds to support the promotion of Alternative Dispute Resolution.

Call upon Judiciaries and encourage partnership with research institutions and practitioners to map out the conceptual foundations of ADR and AJS and how they intersect with each other.

Call upon Judiciaries to study Alternative Justice Systems (AJS) with a view of assessing their overall impact and suitability to promote access to justice.

Call upon each jurisdiction to adopt an "ADR/AJS WEEK" as a means for building awareness of ADR processes and enhancing the capacity of ADR stakeholders as a means of building public trust in ADR. Advocate for revision of the legal education including the review of legal school syllabuses to facilitate the development and application of ADR and AJS.

Recommend the collaboration and continued engagement between ADR Centers/Institutes across the Continent. Advocate for the revision or enactment of ADR laws and guidelines that promote the use, adoption, recognition and enforcement of ADR processes and outcomes.

It is expected that such enabling legal frameworks will lead to improved standardization of ADR practices and codes of conduct. Recommend the establishment of recognition systems where ADR Practitioners are awarded for their accomplishments.

Advocate for enhanced training and capacity building for ADR Practitioners.

Countries that have effectively embraced alternative dispute resolution should be contacted to support other countries to exchange knowledge and encourage peer-to-peer learning.

Put in place supportive infrastructure within the Judiciaries to support ADR such as creating an ADR Registry with ADR Judges and Registrars.

Recommend that online dispute resolution mechanisms should be embraced. Advocate the acknowledgement and respect of African cultures in dispute resolution. Recommend that the Chief Justices establish a Chief Justices' Forum on ADR/AJS. ●



# Settlement Week Success Sparks ADR Expansion

By Rose Ampurira

**The Judiciary is actively promoting Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms to enhance the delivery of justice. According to the Deputy Chief Justice, Justice Richard Buteera, this shift recognizes that a significant majority of disputes are resolved outside the formal court system.**

The HILL Report 2024 shows that only 10% of disputes in our society make it to our courts. The other 90% are resolved through traditional means, such as elders, traditional leaders, religious leaders, and Local Council leaders,” he explained.

To build on these traditional methods, the Judiciary is encouraging the use of ADR techniques like Mediation, Arbitration, and Small Claims Procedure for Civil matters and Plea Bargaining for Criminal matters. The goal is to provide more opportunities for disputing parties to settle their cases outside the courtroom, reducing the need for formal litigation.

## ADR piloted in 10 courts

According to Justice Buteera, the recent Case Settlement Week, held from August 5th to August 9th, aimed to test the effectiveness of these approaches. “We piloted Mediation in 10 courts, including the Court of Appeal, Civil, Land, Family and Commercial Divisions of the High Court, High Court Circuits of Mukono and Masaka as well as Chief Magistrate’s Courts in Mengo and Makindye,” he said. Adding that the sessions were facilitated by court-accredited mediators. “The Chief Justice appointed Court accredited mediators, including retired judges and senior advocates who underwent a training on ADR, to facilitate these sessions,” he said.

## Concluded cases

The Deputy Chief Justice noted that during



Some of the Mediation sessions that have been recently held.

the Week, 237 cases were resolved, with the Court of Appeal resolving 49 cases. “That is a significant achievement in just one week. The success of the initiative is evident in the enthusiasm for Mediation. In just two weeks following the Settlement Week, we received 90 appeals where parties were requesting Mediation. This response is mirrored in other courts,” he added.

Justice Buteera noted that the Judiciary is now analyzing the results from the Case Settlement Week to determine how to expand ADR methods to more courts. “This approach not only reduces case backlog

but also fosters a more participatory form of justice, where parties actively work towards a resolution,” he explained.

“Mediation provides satisfaction to the parties involved because they find a solution themselves, which also means fewer appeals and a lighter load on appellate courts.”

Looking ahead, the Judiciary plans to organize more settlement weeks and further integrate ADR into the judicial process. “It’s about delivering justice in a way that is timely, cost-effective, and inclusive,” he said. ●



# Magisterial Areas increased to 157 in a move to increase access to Justice by the population

**The Chief Justice, Alfonse Chigamoy Owiny – Dollo, in consultation with the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, has issued the Magistrates Courts (Magisterial Areas and Magistrates Courts) Instrument 2024 No. 11 that will see each district headed by a Chief Magistrate.**

**T**he new Statutory Instrument created 157 new Magisterial Areas and 696 Magistrates Courts. It also revoked Statutory Instrument No. 11 of 2017 that had established 82 Magisterial Areas and 396 Magistrates Courts.

The Instrument has also seen Buganda Road Chief Magistrates Court which previously handled only criminal matters now taking on civil matters. “All civil matters which were previously filed and pending hearing under the Mengo Chief Magistrates Court, but originating from the Central Division of Kampala Capital City shall be transferred to Buganda Road Chief Magistrates Court,” the Instrument reads in part.

Similarly, Mengo Chief Magistrates Court which has been handling only civil matters will now start hearing criminal matters which were previously filed and pending hearing under Buganda Road Chief Magistrates Court, but originating from Rubaga Division of Kampala Capital City.

This new development will see a movement of files from one Court to the other. To effectively manage this transition, a taskforce headed by the Chief Registrar, Her Worship Sarah Langa Siu, will oversee operations of the two Courts.

The other highlights of the new Instrument, is the gazetting of all Remand Homes as Magistrates Courts as a means to enhance juvenile justice. Courts have also been gazetted in all municipalities in the country.

The Chief Justice observed that more



**The Chief Justice issued the Statutory Instrument. The Chief Registrar heads a Taskforce that is overseeing the transition of Buganda Road and Mengo Chief Magistrates Courts as they start hearing all case categories.**



**The new Statutory Instrument has created 157 new Magisterial Areas and 696 Magistrates Courts. It has also revoked Statutory Instrument No. 11 of 2017 that had established 82 Magisterial Areas and 396 Magistrates Courts.**

Courts and Justice Centers shall be built across the country to ensure that the new Instrument is fully implemented. He also observed that the Judiciary management has agreed on a standard and uniform Court design for all the Court levels across the country.

Justifying the expansion of the Magisterial

structure, the Chief Justice also noted that the target is to have District/City Courts headed by Chief Magistrates, and County/Constituency Courts manned by a Magistrate Grade I.

“It is the desire of the Judiciary that people should no longer move hundreds of kilometers to seek for Court services,” he said.

On her part, the Chief Registrar, observed that establishing more Courts across the country is geared at enhancing access to justice, eliminating case backlog and implementing the Judiciary’s transformation agenda of taking judicial services closer to the people.

She added that new courts will be operationalized when more Judicial Officers are recruited. Currently, there are 91 Chief Magistrates and 368 Magistrates Grade I serving in different courts across the Country. ●



## Magisterial Areas and Magistrates Courts

### Abim District

- Chief Magistrate - Abim District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Abim District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Abuk TC, Labwor County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Morulem TC, Labwor County

### Adjumani District

- Chief Magistrate - Adjumani District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Adjumani District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Dzaipi, Adjumani East County

### Agago District

- Chief Magistrate - Agago District sitting at Patongo
- Magistrate Grade 1- Agago District sitting at Patongo
- Magistrate Grade 1- Adilang TC, Agago County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Agago TC, Agago County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kalongo TC, Agago North County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Lira-Palwo TC, Agago West County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Lai-Mutto TC, Agago North County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Wol, Agago North County

### Alebtong District

- Chief Magistrate - Alebtong District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Alebtong District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Abako, Ajuri County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Omoro, Ajuri County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Apala, Moroto County

### Amolatar District

- Chief Magistrate - Amolatar District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Amolatar District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Namasale, Kioga County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Aputi, Kioga North County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Awello, Kioga North County

### Amudat District

- Chief Magistrate - Amudat District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Amudat District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Karita TC, Upe County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Loroo, Upe County

### Amuria District

- Chief Magistrate - Amuria District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Amuria District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Wera TC, Amuria County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Orungo TC, Orungo County

### Amuru District

- Chief Magistrate - Amuru District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Amuru District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Atiak TC, Kilak North County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Lamogi, Kilak South County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Pabbo, Kilak North County

### Apac District

- Chief Magistrate - Apac District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Apac District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Apac Municipal Court
- Magistrate Grade 1- Akokoro, Maruzi County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Chegere, Maruzi North County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Ibuje TC, Maruzi North County

### Arua District

- Chief Magistrate - Arua District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Arua District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Arua Remand Home
- Magistrate Grade 1- Vurra, Vurra County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Arivu, Vurra County

### Arua City

- Chief Magistrate - Arua City
- Magistrate Grade 1- Arua City

### Budaka District

- Chief Magistrate - Budaka District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Budaka District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Iki-Iki, Iki-Iki County

### Bududa District

- Chief Magistrate - Bududa District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Bududa District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Bukigai TC, Bushigai County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Bulucheke, Lutseshe County

### Central Division, Kampala Capital City

- Chief Magistrate - Buganda Road
- Magistrate Grade 1- Buganda Road
- Magistrate Grade 1- City Court
- Magistrate Grade 1- Law Development Centre (LDC)

### Bugiri District

- Chief Magistrate - Bugiri District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Bugiri District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Bugiri Municipal Court
- Magistrate Grade 1- Nankoma TC, Bukooli County Central
- Magistrate Grade 1- Busowa TC, Bukooli County North

### Bugweri District

- Chief Magistrate - Bugweri District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Bugweri District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Busembatia TC, Bugweri County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Makuutu, Bugweri County

### Buhweju District

- Chief Magistrate - Buhweju District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Buhweju District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Nyakashaka TC, Buhweju West County

### Buikwe District

- Chief Magistrate - Buikwe District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Buikwe District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Ngogwe, Buikwe County South

### Bukedea District

- Chief Magistrate - Bukedea District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Bukedea District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kabarwa, Bukedea County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kachumbala, Kachumbala County

### Bukomansimbi District

- Chief Magistrate - Bukomansimbi District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Bukomansimbi District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kibinge, Bukomansimbi South County

### Bukwo District

- Chief Magistrate - Bukwo District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Bukwo District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kapnandi TC, Kongasis County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Chesower, T'oo County

### Bulambuli District

- Chief Magistrate - Bulambuli District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Bulambuli District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Bulaago, Elgon County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kamu, Elgon North County

### Buliisa District

- Chief Magistrate - Buliisa District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Buliisa District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Biiso TC, Buliisa County

### Bundibugyo District

- Chief Magistrate - Bundibugyo District Magistrate
- Magistrate Grade 1- Bundibugyo District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Ntandi TC, Bughendera County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Bubandi, Bwamba County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Nyahuka TC, Bwamba County

### Bunyangabu District

- Chief Magistrate - Bunyangabu District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Bunyangabu District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Rwimi TC, Bunyangabu County

### Bushenyi District

- Chief Magistrate - Bushenyi District Magistrate
- Magistrate Grade 1- Bushenyi District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Bushenyi-Ishaka Municipal Court
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kyeizooba, Igara East County Court
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kyamuhunga TC, Igara West County

### Busia District

- Chief Magistrate - Busia District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Busia District Magistrate
- Magistrate Grade 1- Busia Municipal Court
- Magistrate Grade 1- Masafu, Samia Bugwe Central County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Tiira TC, Samia Bugwe County North
- Magistrate Grade 1- Lumino, Samia Bugwe County South

### Butaleja District

- Chief Magistrate - Butaleja District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Butaleja District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Busolwe TC, Bunyole West County

### Butambala District

- Chief Magistrate - Butambala District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Butambala District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Bulo, Butambala County

### Butebo District

- Chief Magistrate - Butebo District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Butebo District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kakoro TC, Butebo County

### Buvuma District

- Chief Magistrate - Buvuma District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Buvuma District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Nairambi, Buvuma Islands County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Lyabaana TC, Buvuma Islands County

### Buyende District

- Chief Magistrate - Buyende District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Buyende District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Irundu TC, Budiope East County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kidera TC, Budiope West County

### Dokolo District

- Chief Magistrate - Dokolo District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Dokolo District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Agwata TC, Dokolo North County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Bata TC, Dokolo North County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kangai, Dokolo South County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kwera, Dokolo South County

### Entebbe Municipality, Wakiso District

- Chief Magistrate - Entebbe
- Magistrate Grade 1- Entebbe
- Magistrate Grade 1- Bussi Island Subcounty

### Fort Portal City

- Chief Magistrate - Fort Portal City
- Magistrate Grade 1- Fort Portal City
- Magistrate Grade 1- Fort Portal Remand Home

### Gomba District

- Chief Magistrate - Gomba District sitting at Kanoni Town Council
- Magistrate Grade 1- Gomba District sitting at Kanoni Town Council
- Magistrate Grade 1- Mpenja, Gomba East County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Maddu, Gomba West County

### Gulu District

- Chief Magistrate - Gulu District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Gulu District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Awach, Aswa County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Laroo-Pece Division
- Magistrate Grade 1- Gulu Remand Home

### Gulu City

- Chief Magistrate - Gulu City
- Magistrate Grade 1- Gulu City

### Hoima District

- Chief Magistrate - Hoima District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Hoima District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Buseruka, Bugahya County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Buhatika, Bugahya County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kigorobya, Kigorobya County



### Hoima City

- Chief Magistrate - Hoima City
- Magistrate Grade 1- Hoima City
- Magistrate Grade 1- Nyarugabo, Hoima West Div.

### Ibanda District

- Chief Magistrate - Ibanda District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Ibanda District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Ishongororo, Ibanda County North
- Magistrate Grade 1- Igorora TC, Ibanda County South
- Magistrate Grade 1- Ibanda Municipal Court

### Iganga District

- Chief Magistrate - Iganga District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Iganga District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Iganga Municipal Court
- Magistrate Grade 1- Namung'alwe TC, Kigulu County North
- Magistrate Grade 1- Nakigo, Kigulu County South

### Isingiro District

- Chief Magistrate - Isingiro District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Isingiro District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Endiinzi TC, Bukanga County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Ngarama, Bukanga North County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Rugaaga, Bukanga North County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kikagata, Isingiro County South
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kabuyanda, Isingiro West County

### Jinja District

- Chief Magistrate - Jinja District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Jinja District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kakira TC, Butembe County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Butagaya, Kagoma County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kagoma, Kagoma North County

### Jinja City

- Chief Magistrate- Jinja City
- Magistrate Grade 1- Jinja City
- Magistrate Grade 1- Katende, Jinja North Division

### Kaabong District

- Chief Magistrate - Kaabong District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kaabong District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kaabong TC, Dodoth East County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kalapata, Dodoth North County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kamion, Ik County

### Kabale District

- Chief Magistrate - Kabale District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kabale District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kabale Municipal Court
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kaharo, Ndorwa County East
- Magistrate Grade 1- Buhara, Ndorwa County East
- Magistrate Grade 1- Ryakarimira TC, Ndorwa County West
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kabale Remand Home

### Kabarole District

- Chief Magistrate - Kabarole District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kabarole District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Hakibale, Burahya County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Rweihamba TC, Burahya County

### Kaberamaido District

- Chief Magistrate - Kaberamaido District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kaberamaido District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kaberamaido County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Ochero, Ochero County

### Kagadi District

- Chief Magistrate - Kagadi District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kagadi District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Mabaale, Buyaga East County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Muhorro TC, Buyaga West County

### Kajjansi TC, Wakiso District

- Chief Magistrate - Kajjansi
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kajjansi
- Magistrate Grade 1- Ndejje Division

### Kakumiro District

- Chief Magistrate - Kakumiro District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kakumiro District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kisiita, Bugangaizi East County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Nyalweyo TC, Bugangaizi West County

### Kalaki District

- Chief Magistrate - Kalaki District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kalaki District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Otuboi TC, Kalaki County

### Kalangala District

- Chief Magistrate - Kalangala District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kalangala District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Bwendero, Bujjumba County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kyamuswa, Kyamuswa County

### Kaliro District

- Chief Magistrate - Kaliro District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kaliro District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Namwiwa, Bulamogi County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Nawaikoke TC, Bulamogi North West County

### Kalungu District

- Chief Magistrate - Kalungu District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kalungu District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Lukaya TC, Kalungu East County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kyamulibwa TC, Kalungu West County

### Kamuli District

- Chief Magistrate - Kamuli District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kamuli District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kamuli Municipal Court
- Magistrate Grade 1- Namasagali, Bugabula County North
- Magistrate Grade 1- Namwendwa, Bugabula County South
- Magistrate Grade 1- Nawanyago, Buzaaya County

### Kamwenge District

- Chief Magistrate - Kamwenge District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kamwenge District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kahunge, Kibale County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Nkoma, Kibale East County

### Kanungu District

- Chief Magistrate - Kanungu District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kanungu TC, Kinkizi County East
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kihiihi, Kinkizi County West

### Kapchorwa District

- Chief Magistrate - Kapchorwa District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kapchorwa District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kapchorwa Municipal Court
- Magistrate Grade 1- Sipi TC, Tingey County

### Kapelebyong District

- Chief Magistrate - Kapelebyong District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kapelebyong District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Obalanga, Kapelebyong County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Acowa, Kapelebyong County

### Karenga District

- Chief Magistrate - Karenga District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Karenga District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kapedo, Dodoth West County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Karenga, Napore West County

### Kasangati Town Council, Wakiso District

- Chief Magistrate - Kasangati
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kasangati
- Magistrate Grade 1- Busukuma, Kyadondo County East

### Kasese District

- Chief Magistrate - Kasese District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kasese District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Bwera, Bukonjo West County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kasese Municipal Court
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kisinga, Bukonzo County East
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kikorongo, Busongora County South
- Magistrate Grade 1- Maliba, Busongora County North
- Magistrate Grade 1- Hima TC, Busongora North County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kitwamba TC, Busongora North County

### Kassanda District

- Chief Magistrate - Kassanda District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kassanda District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Bukuya, Bukuya County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kiganda, Kassanda County South

### Katakwi District

- Chief Magistrate - Katakwi District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Katakwi District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Ngariam, Ngariam County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Toroma, Toroma County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Usuk, Usuk County

### Kawempe Division, Kampala Capital City

- Chief Magistrate - Kawempe sitting at Kanyanya
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kawempe sitting at Kanyanya
- Magistrate Grade 1- Bwaise, Kawempe Division South

### Kayunga District

- Chief Magistrate - Kayunga District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kayunga District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Bbaale, Bbaale County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kanguhimira TC, Ntenjeru County South

### Kazo District

- Chief Magistrate - Kazo District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kazo District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Rwemikoma, Kazo County

### Kibaale District

- Chief Magistrate - Kibaale District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kibaale District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Karama, Buyanja East County

### Kiboga District

- Chief Magistrate - Kiboga District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kiboga District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Bukomero, Kiboga East County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Ddwaniro, Kiboga East County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kapeke, Kiboga West County

### Kibuku District

- Chief Magistrate - Kibuku District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kibuku District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kabweri, Kabweri County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Bulangira TC, Kabweri County

### Kikuube District

- Chief Magistrate - Kikuube District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kikuube District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kyangwali, Buhaguzi County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Buhimba TC, Buhaguzi East County

### Kira Municipality, Wakiso District

- Chief Magistrate - Kira
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kira
- Magistrate Grade 1- Bweyogerere, Kira Municipality

### Kiruhura District

- Chief Magistrate - Kiruhura District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kiruhura District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kashongi, Kashongi County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kinoni, Nyabushozi County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Sanga, Nyabushozi County

### Kiryandongo District

- Chief Magistrate - Kiryandongo District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kiryandongo District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Bweyale TC, Kibanda North County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kigumba, Kibanda South County

### Kisoro District

- Chief Magistrate - Kisoro District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kisoro District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Chahafi TC, Bufumbira County East
- Magistrate Grade 1- Busanza, Bufumbira County North
- Magistrate Grade 1- Bunagana TC, Bufumbira County South
- Magistrate Grade 1- Muramba, Bufumbira County South
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kyanika, Bufumbira County South
- Magistrate Grade 1- Rubuguri TC, Bukimbiri County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kisoro Municipal Court

### Kitagwenda District

- Chief Magistrate - Kitagwenda District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kitagwenda District

**Kitgum District**

- Chief Magistrate - Kitgum District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kitgum District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kitgum Municipal Court
- Magistrate Grade 1- Akwang, Chua West County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kitgum-Matidi, Chua West County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Muchwini, Chua East County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Namokora TC, Chua East County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Orom, Chua East County

**Koboko District**

- Chief Magistrate - Koboko District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Koboko District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Koboko Municipal Court
- Magistrate Grade 1- Ludara, Koboko North County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Oraba TC, Koboko County

**Kole District**

- Chief Magistrate - Kole District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kole District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Aboke, Kole North County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Bala, Kole South County

**Kotido District**

- Chief Magistrate - Kotido District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kotido District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kotido Municipal Court
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kacheri TC, Jie County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Lokitelaeuba TC, Jie County

**Kumi District**

- Chief Magistrate - Kumi District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kumi District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kanyum TC, Kanyum County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Ongino TC, Kumi County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kumi Municipal Court

**Kwania District**

- Chief Magistrate - Kwania District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kwania District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Nambieso, Kwania County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Inomo, Kwania North County

**Kween District**

- Chief Magistrate - Kween District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kween District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kapraron, Kween County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Ngenge, Soi County

**Kyankwanzi District**

- Chief Magistrate - Kyankwanzi District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kyankwanzi District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Ntwetwe, Ntwetwe County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Butemba Town Council sitting at Bukwiri Ward, Butemba County

**Kyegegwa District**

- Chief Magistrate - Kyegegwa District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kyegegwa District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Hapuuyo, Kyaka North County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Mpara, Kyaka South County

**Kyenjojo District**

- Chief Magistrate - Kenjojo District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kenjojo District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Bufunjo, Mwenge County North
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kyarusizi, Mwenge Central County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Butiiti, Mwenge County South

**Kyotera District**

- Chief Magistrate - Kyotera District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kyotera District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kakuuto, Kakuuto County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kalisizo, Kyotera County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Mutukula TC, Kakuuto County

**Lamwo District**

- Chief Magistrate - Lamwo District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Lamwo District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Madi-Opei, Lamwo County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Palabek Kal TC, Palabek County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Paloga, Lamwo County

**Lira District**

- Chief Magistrate - Lira
- Magistrate Grade 1- Lira
- Magistrate Grade 1- Amach TC, Erute County South
- Magistrate Grade 1- Ogur, Erute County North

**Lira City**

- Chief Magistrate - Lira City
- Magistrate Grade 1- Lira City

**Lugazi and Njeru Municipalities, Buikwe District**

- Chief Magistrate - Lugazi Municipality
- Magistrate Grade 1- Lugazi Municipality
- Magistrate Grade 1- Njeru Municipality

**Luuka District**

- Chief Magistrate - Luuka District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Luuka District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Bukoova TC, Luuka North County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Busalamu, Luuka South County

**Luwero District**

- Chief Magistrate - Luwero District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Luwero District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Nyimbwa, Katikamu County South
- Magistrate Grade 1- Wobulenzi TC, Katikamu County South
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kamira, Bamunanika County

**Lwengo District**

- Chief Magistrate - Lwengo District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Lwengo District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kyazanga, Bukoto County West
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kisekka, Bukoto County South

**Lyantonde District**

- Chief Magistrate - Lyantonde District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Lyantonde District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Lyakajura, Kabula County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kaliiro, Kabula County

**Madi-Okollo District**

- Chief Magistrate - Madi-Okollo District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Madi-Okollo District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Rhino Camp TC, Lower Madi County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Uleppi, Upper Madi County

**Makindye Division, Kampala Capital City**

- Chief Magistrate - Makindye Division
- Magistrate Grade 1- Makindye Division
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kabalagala, Makindye Div. East

**Manafwa District**

- Chief Magistrate - Manafwa District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Manafwa District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Butiru TC, Butiru County

**Maracha District**

- Chief Magistrate - Maracha District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Maracha District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kijomoro, Maracha County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Oluvu, Maracha County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Yivu, Maracha East County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Oleba TC, Maracha East County

**Masaka District**

- Chief Magistrate - Masaka District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Masaka District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kyanamukaka, Bukoto County Central
- Magistrate Grade 1- Buwunga, Bukoto County East

**Masaka City**

- Chief Magistrate - Masaka City
- Magistrate Grade 1- Masaka City

**Masindi District**

- Chief Magistrate - Masindi District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Masindi District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Masindi Municipal Court
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kijunjubwa, Buruli County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Bwijanga, Bujenje County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kimengo, Buruli County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Ihungu Remand Home, Masindi District

**Mayuge District**

- Chief Magistrate - Mayuge District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Mayuge District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Baitambogwe, Bunya County West
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kigandalo, Bunya County East
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kityerera, Bunya County South

**Mbale District**

- Chief Magistrate - Mbale District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Mbale District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Bungokho, Bungokho Central County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Busiu, Bungokho County South
- Magistrate Grade 1- Wanale, Bungokho County North
- Magistrate Grade 1- Mbale Remand Home

**Mbale City**

- Chief Magistrate - Mbale City
- Magistrate Grade 1- Mbale City

**Mbarara District**

- Chief Magistrate - Mbarara District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Mbarara District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Bwizibwera-Rutooma TC, Kashari South County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Rubaya, Kashari South County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Rubindi, Kashari North County

**Mbarara City**

- Chief Magistrate - Mbarara City
- Magistrate Grade 1- Mbarara City

**Rubaga Division, Kampala Capital City**

- Chief Magistrate - Mengo
- Magistrate Grade 1- Mengo
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kasubi, Rubaga Division North
- Magistrate Grade 1- Mutundwe, Rubaga Division South
- Magistrate Grade 1- Nateete, Rubaga Division South

**Mitooma District**

- Chief Magistrate - Mitooma District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Mitooma District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kasheshero, Ruhinda County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Bitereko, Ruhinda North County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kabira TC, Ruhinda South County

**Mityana District**

- Chief Magistrate - Mityana District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Mityana District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Bulera, Mityana County North
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kakindu, Busujju County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Busunju TC, Mityana County South
- Magistrate Grade 1- Mityana Municipal Court

**Moroto District**

- Chief Magistrate - Moroto District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Moroto District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Moroto Municipal Court
- Magistrate Grade 1- Nadunget, Matheniko County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Tapac, Tepeth County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Katikekile, Tepeth County

**Moyo District**

- Chief Magistrate - Moyo District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Moyo District

**Mpigi District**

- Chief Magistrate - Mpigi District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Mpigi District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kammengo, Mawokota County North
- Magistrate Grade 1- Buwama, Mawokota County South
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kituntu, Mawokota County South

**Mubende District**

- Chief Magistrate - Mubende District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Mubende District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Maaddu, Buwekula County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kyenda TC, Buwekula South County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kasambya, Kasambya County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Mubende Municipal Court

**Mukono District**

- Chief Magistrate - Mukono District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Mukono District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Mukono Municipal Court
- Magistrate Grade 1- Goma, Mukono Municipality
- Magistrate Grade 1- Nakifuma, Nakifuma County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Koome Islands, Mukono County South
- Magistrate Grade 1- Nama, Mukono County North
- Magistrate Grade 1- Nakisunga, Mukono County South

**Nabilatuk District**

- Chief Magistrate - Nabilatuk District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Nabilatuk District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Lorengedwat, Pian County

**Nansana Municipality, Wakiso District**

- Chief Magistrate - Nabweru
- Magistrate Grade 1- Nabweru
- Magistrate Grade 1- Nansana, Nansana Municipality
- Magistrate Grade 1- Mattuga, Nansana Municipality

**Nakapiripirit District**

- Chief Magistrate - Nakapiripirit District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Nakapiripirit District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Namalu, Chekwii County(Kadam)



### Nakaseke District

- Chief Magistrate - Nakaseke District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Nakaseke District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Ngoma, Nakaseke North County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Semuto, Nakaseke South County

### Nakasongola District

- Chief Magistrate - Nakasongola District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Nakasongola District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kakooze TC, Nakasongola County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Lwampanga TC, Budyebo County

### Nakawa Division, Kampala Capital City

- Chief Magistrate - Nakawa
- Magistrate Grade 1- Nakawa
- Magistrate Grade 1- Luzira, Nakawa Division East
- Magistrate Grade 1- Ntinda, Nakawa Division West
- Magistrate Grade 1- Naguru Remand Home

### Namayingo District

- Chief Magistrate - Namayingo District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Namayingo District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Banda, Namayingo South County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Sigulu Island, Bukooli Island County

### Namisindwa District

- Chief Magistrate - Namisindwa District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Namisindwa District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Magale TC, Bubulo East County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Buwabwala, Namisindwa County

### Namutumba District

- Chief Magistrate - Namutumba District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Namutumba District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Ivukula, Bukono County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kagulu, Busiki North County

### Napak District

- Chief Magistrate - Napak District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Napak District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Matany, Bokora County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Lokiteded TC, Bokora County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kangole TC, Bokora East County

### Nebbi District

- Chief Magistrate - Nebbi District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Nebbi District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Nebbi Municipal Court
- Magistrate Grade 1- Parombo TC, Padyere County

### Ngora District

- Chief Magistrate - Ngora District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Ngora District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Mukura, Kapir County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kobwin, Ngora County

### Kyengeru Town Council, Wakiso District

- Chief Magistrate - Nsangi
- Magistrate Grade 1- Nsangi

### Ntoroko District

- Chief Magistrate - Ntoroko District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Ntoroko District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Karugutu, Ntoroko County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Rwebisengo, Ntoroko County

### Ntungamo District

- Chief Magistrate - Ntungamo District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Ntungamo District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Ntungamo Municipal Court
- Magistrate Grade 1- Rwentobo-Rwahi TC, Rushenyi County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Rubaare TC, Rushenyi County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Rweikiniro, Ruhaama County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Ngoma, Rushenyi County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kayonza, Rushenyi County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Itojo, Ruhaama County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Rukoni, Ruhaama East County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kitwe TC, Ruhaama East County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Rwashameire TC, Kajara County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Ihunga, Kajara County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kibatsi, Kajara County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Bwongyera, Kajara County

### Nwoya District

- Chief Magistrate - Nwoya District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Nwoya District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Purongo TC, Nwoya County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Alero, Nwoya East County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Koch-Goma TC, Nwoya East County

### Obongi District

- Chief Magistrate - Obongi District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Obongi District

### Omoro District

- Chief Magistrate - Omoro Town Council
- Magistrate Grade 1- Omoro
- Magistrate Grade 1- Bobi, Tochi County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Odek, Omoro County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Ongako, Tochi County

### Otuke District

- Chief Magistrate - Otuke District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Otuke District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Adwari TC, Otuke County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Okwang, Otuke County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Ollim TC, Otuke East County

### Oyam District

- Chief Magistrate - Oyam District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Oyam District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Aber, Oyam County South
- Magistrate Grade 1- Minakulu, Oyam County South
- Magistrate Grade 1- Otwal, Oyam County North

### Pader District

- Chief Magistrate - Pader District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Pader District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Atanga TC, Aruu North County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Pajule TC, Aruu North County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Laguti, Aruu North County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Puranga TC, Aruu County

### Pakwach District

- Chief Magistrate - Pakwach District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Pakwach District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Panyimur TC, Jonam County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Wadelai, Jonam County

### Pallisa District

- Chief Magistrate - Pallisa District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Pallisa District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Agule TC, Agule County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Gogonyo, Gogonyo County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kibale TC, Kibale County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Pallisa TC, Pallisa County

### Rakai District

- Chief Magistrate - Rakai District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Rakai District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kacheera, Buyamba County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Lwamaggwa TC, Buyamba
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kibaale TC, Kooki County

### Rubanda District

- Chief Magistrate - Rubanda District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Rubanda District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Rubanda TC, Rubanda County West
- Magistrate Grade 1- Bubaare TC, Rubanda County East

### Rubirizi District

- Chief Magistrate - Rubirizi District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Rubirizi District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Katerera, Katerera County

### Rukiga District

- Chief Magistrate - Rukiga District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Rukiga District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kamwezi, Rukiga County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Muhanga TC, Rukiga County

### Rukungiri District

- Chief Magistrate - Rukungiri District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Rukungiri District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Nyarushanje, Rubabo County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Bugangari, Rujumbura County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Rukungiri Municipal Court
- Magistrate Grade 1- Nyakishevi, Rubabo County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Bwambara, Rujumbura County

### Rwampara District

- Chief Magistrate - Rwampara District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Rwampara District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kabula TC, Rwampara East County

### Serere District

- Chief Magistrate - Serere District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Serere District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kadungulu TC, Kasilo County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Pingire, Pingire County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kyere, Serere County

### Sheema District

- Chief Magistrate - Sheema District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Sheema District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Sheema Municipal Court
- Magistrate Grade 1- Bugongi TC, Sheema County South
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kigarama, Sheema County North

### Sironko District

- Chief Magistrate - Sironko District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Sironko District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Buwalasi, Budadiri County West
- Magistrate Grade 1- Mutufu TC, Budadiri County East

### Soroti District

- Chief Magistrate - Soroti District sitting at Katine
- Magistrate Grade 1- Soroti District sitting at Katine
- Magistrate Grade 1- Aukot, Gweri County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Lalle, Soroti County

### Soroti City

- Chief Magistrate - Soroti City
- Magistrate Grade 1- Soroti City

### Sembabule District

- Chief Magistrate - Sembabule District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Sembabule District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Lugusulu, Mawogola North County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Lwebitakuli, Mawogola West County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Mateete, Mawogola County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Ntuusi TC, Lwemiyaga County

### Terego District

- Chief Magistrate - Terego District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Terego District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Odupi, Terego East County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Leju TC, Terego West County

### Tororo District

- Chief Magistrate - Tororo District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Tororo District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Tororo Municipal Court
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kwapa, Tororo South County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Mukuju, Tororo North County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Malaba TC, Tororo South County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Mulanda, West Budama Central County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kisoko, West Budama County North
- Magistrate Grade 1- Nagongera, West Budama County North
- Magistrate Grade 1- Iyolwa TC, West Budama County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Paya, West Budama North East County

### Wakiso District

- Chief Magistrate - Wakiso District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Wakiso District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Bujjuko, Busiro County East
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kakiri, Busiro County North
- Magistrate Grade 1- Namayumba, Busiro County North
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kasanje, Busiro County South

### Yumbe District

- Chief Magistrate - Yumbe District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Yumbe District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Barakala TC, Aringa East County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Madigo TC, Aringa North County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Kulikilinga TC, Aringa South County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Lodonga TC, Aringa South County

### Zombo District

- Chief Magistrate - Zombo District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Zombo District
- Magistrate Grade 1- Paidha TC, Okoro County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Warr TC, Ora County
- Magistrate Grade 1- Zeu, Ora County



# Chief Justice commissions 72 as court accredited mediators

**As part of the efforts to re-engineer Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms in the Court system, The Chief Justice Alfonse Chigamoy Owiny - Dollo commissioned 72 court accredited mediators to promote ADR as a case backlog reduction tool.**

The mediators include Principal Judge emeritus Dr. Yorokamu Bamwine; Justices; Augustine Nshimye, Paul Mugamba, Eldad Mwangusya, Remmy Kasule, Lameck Mukasa, David Kutosi Wangutusi and seasoned lawyers such as Robinah Shonubi.

The Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs Norbert Mao, former Uganda Law Society President Francis Gimara, former Attorney General Fredrick Ruhindi, Solicitor General Francis Atoke, former Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions Mr. Amos Ngolobe, Ms. Rachael Odoi, Ms Betty Khisa, Ms Irene Demani, Ms Margeret Sakwa, Ms Zainab Bandali, Mr. Rapheal Bako and Ms Mariam Kulwawo are part of the team.

Flagging off the team at the Supreme Court Conference Hall at the High Court in Kampala on Wednesday May 28, 2024, the Chief Justice said the deployed team of mediators were trained by the Straus Institute of Pepperdine University based in the US to drive the pilot project of the scheme.

"I am pleased to launch and commission a team of 72 court accredited mediators consisting of sitting Judges, retired judges and senior lawyers who are going to be deployed in the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeal and High Court Divisions and Circuits to mediate cases," the Chief Justice said.

Besides providing a wealth of experience and knowledge gained through their



**The Chief Justice with some of the mediators shortly after their commissioning.**

various distinguished careers on the bench and in the legal field, Justice Dollo said the team of mediators will bring freshness and energy in the timely and peaceful resolution of cases through professional mediation of cases.

"I, therefore, want to assure and encourage the litigants, members of the legal profession and the country at large to make use of these mediators to promptly resolve cases in the courts. The Judiciary will continue to expand its ADR capabilities to all courts so that litigants can access the services at the least cost," he said.

Underscoring the role of the mediators, the Chief Justice said the Judiciary intends to ride on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms to fight case backlog.

Alternative Dispute Resolution refers to any means of settling disputes outside of the courtroom and it typically includes early neutral evaluation, negotiation, conciliation, mediation and arbitration.

"We are now seeking to formalise the informal justice system that has kept our people together for decades. Economies with high GDP settle more than 90 % of their cases through ADR. For example, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of US is \$25.44 trillion as of 2022 while the GDP of the entire African continent is \$3.1 trillion as of 2023. With its high GDP, the US is using alternative dispute resolution to solve 90% of its cases," the Chief Justice said.

The 2023 Hague Institute for Innovation of Law (HIIL) report shows that around 85% of people with a legal problem talked to at least a third party. Of these sources of help, lawyers stand at 84% were seen as most helpful.

Citing the 2023 Judiciary Annual Performance Report that shows a caseload of 202,794 cases pending in courts, the Chief Justice said ADR is the answer in revamping the administration of justice.

"From the above statistics, and the current





accumulative case registration, it is evident that the Judiciary is grappling with a heavy workload and backlog. At the High Court both in the Divisions and the circuits, are grappling with a total of 64,014 cases.

If we divided the number of cases amongst the number of judges, each judge would have a workload of 810 cases and if we had an efficient system, it would take us approximately 3.5 years going by 226 working days in a year. Is this possible, of course no," he said.

He implored litigants and lawyers to embrace ADR saying it provides a safer, cheaper and friendly system that will complement the formal justice system in addressing case backlog and reducing the justice deficit gap to make our justice system people-centric.

The Chief Justice observed that unlike the adversarial justice system where the courts

aim to deliver justice as they perceive the litigants, under ADR it ends in a win-win decision that fosters unity and harmony in society.

"I have met with the Katikkiro of Buganda Charles Peter Mayiga and we discussed how we can entrench ADR in the areas of Buganda and we shall also do this in Karamoja, Lango and Acholi as far as the ADR scheme is concerned," he said.

### Key in ensuring access to justice

In his remarks, the Deputy Chief Justice Richard Buteera said ADR is key in ensuring access to justice.

"Let us embrace mediation by encouraging parties to sit together and finding solutions to their differences. Mediation is not new to most of the communities in Uganda. The form of mediation we are promoting today is similar to our customary mediation in a

sense that it strives to create consensus between the parties," Justice Buteera said.

On behalf of the retired Judges, Justice Bamwine thanked the Chief Justice for affording them an opportunity to continue serving their nation. "We are grateful for this opportunity and we promise to use our expertise to promote this project," Justice Bamwine said.

### About Mediation

During the mediation process, the facilitator brings the disputing parties to become partners in finding a solution. When the parties agree, they arrive at a win-win position as Mediation is built on a culture of give and take.

There is no winner and there is no loser as is always the case with litigation. Both parties are satisfied with the outcome of the case. This is the reason why mediated cases are rarely reopened. ●

## Complete list of the court accredited mediators

### Appellate Mediation at the Supreme Court

- Hon. Justice Alfonse Chigamoy Owiny- Dollo
- Hon. Justice Mike Chibita
- Hon. Lady Justice Percy Night Tuhaise
- Hon. Lady Justice Catherine Bamugemereire

### Appellate Mediation at The Court of Appeal

- Hon. Justice Richard Buteera
- Hon. Justice Geoffrey Kiryabwire
- Hon. Lady Justice Eva Luswata
- Hon. Justice Christopher Gashirabake

### Mediations at all Divisions of the High Court

- Hon. Justice Dr. Flavian Zeija

### Mediations at the Commercial Court

- Hon. Rtd. Justice Yorokamu Bamwine
- Hon. Rtd. Justice Eldad Mwangusya
- Hon. Justice Henry Peter Adonyo
- Hon. Lady Justice Anna Mugenyi
- Ms. Ruth Sebatindira (SC)
- HW Elias Kisawuzi
- Hon. Nobert Mao
- Hon. Fredrick Ruhindi
- Mr. Francis Gimara (SC)
- Hon. Isala Eragu Veronica Bichetero

### Mediations at the Family Division

- Hon. Rtd. Justice Augustine Nshimye
- Hon. Rtd. Justice Paul Mugamba

- Hon. Rtd. Justice Remmy Kasule
- Hon. Lady Justice Ketrach Katunguka
- Hon. Lady Justice Alice Komuhangi Khaukha
- Hon. Lady Justice Jane Okuo Kajuga
- Hon. Justice John Eudes Keitirima
- Mr. Francis Atoke
- Ms. Betty Khisa
- Ms. Rachael Odoi Musoke
- Mrs. Robinah Shonubi
- Ms. Irene Damani
- Ms. Margaret Sakwa
- Ms. Zainabu Bandali
- Ms. Mariam Kulwawo

### Mediations at the Land Division

- Hon. Rtd. Justice Vincent Zehurikize
- Hon. Rtd. Justice Augustus Kania
- Hon. Justice Godfrey Namundi
- Hon. Lady Justice Henrietta Wolayo
- Mr. George Bamugemereire
- Hon. Lady Justice Alexandra Nkongwe Rugadya
- Mr. Amos Ngolobe
- HW Miriam Okello
- Mr. Raphael Bako
- Ms. Nakandi Harriet
- Ms. Nabukenya Zaiana
- Ms Mpungu Affrah
- Mr. Rukyarekele Christopher

### Mediations at the Civil Division

- Hon. Rtd. Justice David Wangutusi
- Hon. Rtd. Justice Albert Rugadya Atwooki.
- Hon. Justice Emmanuel Baguma
- Hon. Justice Musa Ssekaana
- Hon. Lady Justice Esta Nambayo
- Hon. Justice Boniface Wamala
- Hon. Justice Douglas Singiza Karekona
- Hon. Justice Gadenya Paul Wolimbwa
- HW Jolly Nkore (Rtd.)
- HW Sarah Langa Siu
- Ms. Susan Wakabala

### Mediations at Mukono High Court Circuit

- Hon. Justice Lawrence Gidudu
- Hon. Lady Justice Margaret Mutonyi
- Hon. Rtd. Justice Lameck Mukasa
- Hon. Justice Michael Elubu
- Hon. Justice Richard Wabwire Wejuli
- Hon. Lady Justice Florence Nakachwa Dollo
- HW Anguadia Opifeni (Rtd)
- Prof. Andrew Khaukha

### Mediations at Masaka High Court Circuit

- Hon. Lady Justice Victoria Nakintu
- Hon. Justice Lawrence Tweyanze

### Mediations at Gulu High Court

- Hon. Justice Phillip Odoki

### Mediations at Fort Portal High Court

- Hon. Justice Vincent Emmy Mugabo



# Chief Justice's guidance on remuneration of mediators in courts

**Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) is one of the key strategies for effective case management. The Hon. The Chief Justice commissioned a team of retired Justices, Judges, other Judicial Officers, lawyers and members of the ad hoc Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee of the Judiciary to fast track the implementation of a robust ADR regime.**

**T**he mandate of the ad hoc ADR Committee was to review the current ADR practice to inform inevitable reforms to ably guide the re-engineering of *M e d i a t i o n* as an Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanism. The Committee identified a number of impediments in embracing Mediation including the caliber, credibility, remuneration and lack of an effective management structure of mediators.

As a means of re-engineering Mediation in the court process, the Chief Justice issued guidance regarding payments of court-accredited mediators.

This followed a meeting of the Judiciary Law Reform Committee (JLRC) which made proposals that mediators would be paid allowances depending on output. The proposals were considered by the Rules Committee and approved by the Technical Committee.

## The considerations

If a case is successfully mediated at the High Court, Court of Appeal and Supreme Court the mediator will get an allowance of Shs300,000 whilst at the Magistrate level, successful Mediation will attract an allowance of Shs 150,000.

If the Mediation is partially successful at the High Court, Court of Appeal and Supreme Court - the JLRC resolved that it will attract an allowance of Shs 200,000 while a partially successful Mediation will attract an allowance of Shs 112,500.

## Documentation

The LJRC resolved that all Mediation proceedings in the Supreme Court, Court of Appeal and the High Court shall be documented and Mediation reports shall be submitted to the Court Administrator/Head of each court through the Registrar of the Court to demonstrate result of Mediation and justify a specific rate of pay.

Unsuccessful Mediation at the Supreme

Court, Court of Appeal and High Court, it was resolved would attract an allowance of Shs 100,000 while the similar result at the magistrate level would trigger an allowance of Shs 75,000.

The Chief Justice following recommendations by the LJRC also guided that all mediation proceedings in the Magistrate Courts shall be documented and mediation reports shall be submitted to the Chief Magistrate/Magistrate in charge of station to demonstrate result of the mediation and justify a specific rate of pay.

Justice Owiny - Dollo also stated that the LJRC resolved that the Permanent Secretary Dr. Pius Bigirimana, shall provide adequate resources to facilitate the work of accredited mediators of the Judiciary. "Mediation funds shall be remitted to the respective registries/courts through the Registrar, Alternative Dispute Resolution with the approval of the Chief Registrar," the Chief Justice said. ●



# Courts complete **57,735** cases in three months

The Judiciary's Quarter Four Performance Report for Financial Year 2023/24 indicates that between April and June 2024, courts in Uganda completed 57,735 cases out of a caseload of 219,573 cases.

This resulted in a disposal rate of 26.29 percent and this means that the Courts disposed of 2 out of every 10 cases in the Court system in the period under review.

## The breakdown

The highest level of efficiency was recorded at the Magistracy. Grade Two Magistrates' Courts posted a disposal rate of 44.52 percent, followed by the Magistrates' Grade I Courts at 41.4 percent.

In terms of the number of cases completed, the report says that the Chief Magistrates' Courts disposed of the highest number of cases-30,177 cases, which constitutes more than half of the total number of cases disposed of in the period under review, followed by Magistrates Grade I Courts having disposed of 17,205 cases, which constitutes approximately 30 percent of the total number of cases disposed of.

In terms of case type, the criminal case type recorded the highest volume of case disposal- 30,480 cases - which constitutes more than half of the total number of cases disposed of for the period under review. Criminal cases were followed by the civil case at the tune of 16,022 cases, which constitutes just over a quarter of the total number of cases disposed of. The Case type that was most efficiently disposed of, was International Crimes posting a disposal rate of 32.31 percent. It was followed by Criminal



Some of the Judges of the High Court at the quarterly Case Backlog Retreat at Imperial Golf View Hotel, Entebbe on July 05 2024.



with a disposal rate of 32.08 per cent which speaks to the numerous caseload/backlog reduction sessions conducted in the period under review, targeting the two aforementioned case types.

There were significant improvements in the efficiency and effectiveness of the Judiciary in Uganda. The adoption of technology, increased staffing, and effective case management practices have contributed to improved disposal rates. ●



# Court of Appeal Set to Start Upcountry Civil Appeals Sessions

By Rose Ampurira

**The Court of Appeal, renowned for its upcountry Criminal Sessions, is expanding its scope to include regional Civil Appeals sessions. This year, sessions are scheduled to take place at Gulu and Mbarara High Courts.**

The Deputy Chief Justice, Justice Richard Buteera explained the rationale for the move. “We have been conducting criminal sessions upcountry for several years, and now we aim to extend the same approach to civil matters.” He highlighted that when the Court travels to these regions, it allows lawyers in these regions, who are familiar with the cases, to participate more effectively.

## Why the move?

Justice Buteera elaborated on the benefits, saying that this also addresses the logistical challenges faced by parties involved in civil cases. “When cases are heard closer to where the disputes originated, it reduces the distance for parties who would otherwise need to travel to Kampala. Additionally, when cases are heard near where the dispute arose, parties have the opportunity to attend court, hear directly from the court, and feel that justice is being delivered closer to them.”

The Deputy Chief Justice stated that this initiative is a precursor to the Court of Appeal’s plans to establish branches upcountry. “In the long run, the Court of Appeal plans to establish branches upcountry, starting with Mbarara and Gulu next Financial Year when additional Justices are appointed,” he said. “Following this, we expect to open more branches in Fort Portal, Mbale, and Masaka.”



**The Deputy Chief Justice inspects the guard of honour at one of the upcountry stations.**

He further explained that the goal is to take Judiciary services closer to the people. The Court is starting with one session per quarter this year with hopes to increase to more sessions by the next Financial Year.

When asked why the Court has not previously conducted upcountry Civil sessions, Justice Buteera cited budget constraints. “It has been a budget issue, but we have now allocated funds for it, and the Ministry of Finance has provided the necessary funding,” he said

## The challenges

He also mentioned staffing challenges, noting that having more justices would make it easier to expand these sessions. “Currently, we have 13 justices, however, last year, Parliament approved the expansion of the Court of Appeal Justices

from 15 to 35. Once these additional Justices are appointed, we will be better equipped to conduct these sessions.”

The Court is scheduled to hold two upcountry Civil Appeals and Applications Sessions this year. The first session took place at Gulu High Court from September 16 to 18, 2024. The Session was presided over by Justices Fredrick Martin Stephen Egonda-Ntende, Cheborion Barishaki, and Christopher Gashirabake.

According to the cause list signed by the Court’s Registrar, HW Rukundo Allen Owembabazi, 22 civil appeals and applications were handled during the Session.

The second session is scheduled for November 2024 at Mbarara High Court. ●



# Two years later: Impact of the Daily Hearing Project

By Rose Namanya

**In January 2022, the Criminal Division of the High Court commenced a pilot project of hearing criminal cases daily. The aim was to test and make comparisons between handling High Court criminal cases on a rolling daily basis, as opposed to the traditional Session System. The Project was set to run till January 2024, and thereafter get weighed and measured for possible rolling out across the country, as planned in the Pilot Project Concept Note.**

It is against this background that on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024, The Hon. The Principal Judge constituted a three-member Committee to review the performance of the Daily Hearing Project and make appropriate recommendations for its improvement. It comprised of Hon. Justice Gadenya Paul Wolimbwa (Judge Criminal Division/Chairperson), Prof. Andrew Khaukha (Judiciary Technical Advisor/Member), and HW Festo Nsenga (Deputy Registrar Criminal Division/Secretary). On 6<sup>th</sup> August 2024, the Daily Hearings Review Committee presented the Pilot Project Review Draft Report to the Principal Judge on the initiative's progress.

The Hon. The Principal Judge, while receiving the Report, commended the Committee for the comprehensive work done, and approved the internal circulation of the draft Report within the Criminal Division, pending a follow-up meeting he will convene with the Division Judges and Registrars to chart the eventual way forward.

While presenting the draft Report, Hon. Justice Gadenya highlighted some of the Pilot Project achievements as reflected, including the reduction of case backlog from 43 % to 22.3 % of the total case load, the reduction of case lead times from 2,190 days to 502 days, contributing to the reduction of the remand to



**Justice Alex Ajiji Mackay presiding over a court session.**

convict ratio to 45.7%/53.7 %, close to the internationally agreed 45/55 %, and streamlining of joint cause listing.

The Hon. Judge however also highlighted some challenges reflected in the Report, including, limited stakeholder preparedness and capacity gaps, stakeholder personnel and funding gaps, mindset change impediments, and infrastructural inadequacies.

## Key outputs of the Pilot Project

Throughout the 20-month pilot period, the Division completed 2,242 cases, averaging 111 monthly cases. 361 of

those cases were resolved through plea bargaining, representing 16.1%, while 1,881 cases were completed through daily hearings, representing 83.9%. The total cases completed as a percentage of the expected output of the Project was 47%.

The Project's ambitious goal was to reduce the lead time of hearing cases from 2,190 days to 365 days, and clear case backlog within two years. The average time to dispose of a case was reduced from 2,190 to 502 days.

Despite the shortfall in funding, the cost of handling a case fell from the Shs



1,500,000 the Judiciary spends on a High Court case on average, to Shs 1,064,473, representing a 29% saving.

The Uganda Prisons Remand-Convict ratio also improved to 45:07-54.3% by March 2024, approaching the international standard of 45-55%.

### Backlog reduction

Towards the commencement of the DHP in October 2020, the Criminal Division's backlog was 940 cases, representing 43% of the total caseload. By December 31, 2021, during the DHP backlog had been reduced to 31.6%. At the time of reporting to The Hon. The Principal Judge, it had been further reduced to 22.3 % of the total caseload.

### Notable stakeholder feedback

**Police:** Backlog reduction and quick hearing of at least six complex and high-profile cases, including, Ug v Kasolo Koporiyamu and others (murder of Maria Nagilinya); Uganda v Mugabi Kamada and others (murder of *boda boda* riders); Uganda v Mugabi Kamada and others (kidnap and murder of girls in Kampala); Uganda Vs Onebe Francis (murder of his wife); Uganda v Lubega Yusufu and eight others (kidnap and murder of Susan Magala); and, Uganda v Ssemanda Aloysius and others (murder of *boda boda* riders).

**The ODP:** Reduced backlog hence, enhanced efficiency, joint cause-listing, increased plea bargains, and improved handling of public interest cases, strengthened juvenile justice, and reduced bail decampment and abuse.

**Uganda Prisons Services:** Fight against remand overstay, improved backlog clearance, improved prisoner discipline and order due to enhanced hope of court appearance, and significant reduction of

**Gains in the past two years**

Case backlog reduction from **43% to 22.3%**

**2,242 cases** completed within 20 months.

**361 cases** were completed through Plea Bargaining

Reduced case lead times from **2,190 days to 502 days**

Reduction of remand to convict ratio to **45.7%/53.7%**

prison congestion.

**Uganda Law Society:** Remarkable reduction of the time taken to adjudicate criminal cases, leading to quicker resolution of disputes and alleviation of case backlog, and improved court efficiency, allowing for better case management, and for improved resource allocation to critical formal adjudication

as opposed to interim remedies such as bail applications.

### Recommendations

The Committee made the following recommendations:

- Enhance stakeholder management, coordination, and mind set change, with the view of having daily hearings rolled out as planned
- Establishing of case weighting system, to better manage complex cases that ought not to be mixed with ordinary daily hearing cases
- Cementing quarterly targets
- Improved funding to all criminal justice stakeholders
- Further streamline joint cause listing
- Streamline and institutionalise Plea Bargaining
- Ensure sufficient man power, especially of the State Attorneys
- Improve State Brief renumeration, by among others operationalizing the State Brief Scheme

### Way forward

At the time of publication, The Hon, The Principal Judge was scheduled to meet the Judges and Registrars of the Criminal Division to chart the eventual way forward. ●



Justice Gadenya Paul Wolimbwa (L) presenting the Daily Hearings report to the Principal Judge Dr. Flavian Zeija.



# Uganda committed to addressing organized crime – DCJ Buteera

In May, Justice Richard Buteera, the Deputy Chief Justice, led a team of justice actors to represent Uganda at the 33<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Vienna, Austria.

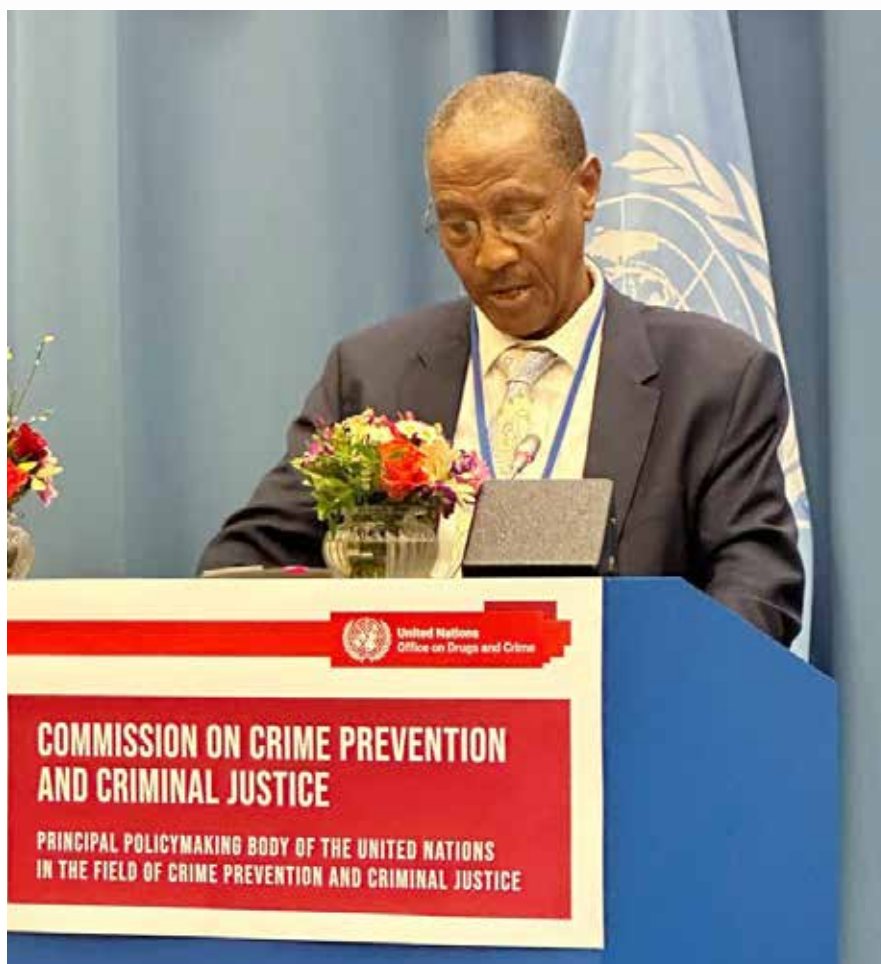
While there, Justice Buteera made case that Uganda believes in the promotion of international cooperation and the provision of tailored technical assistance in criminal matters, form critical support mechanisms for all countries to prevent and address organized crime, corruption, terrorism as well as other forms of crime.

In the same vein, he said the session that Uganda believes that the strengthening of national legislation and policies is equally important for addressing the emerging criminal trends.

Consequently, the Deputy Chief Justice said Uganda believes in the session theme: *“Promoting International Cooperation And Technical Assistance To Prevent And Address Organized Crime, Corruption, Terrorism In All Its Forms And Manifestations And Other Forms Of Crime, Including In The Areas Of Extradition, Mutual Legal Assistance And Asset Recovery.”*

In that regard, Justice Buteera said, Uganda has benefited from the support of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Field Office in Kampala and the UNODC Regional Office in Nairobi which coordinate and promote regional cooperation in the East African region.

It is important, however, the Deputy Chief Justice said “for UNODC to continue to pay specific attention to areas where major challenges remain at our national



**Justice Richard Buteera making his presentation during the 33rd Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Vienna, Austria.**

level including - training on emerging trends of crime, upgrading nationwide data collection and management tools, establishment of platforms for inter-agency cooperation and protection of victims and prosecution of offenders.”

At the international and regional levels, Justice Buteera said, the challenges to international cooperation include

- Differences in implementation mechanisms of international instruments by UN member states; Lack of harmonized key domestic legal instruments in the fight against crime; The continued use of the cash-based economy in many jurisdictions including Uganda and the lack of clarity on the regulation of cryptocurrencies in different jurisdictions.



### What it will take

Addressing these challenges, Justice Buteera said, requires a multi-faceted approach that involves strengthening institutional capacities, enhancing transparency and accountability mechanisms, promoting anti-corruption initiatives, investing in training programmes for law enforcement personnel, fostering partnerships with civil society organizations, and raising awareness about legal rights among the general population.

Furthermore, Justice Buteera noted that there was need to ensure that international frameworks and legislative bodies adapt swiftly to rapid advancements in technology ensuring that legal frameworks can promptly identify and address emerging challenges, especially in the context of combating organized crime and terrorism.

This, he said, can be achieved by: Putting in place structures for proactive measures to fight crime and to facilitate research and inform the emerging trends in the criminal justice system. "This could be done by forming teams that focus solely on putting in place proactive mechanisms for fighting crime," the Deputy Chief Justice said

adding encouraging joint investigation and prosecution not necessarily by states affected by crime at a given time, but by teams to observe, document and make recommendations for future use.

He informed the Session that he was pleased to report that Uganda was fully committed to the execution of the attendant mandate. "We have also made substantial progress in the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational

Organized Crime (UNTOC) and its Protocols," Justice Buteera said adding that Uganda ratified the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, in March this year, supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime.

"We are pleased to report that a lot of progress has been made in domesticating the Protocols in our national laws as well as their implementation at all levels," he said.

The Deputy Chief Justice reaffirmed Uganda's commitment in promoting international cooperation and technical assistance in preventing and addressing transnational organized crime, corruption, terrorism, and other forms of transboundary crime.

He said, the Country, working together with the global community, aims at strengthening its law enforcement capacities, enhance international cooperation, and combat transnational organized crimes effectively," the Deputy Chief Justice said. ●

“

**Justice Richard Buteera reaffirmed Uganda's commitment in promoting international cooperation and technical assistance in preventing and addressing transnational organized crime, corruption, terrorism, and other forms of transboundary crime.**



The Deputy Chief Justice led a team of justice actors from Uganda at the 33<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.





L-R: Justices Duncan Gaswaga, Michael Elubu, Justice Stephen Mubiru and Andrew Bashaija during the hearing of the Kwoyelo case at Gulu High Court.

# Thomas Kwoyelo Trial: A Defining Moment for the ICD

By Ritah Mukundane

The Thomas Kwoyelo trial stands as a landmark in Uganda’s legal history, bringing the International Crimes Division (ICD) of the High Court to the forefront of global attention. As the first war crimes case to be tried domestically, since the Division’s inception, the trial has been a pivotal experience for the Judiciary, testing its capacity to administer justice for the most grievous offenses committed during the country’s turbulent past.

## The Genesis of the Case

**K**woyelo, a former commander in the notorious Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA), was charged with 93 counts of crimes against humanity, including murder, enslavement, and torture. The LRA, led by Joseph Kony, waged a brutal insurgency in northern Uganda for over two decades, leaving a trail of atrocities that devastated communities. Kwoyelo’s trial, which began in 2011, culminated in a significant judgment delivered on 13th August 2024, by a panel of four justices: Duncan Gaswaga, Michael Elubu, Stephen Mubiru, and Andrew Bashaija.

The case was not just about punishing a war criminal but was also seen as a test of Uganda’s commitment to international justice. It was the first major case to be

handled by the ICD, established in 2008, with the mandate to prosecute serious crimes, including war crimes, genocide, and crimes against humanity. The trial drew international attention, with many observers seeing it as a litmus test for Uganda’s judicial system.

## A Legal and Ethical Challenge

The Kwoyelo trial was a complex legal undertaking, requiring the ICD to navigate uncharted waters. It was the first time that the Division had to apply international criminal law within the framework of Uganda’s legal system. This presented numerous challenges, including the need to reconcile international legal standards with domestic laws and the practical difficulties of prosecuting crimes

committed in the context of a prolonged and chaotic conflict.

One of the key challenges was the issue of amnesty. Kwoyelo had initially been granted amnesty under Uganda’s Amnesty Act, which was designed to encourage rebels to abandon the LRA and return to civilian life. However, the State later decided to prosecute him, arguing that his crimes were too serious to be covered by the Amnesty. This legal battle over the applicability of Amnesty added a layer of complexity to the trial and highlighted the tension between peace-building efforts and the pursuit of justice.

The trial also raised important ethical questions about the balance between retribution and reconciliation. The



LRA conflict had left deep scars on the affected communities, and there were differing opinions on how best to achieve justice. Some argued that prosecuting Kwoyelo was necessary to hold perpetrators accountable and prevent future atrocities. Others believed that reconciliation and restorative justice were more appropriate, given the need to heal a society traumatized by decades of violence.

## Key Lessons Learned

The trial has imparted several crucial lessons for the ICD, shaping its approach to future international criminal cases. The following key takeaways highlight the Division's experiences and areas for development:

### 1. Interpreting Amnesty and Justice:

The Kwoyelo case revealed the intricate relationship between amnesty and justice, particularly in relation to Uganda's Amnesty Act. This highlighted the need for clear guidelines on applying amnesty in cases involving serious international crimes. The trial also sparked debate on whether certain crimes, such as genocide or crimes against humanity, should be exempt from amnesty provisions.

### 2. Strengthening Legal Capacity:

The trial underscored the importance of continually enhancing the ICD's ability to manage complex international crimes. This includes ongoing training for Judges, prosecutors, and defense attorneys, as well as expanding resources such as forensic experts and specialized legal advisors. These steps ensure that the ICD is well-prepared to handle intricate cases with confidence and expertise.

### 3. Enhanced Witness Protection:

Witness protection emerged as a critical issue, with challenges



Thomas Kwoyelo consults his lawyer as a prison warder looks on.

such as threats and intimidation becoming evident. Inevitably due to the heightened need for witness protection, the ICD has adopted adhoc procedures. The absence of a comprehensive national witness protection policy highlights the need for developing a robust framework to enhance safety and align with international standards.

### 4. Promoting Victim Participation:

The trial made significant strides in ensuring victim participation, allowing victims to provide testimonies and receive legal representation. It emphasized the importance of a victim-centered and trauma-informed approach beyond the traditional criminal justice system. Additionally, recognizing that justice must address the harm suffered by victims and support their recovery beyond mere punishment through reparations.

### 5. In-House Psycho-Social Support:

The emotional and psychological strain on witnesses, victims, and court staff underscored the necessity for comprehensive in-house psycho-social support services. The ICD is committed to implementing robust support systems to cater to the mental health needs of all participants

throughout the judicial process. As such there is urgent need for the establishment of the victims and witness support unit

### 6. Engagement with the Media:

The role of the media in informing the public and shaping perceptions was crucial. The ICD learned the value of proactive and transparent media engagement to ensure accurate reporting and counter misinformation. Effective communication strategies have been developed to manage public expectations and reinforce the legitimacy of the trial.

### 7. Early Planning in Case Management:

The complexity of the trial highlighted the need for early and detailed case management planning. This involved identifying key legal issues, securing resources, and coordinating with stakeholders to ensure smooth trial progression. The ICD has adopted structured case management protocols to enhance efficiency and effectiveness in handling future cases.

### 8. Effective Use of Resources:

Resourcefulness in managing operations was essential. The ICD effectively utilized available resources, including international legal experts and technological tools, to address the



case's complexities. This experience emphasized the need for continuous innovation and strategic resource use to maintain high standards in justice administration.

#### 9. Gender Sensitivity and Reintegration:

The trial brought to light the gender-based challenges faced by female victims, including societal stigmatization and reintegration difficulties. The ICD has recognized the need for a gender-sensitive approach, incorporating psycho-social support tailored to female victims and collaborating with community leaders and NGOs for effective reintegration.

#### 10. Victim-Centered Approach:

The ICD's commitment to a victim-centered approach was reaffirmed, ensuring that victims' voices and needs were central throughout the trial. This approach, which includes providing legal representation and giving victims the opportunity to testify, has set a precedent for future trials and contributes to community healing and reconciliation through outreaches and stakeholder engagement.

#### 11. Partnerships with NGOs:

Collaborating with NGOs proved beneficial in supporting victims, providing legal aid, and advocating for justice. The ICD plans to strengthen these partnerships to enhance its capabilities in witness protection,

psycho-social support, and other critical areas.

#### 12. Navigating Cultural Sensitivities:

The trial's context, involving traditional justice mechanisms like Mato Oput, highlighted the need for cultural sensitivity in the judicial process. The ICD learned the importance of balancing formal legal procedures with respect for local customs and traditions.

#### 13. International Cooperation:

The trial demonstrated the value of international cooperation, with support from legal experts, human rights organizations, and foreign governments. This collaboration was vital in meeting international standards and overcoming trial challenges, and the ICD aims to continue building on these international partnerships.

#### 14. Regional Potential and Perceptions:

The ICC's perceived bias against African leaders has raised concerns about its impartiality. In contrast, the ICD has shown that African jurisdictions can effectively manage international crimes regionally. With a robust legal framework, Uganda has the potential to serve as a regional hub for international justice, setting a precedent for other African nations and demonstrating the capability of African jurisdictions in the realm of international justice.

## Impact and Future of the ICD

The Kwoyelo trial has left a significant mark on the ICD and Uganda's broader legal landscape. It has set important precedents in the interpretation of international criminal law and the practical aspects of conducting trials for war crimes domestically. The ICD has emerged with a stronger sense of its role in combating impunity and a clearer understanding of the challenges in prosecuting international crimes.

Looking ahead, the ICD is poised to continue addressing the legacy of conflict in Uganda and contributing to global efforts against impunity for serious crimes. The Division's experience with the Kwoyelo trial has provided valuable insights that will guide its future work, including the balance between retributive justice and reconciliation, the need for robust witness protection, and the importance of international cooperation.

As Uganda faces challenges related to human rights violations and conflict aftermath, the ICD will play a crucial role in adjudicating future cases. The lessons learned from the Kwoyelo trial will be instrumental in ensuring that the ICD can fulfill its mandate effectively, advancing the pursuit of justice for all. As observed by the BBC, the decision is a watermark on the Jurisprudence of adjudicating international crimes and applicability of Customary International Law on the African Continent.

There is no doubt that the trial has established a precedent for prosecuting international and transnational crimes domestically and provided a roadmap for navigating complex cases. The ICD will carry forward these lessons, ensuring justice for victims and upholding the rule of law on the international stage. ●



The Judges, prosecutors, and defense teams in a group photo.



# Meet Lady Justice Olive Kazaarwe-Mukwaya

## UJOA's first female president

**Lady Justice Olive Kazaarwe-Mukwaya has been part of the Judiciary for the last 24 years having joined as a Magistrate Grade I in 2000.**

**O**n May 4, 2024, Lady Justice Olive Kazaarwe-Mukwaya, who has grown through the Judiciary ranks, was elected the first female president of the Uganda Judicial Officers Association (UJOA). This is an umbrella Association that brings together Judges, Registrars and Magistrates. She takes us through her judicial journey, how she ended up on the bench and her Plans for UJOA.

### How I ended up in Law School

Lady Justice Kazaarwe-Mukwaya, 48, never set out to be a lawyer or a judge for that matter. "I thought I would be a journalist. I thought I would do something that I had passion for and at the time I anticipated the ease of the work. Now I understand that being a journalist is anything but simple," she says adding that Mass Communication was her first-choice course at Makerere University but upon getting results that didn't please her, she opted for Law but on the evening programme.

Her mother, Lady Justice Margaret Tibekinga Kireju, who passed on in 1998, influenced her decision to take up the law course. "My mother and father decided that I would do that evening law course and I agreed with them. That's how I got into law. It was purely by accident. I guess it was just a matter of destiny. I found law interesting. It helped that my mother was already part of the system, so to speak, so she gave me direction. I had observed her method of work and realised it was always intense work. And being a Judge wasn't for the fainthearted."



**Lady Justice Olive Kazaarwe-Mukwaya**

### Starting out

Having completed both her Law degree and bar course at Law Development Centre (LDC) she says opportunities arose after the government lifted a moratorium on recruitment in public service. "After finishing LDC, there were opportunities for us, some went to Ministry of Justice, some to the Inspector General's chambers and others to the Judiciary. They announced about 50 or so positions for Magistrates Grade I and I thought to myself perhaps this is what I can do," Justice Kazaarwe-Mukwaya said.

She applied, sat and passed interviews and was posted to Mubende District away from the neon lights of Kampala. "I was born and raised in Kampala. My background is pure Kampala. My mother is from Bushenyi and my father is from Ntungamo. And I didn't have upcountry exposure so this was a good awakening," she says.

The years she spent in Mubende were challenging because the infrastructure was in a sorry state. "Mubende had one road, the Main Street. Then the road that took you to the court was dusty. It was plied by produce trucks making their way through. I was on a boda-boda every day. We used public transport to get to Mubende and back for two years. It was quite an experience," she said.

Nevertheless, working upcountry allowed her to make the mistakes during the formative years of her judicial practice. "I loved working with the non-Judicial staff. I was able to learn from them. More often than not, Judicial Officers are posted before they receive induction training. And by that time, one has made errors here and there. In the interim period, the court clerks usually offer guidance, making them very useful, especially when you are starting out," she said.

My career journey has revealed that we Judicial Officers face unique work related hardships which our professional association UJOA is enjoined to understand and respond to in collaboration with the Judiciary leadership and Administration.

### The change we need

With the enactment of the Administration of Judiciary Act 2020, UJOA finds herself at the dawn of a new era. The Act provides for financial autonomy of the Judiciary and introduces the Judiciary Service comprising judicial officers and non-judicial officers making up the staff of the Judiciary. Alongside our primary mandate of ensuring Judicial Officers' are heard on the issues that plague them, there is a higher expectation of better justice delivery from the people of Uganda, more community engagement and compassion-led administration of the law.

"We can do more community engagement



## Lady Justice Kazaarwe's fact file

**Lady Justice Olive Kazaarwe-Mukwaya is a Judge of the High Court currently stationed at the Land Division with 25 years legal experience. She is a career Judicial Officer who joined the Bench in 2000 as a Magistrate Grade I.**

She rose to Senior Magistrate Grade One (2004-2008). In 2009, she became Personal Assistant to the then Deputy Chief Justice, Laetitia Mukasa Kikonyogo, leaving on promotion as Chief Magistrate in 2010, and served in Hoima and Buganda Road Courts in Kampala up to 2014.

In May 2014, she was briefly posted to the Inspectorate of Courts as an Ag. Assistant Registrar, before she was assigned to manage a donor project.

She was thereafter deployed as an Ag. Registrar, Planning and Development – a Judiciary arm that partly coordinated the multi-million-dollar DANIDA-funded Uganda Good Governance Project. Under the Project, she directly supervised the implementation of a number of Judiciary development programmes including access to justice initiatives.

In 2017, she was transferred to the Commercial Division of the High Court as Deputy Registrar and it was while there that she was seconded to work at the

Commission of Inquiry into Land Matters as Commission Secretary.

Lady Justice Olive Kazaarwe-Mukwaya holds a Masters in International Business Law, Uganda Christian University, a post Graduate Diploma in Public Administration and Management from Uganda Management Institute, Post Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice from Law Development Centre and a Bachelor of Laws from Makerere University. She started out as a Legal Associate with Ruyondo & Co Advocates in 1999. ●

at a low cost, as a way of improving access to justice by empowering court users with the information they need to navigate the judicial system. We need to administer justice with compassion. We have to understand our society and the circumstances of our people. And we can only do this if we have more engagements with the people.

As we focus on doing our best to highlight the difficulties faced by Judicial Officers in their roles and seek appropriate workable remedies to these, my hope is that UJOA will also look outward to engage more with the communities we serve in conjunction with the Judiciary leadership and like-minded stakeholders," the Judge said.

Increased cohesiveness within the Judicial Officer ranks and the broader Judiciary Service, will bring the much needed unity envisaged under the Administration of Judiciary Act to aid better justice delivery. UJOA's activities over the next two years will be tailored towards this goal.

### Inside the new UJOA Executive

SN	NAME	POSITION
1.	Lady Justice Olive Kazaarwe-Mukwaya	President
2.	Her Worship Daphne Ayebare	Vice President
3.	His Worship Conrad Obol Oroya	Secretary General
4.	Her Worship Praise Ahurira	Vice General Secretary
5.	Her Worship Christine Turibamwe	Treasurer
6.	Her Worship Lillian Mazimwe	Vice Treasurer
7.	His Worship Patrick Akoko Sinclair	Editor/Publicity Secretary
8.	Her Worship Mallen Obizu	Vice Editor/Vice Publicity Secretary
9.	Lady Justice Catherine Bamugemereire	Representative for the Supreme Court
10.	Justice Oscar Kihika	Representative for the Court of Appeal
11.	Lady Justice Celia Nagawa	Representative of the High Court
12.	Her Worship Sarah Tusiime Bashaija	Representative for Registrars
13.	His Worship Moses Nabende	Representative for Chief Magistrates,
14.	His Worship William Muwonge	Representative for Magistrates Grade I
15.	His Worship John Stephen Waidhuba	Representative for Magistrates Grade II

She adds that UJOA's vision is to be the lead torch bearer in accessible justice and the rule of law in the African region and beyond.

"There is a need for more alignment of the roles and activities of UJOA with her sister associations in the EAC to strengthen our regional cohesion for improved welfare of

members and justice delivery," the UJOA President says.

Adding, "Home grown solutions best suited for the African context are necessary. And our collaborative action may help us arrive at these in line with the overall mandate of the Judiciaries which birth and foster our professional associations." ●



# HW Glory Alleluya: Kalangala's first Chief Magistrate

**I thank the Judiciary for believing in me to serve the people on the islands of Kalangala**

**I received with joy news of my appointment as acting Chief Magistrate on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2023. During the swearing-in, the chief Registrar among others, congratulated us upon the appointment and said that one of us will be posted to Kalangala District. It didn't occur to me at that moment that I was the one.**

A few days later when news of my deployment to Kalangala reached me, I was shocked. Not because I didn't like the posting but I had always suffered water-related trauma since I was seven years old when I was rescued from a pond where I almost drowned. Here I was torn between a rock and a hard place. I had to pull myself together and I asked for God's grace to see me through.

My appointment as Acting Chief Magistrate has been my long awaited opportunity since 2012 when I had first applied to be in Judiciary. I prepared my maiden journey on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

I was told that there was a ferry at Nakiwogo Entebbe which sails on water



**By HW Glory Alleluya**  
Ag. Chief Magistrate, Kalangala

for approximately three hours. I was also informed of the alternative Masaka route at Bukakata which instead would take 30 minutes to reach Kalangala. I chose the latter due to my hydrophobia.

For six months, I braved the Kampala-Masaka route in a bid to spend only 30 minutes on water.

## At the Station

When I arrived in Kalangala, I was welcomed by the Senior Magistrate Grade I, His Worship Arinda Herbert who was in charge of the station, at the time, and his team. I was shown a very beautiful self-contained house that was to serve as my residence, rent free. This was quite a relief because I was worried about accommodation.

While we were being addressed at swearing-in, we were told that in order to be confirmed in service, each of us had to deliver 600 judgments/ rulings. I imagined that in Kalangala I would have



HW Glory Alleluya during the swearing-in ceremony.



Outside the court house.



The residential house that came with the deployment.



Part of the work involves visiting prisons and other detention facilities.



The Chief Magistrate has participated in different public awareness campaigns on radio.



On the ferry enroute to Kalangala.

at least 1,000 cases hence this target would be a relatively easy one to hit.

To my surprise I discovered that the registered cases for the mid-year were less than 200 both civil and criminal. As a result, I chose to divide all the cases between the senior magistrate and myself because if I was to wait for cases where I had exclusive jurisdiction I would be very redundant since the cases in this jurisdiction are few.

The community and stakeholders welcomed my deployment because it was a relief to the people of Kalangala who previously had to seek services of the chief magistrate in Masaka. Therefore, the relationship between the public and the

court has been good.

### Visits to different detention facilities

I have participated in radio talk shows and the feedback has been positive. Kalangala district comprises of indigenous and non-indigenous people. Those that come to do oil palm activities and fishing which are the main economic activities.

### Case categorization

Most of the cases at the court are mainly illegal fishing, assaults arising from fights at the landing sites and domestic violence. There are also land cases arising out of oil palm growing which are lucrative in the area.

The people are friendly and respectful which has made working with them relatively easy and smooth. The past year I've been there has taught me so many things to not only trust the process but to take chances and explore opportunities when they arise.

My trauma has since vanished. I no longer feel any goose bumps when I set foot on the ferry. I now prefer using Nakiwogo route because it's economically friendly. I have realized that when we let God to take charge, everything becomes possible.

I thank the Judiciary for the opportunity of taking justice services closer to the people of Kalangala. ●



# Eng. Ebal bows out after 26 years in Judiciary Service

**After serving the Judiciary for 26 years, Dr. Eng. Christopher Ebal handed over the office of Commissioner Engineering and Technical Services following his retirement.**

## His journey to the Judiciary

In his handover report, Dr. Ebal explained that he joined the Judiciary after he responded to an August 1998 advert that appeared in the New Vision newspaper requesting for a qualified engineer. He applied and was shortlisted to do interviews at the Public Service Commission which he did and emerged as the best candidate.

Dr. Ebal explained that he reported for duty on October 1, 1998 and was received by Justice Andrew Bashaija, then Personal Assistant to the Principal Judge who was caretaking the Estates Department.

Although he was recruited as the Principal Building Engineer, the Judiciary Structure had the title of the Estates Manager and not Principal Building Engineer. He says that the Estates Department then was also one of the components of Danida Judiciary Support Project. It was in 2017 when he was appointed by President Museveni as Commissioner, Engineering and Technical Services.

It was during the same time that the unit was upgraded to the Department of Engineering and Technical Services.

## His legacy

For the years he has served, Dr. Ebal has supervised several building projects in the Judiciary and beyond with the most recent being the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal buildings.



**Dr. Eng. Christopher Ebal.**

The others are the Commercial Court which was opened by the President in 2008. Dr. Ebal says that design comprised of a short tower of up to four floor levels including a basement. The building, he says, is symmetrically proportioned with two semi-circular facade projections equally separated by welcoming ornamental columns at the approaches

and similarly, two additional semicircular shapes at the sides usher in unique aesthetics.

In between the two semi-circular winding, he says, the mini access ramps and steps facilitate people with disabilities among others. "The building has internal vertical accessibility enhancements like the lift cars, ramp and staircases positioned to ease safety while at use. The internal traffic flow was well addressed by providing adequate corridors and lobbies. Whereas parking consumes proportion of the outside compound, well planned greenery provides the natural fresh air and cool breeze for human wellness within a partially polluted city environment. The ground coverage of the building is about 50 percent of the plot," he says.

For the twin-tower buildings, Dr. Ebal says that the Supreme Court has 19 Chambers with the first being that of Chief Justice, 15 Justices and three for Registrars. He said there are three Supreme Court halls, Justices' Restaurant, four Boardrooms, 3 Registries, 1 Computer Room, a Mediation lounge. The Supreme Court tower has a Library, Gym and sauna, Conference facilities, staff restaurant, business centre, Advocates robing room, Security room, Mothers' breast-feeding room, staff lounge, State Attorneys' room, Accounts,



**Dr. Eng. Ebal at the handover ceremony which was witnessed by the Permanent Secretary/Secretary to the Judiciary and other members of the Judiciary Senior Management Committee.**





Eng. Ebal at the commissioning of the Mukono High Court building on May 11, 2023.

## Remarkable achievements registered

- Increase in the Judiciary Court buildings from 17 in 1998 to 138 in 2024.
- Management of the design and construction supervision of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal buildings.
- Management of the design and construction supervision of the Commercial court building.
- Management of the design, documentation and tendering of the JLOS house project.
- Increase in the human resources from a one officer department to an establishment of over 47 officers.
- Supply of furniture and office equipment to over 220 operational courts, installation of solar and generators in 68 courts and creation of maintenance management system.
- Increase in mobility from one vehicle to five GOU vehicles and two project vehicles for the department.
- Establishment of a maintenance and management system for the assets.
- Designing standard court drawings from that of 1998, then 2011 and now 2024 standard drawings for the Magistrates courts, High courts and Regional courts of appeal.

Staff Library, archives, Research assistants, 2 Mediation rooms, Chief Justice's mini Library, Personal Assistant to the Chief Justice. The Court of Appeal he says has 22 Chambers including one for Deputy Chief Justice, 18 Justices, 3. Registrars, 4 Court halls, 5 Boardrooms, 3 registries, justices' restaurant, Conference facilities, Steam bath and sauna, Gym room, Executive board room, Deputy Chief Justice's mini library, Personal Assistant to the Deputy

Chief Justice, Research assistants, staff restaurant, cells, building maintenance office, Business centre, Advocates robbing rooms, Security rooms, Mothers breast feeding rooms, consultation rooms, exhibit stores and drivers room.

Dr. Ebal prides in the construction of offices for Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) which he says started under the Netherlands support to DPP

and later Justice Law and Order Sector (JLOS). The regional offices that were built under his supervision and management, he says, include: Masaka, Mbarara, Kabale, Lira, Gulu, Arua, Mbale, Tororo, Iganga, Jinja Mukono, Kayunga, Luwero, Masindi, Hoima, Kiboga, Fort Portal, Kasese, Bushenyi, Bulisa, Kyegegwa, Ntungamo, Rukungiri, Isingiro, Rubirizi, Mitooma, Ibanda, Kiruhura, Mubende, Nakaseke, Kalangala, Busia, Kapchorwa, Moroto, Kitgum, Gulu, Jinja, Bundibugyo, Sembabule, Namayingo, Maracha, Kamuli, Nabweru, Nakawa, Kibuku, Bulambuli and Soroti.

## Challenges

Dr. Ebal says that the challenges he has found include inadequate Funding. "The funds allocated for construction and maintenance works are inadequate. This has led to delays in completion of projects and the old buildings have deteriorated badly. A good number have taken over 20 years without maintenance due to inadequate funding," he says adding that there is also Lack of a Maintenance Culture.

"There is a general lack of maintenance culture for Government properties. People do not care to carry out even simple maintenance," he says.

Adding that inadequate resources have hampered his work. "For a long time, there were inadequate human and financial resources to carry out effective supervision. It was common to see our engineers more on public means and *boda-boda*, he says.

Adding that another challenge was the inadequate furniture which he attributes to inadequate funding and at times no funding at all, a good number of courts lack furniture. ●



# Unveiling the Odyssey of ULII

**One of the worst nightmares that can befall a legal practitioner or student is if they hastily fire up their gadget while pressed for time and launch an internet browser, only to find the Uganda Legal Information Institute (ULII)’s website experiencing downtime or inaccessibility.**

All of a sudden, the straightforward tasks of skimming through case law, confirming run-of-the-mill constitution provisions or the latest statutory instrument would drift back into the dark ages, where it cost hours upon hours of valuable time, plus *some ‘tea’* for the guy in the clerk’s office, to carry out mundane legal research.

ULII is the game changer that has quietly revolutionized how the law is accessed and understood.

Started in 2006 and housed under the Judicial Training Institute within the Department of Law Reporting, ULII is the go-to repository for Uganda’s legal reporting. This is the only legal publisher that has operated continuously for such a duration. ULII stands as a testament to the power of vision and perseverance.

Numerous students, practitioners, Judicial Officers and lawyers attest to ULII’s saving graces for their work. It offers easily navigable, free-for-all access to court decisions and legislation.

In the corridors of conventional wisdom, where perceptions often mingle with realities about the transfer, the Judicial Training Institute is not spared of imagination. Yet, as Proverbs 12 reminds us, the folly of certainty blinds those who cannot see beyond their own convictions. The idleness presumed by some is a mirage in the oasis of productivity and progress that ULII embodies.

Justice Frederick Martin Stephen Egonda-Ntende, hailed by many as the patriarch of ULII, envisioned a digital sanctuary where



**By HW Joel Wegoye**

**Senior Magistrate Grade I,  
Law Reporting**

**Indeed, ULII is more than a repository of legal artefacts; it is a sanctuary where justice is enshrined, and the collective wisdom of the legal fraternity finds resonance.**

legal precedents and legislative wisdom converge. His revered legacy underscores the profound impact of ULII on Uganda’s legal landscape.

In the crucible of ULII, tradition meets innovation, birthing a paradigm shift in legal accessibility and transparency. Where once law reports were coveted commodities, ULII has rendered them mere artefacts adorning office walls. Yet beneath this veneer lies the true essence of ULII’s impact—a digital agora where legal knowledge transcends borders.

Gone are the days of passive legal consumption; ULII’s virtual space beckons with over 181,835 monthly users from more than 24 countries spanning continents and cultures. A symbol of its global resonance, ULII’s annual visitation forecast reflects a promise that eclipses past milestones with

a 59.6% expected increase.

Ranking ULII as No. 3 among 16 LII families in Africa may paint a picture of hierarchy, but ULII’s ascent defies mere statistics. Surpassing giants with meagre resources, ULII’s modest team of administrators, magistrates, and data entrants spearheads a revolution in legal dissemination. Assisted by AfricanLII and guided by Mariya Badeva’s indomitable spirit, ULII depicts the triumph of dedication over adversity.

Within ULII’s digital archive, the fabric of judicial accountability is woven anew. Judicial decisions once shrouded in opacity, now stand as pillars of transparency and public service. Through collecting, reading through, digitizing and uploading more than 2,000 cases per quota and all gazettes, ULII fosters a culture of constructive criticism and commendation.

Indeed, ULII is more than a repository of legal artefacts; it is a sanctuary where justice is enshrined, and the collective wisdom of the legal fraternity finds resonance. Its journey, akin to an epic odyssey, reflects the resilience of human ingenuity in the face of tradition and scepticism.

The Judiciary has embraced technology in more ways than one, including the 2022 launch of the revolutionary Electronic Court Case Management Information System. This portends for a highly digitized Judiciary Service, which can only increase ULII’s utility and importance.

As the poet Robert Frost once mused, ULII has taken the road less travelled, and it has made all the difference. ●

# PICTORIAL



The Registrar High Court, HW Rosemary Bareebe, shortly after presiding over an enrolment ceremony of new advocates.



The Health Camp at Fort Portal High Court Circuit on March 26, 2024.



The Chief Justice in a photo with Richissime Diue, a pupil who aspires to be Chief Justice.



New Justices in a group photo with the President, Judiciary Top Management, the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs together with their families after their swearing-in and introduction at State House in Entebbe on May 9, 2024.



The Chief Justice during his maiden meeting in his chambers at the Supreme Court on April 24, 2024.



A group photo following the Stakeholders Consultative Workshop on the Revised Draft Administration of the Judiciary Service Regulations 2024.



# THE JUDICIARY

## VISION: Justice for All

**MISSION:** to efficiently and effectively administer justice

### CORE VALUES

#### INDEPENDENCE

the Judiciary will ensure that it operates freely in its own best Judgement, without taking directives from, or being controlled by, any person or authority. We will uphold and exemplify the independence of the Judiciary in its individual and institutional aspects.

#### IMPARTIALITY

We uphold that justice must not merely be done but must also be seen to be done. Judicial Officers shall perform judicial duties without fear, favour, ill-will, bias, or prejudice.

#### TRANSPARENCY

The Judiciary will be open at all times in dealing with all partners in the administration of justice, documenting its operations and freely disseminating information. The Judiciary will endeavour to win the confidence and trust of all Ugandans and the international community through the quality of its services.

#### PROFESSIONALISM

The Judiciary will endeavour to have well-trained, professionally competent and self-confident staff that will administer justice to all.

#### INTEGRITY

the Judiciary will carry out its activities in an honest and truthful manner, and will take all reasonable measures to prevent wilful wrongdoing by its officials. Our behaviour and conduct will re-affirm the people's faith in the integrity of the Judiciary.

#### ACCOUNTABILITY

The Judiciary will take full responsibility for its actions, and will always be answerable to the people of Uganda and to its partners.

#### EQUALITY

The Judiciary will uphold the principles of equality, equal opportunities and affirmative action in respect to gender and other disadvantaged groups. We shall accord equal treatment to all persons who appear in court, without distinction on unjust discrimination based on the grounds of sex, colour, race, ethnicity, religion, age, social or economic status, political opinion, or disability.

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