



THE JUDICIARY

INSIDER

First Annual Performance Report

Courts disposed of 156,875 cases in FY 2020/21



Top Management's agenda for the Judiciary
The expanded structure

News Updates 2021

SPECIAL SECTION

Full list of Uganda Judicial Officers - December 31, 2021



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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Journey with us into the New Judiciary

For decades, the Judiciary was in the ‘Labour Suite’ awaiting the birth of the Administration of the Judiciary Act. Finally, on June 19th, 2020, H.E. President Yoweri K. Museveni, assented to the Administration of the Judiciary Bill that had been passed by Parliament on June 2nd, 2020. With the Administration of the Judiciary Act (AJA), it is not an exaggeration to say that 2020 was one of the best years in the history of the Judiciary.

The enactment of the AJA was received with excitement in the Judiciary for many reasons, including;

- The nearly 20 years-long wait was over, a new dawn had come;
- It ushered in the opportunity for the Judiciary to enjoy her rightful status and identity as an independent arm of government, demystifying the long-standing misconception that the Judiciary was a department under the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, and
- The prospects under the Act were remarkable—a Judiciary Service comprising both judicial and non-judicial officers; a pioneer Judiciary Council to advise the Hon. the Chief Justice, retirement benefits, and primarily strengthened the independence of the Judiciary by streamlining the provision and management of funds for the Judiciary.

With the foregoing opportunities presented by AJA, it was apparent that the journey to a “New Judiciary” had begun and indeed that journey continues. This journey demands new ways of doing things in order to administer justice in an efficient and effective manner. We have generated an unstoppable momentum and will not forget that ‘to whom much is given, much is required’.

In this issue, we outline the agenda of the Top Management and you will learn the vision they have to ensure we harness the prospects of our full transition to the new Judiciary. We take you through the past year, and you will read the highlights of the various activities in the courts, and our accomplishments and successes, as well as innovations in the Judiciary. We also describe our collaborations and engagements with stakeholders.

I want to take a moment to thank all of you – our staff and stakeholders – for your commitment, dedication and diligence that have resulted in remarkable achievements and progress as we transition to full autonomy as a New Judiciary. The year 2021 has provided us with a solid foundation and my prayer is that we keep the momentum that has been generated in this first year of the AJA.

Happy reading.

Sarah Langa Siu
CHIEF REGISTRAR

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President Yoweri Museveni with a cross section of participants of the 22nd Annual Judges' Conference.

What you need to know about the 23rd Annual Judges' Conference

Conference Theme: The Administration of the Judiciary Act and Sustainable Transformation of the Judiciary

It is a long standing tradition of the Uganda Judiciary to hold Annual Judges' Conferences at the beginning of each calendar year. During the Conference, performance of the courts (Supreme Court, Court of Appeal/Constitutional and the High Court) in the preceding year is discussed and a roadmap on activities of the proceeding year is drawn.

The conference discusses several topical issues. The Keynote Speaker lays the background for the conference discussions and several current and topical matters are addressed with the aim of improving knowledge, attitude and performance in the administration of Justice in Uganda.

The Head of State, His Excellency the President of Uganda is the Guest of Honour and the participants are Justices of the Supreme Court, Justices of the Court of Appeal/Constitutional Court,

Judges of the High Court and Registrars of the Courts of Judicature. Several high level dignitaries and Judiciary partners are invited to attend the opening ceremony of the conference.

In 2021, the conference was not held due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, the Judiciary will hold the 23rd Annual Judges' Conference between January 31st, 2022 and February 3rd, 2022 under the theme: ***"The Administration of the Judiciary Act and Sustainable Transformation of the Judiciary"***.

Choice of theme

The administration of justice is a crucial part of our democracy, designed to ensure equal justice for all citizens through the judicial system. Administration of Justice encompasses a growing interest among academics, justice practitioners and public managers, regarding managerial practices carried out in the justice system.

A well-administered justice system has a civilising effect and contributes to



social cohesion, fosters social relations based on ethical and moral values and principles, and results in the country's sustainable development.

In Uganda, the justice system comprises many organisations working in very different contexts, according to their constitutional roles and objectives. The Judiciary is an arm of the State, but the justice system also comprises the other justice, law and order sector actors.

The Judiciary is currently in transition which was initiated by the enactment and implementation of the Administration of the Judiciary Act, 2020. The Act gives effect to Chapter 8 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda as amended.

The Administration of Judiciary Act, 2020 lays emphasis on the following key areas: *Administration of the Judiciary, the Inspectorate of Courts, the Judiciary Service, Performance Management System, Retirement Benefits for Judicial Officers, Finances and Training.*

The Act is a welcome piece of legislation that will no doubt attract both goodwill

and some affront to change. It is the goodwill that this conference seeks to harness and multiply in order to ensure that the Act does not become a dead letter in law.

The Judiciary Service is faced with gaps in physical and functional access to justice ranging from human resource, process, technological, infrastructural and finances. These gaps limit access to justice by the population, which impediments the Judiciary is seeking to address by rolling out a wide range of interventions to ensure both physical and qualitative access to justice for all. The conference will seek to further understand the effect and impact of the Administration of the Judiciary Act, 2020 on the human and other capital in order to meet the stated vision of 'Justice for All'.

Judiciaries have, and will most certainly continue to play, a pivotal role in the development and implementation of legislative and institutional regimes for sustainable development. A Judiciary, well informed on the contemporary developments in the field of

international and national imperatives of sustainable development and transformation, will be a major force in strengthening national efforts to realise the goals/targets set in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Agenda 2030. And, in particular, it will vindicate the rights of individuals substantively and ease access to the judicial process.

Sustainable transformation of the Ugandan Judiciary entails assessing the dispensation of justice: the capacity competence and the personnel of the Judiciary to respond to and deal with the matters before courts of law. It also eliminates procedural and technical obstacles in the administration of justice as per Article 126 (2)(e) of the Constitution; securing effective compliance with and enforcement of judicial decisions. It aims at achieving judicious balance between development and sustainable transformation of the Judiciary in consonance with the National Development Plan III (NDP III), MDGs and the Judiciary Strategic Plan IV.

The principle that should guide the Judiciary in promoting the goals of



President Yoweri Museveni addresses Judges at the 22nd Annual Judges' Conference.



sustainable transformation through the application of the rule of law and the democratic process. is To quote, “A full commitment to contributing towards the realisation of the goals of sustainable transformation through the judicial mandate to implement, develop and enforce the law, and to uphold the Rule of Law and democratic process”.

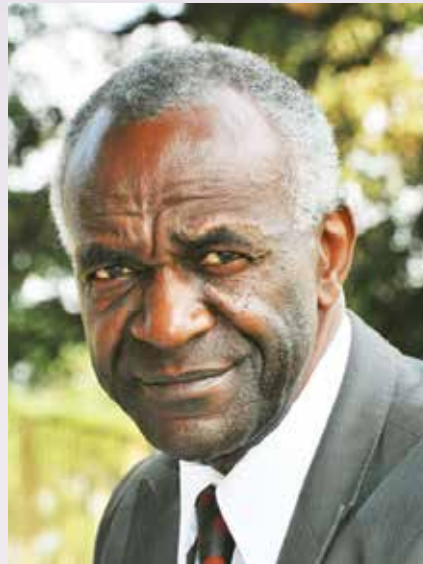
Consequently, there is an urgent need for a concerted and sustained programme of work focused on education, training and dissemination of information, and to carry out judicial functions on a well-informed basis, equipped with the necessary skills, information and material.

Collaboration among members of the Judiciary and others engaged in the judicial process within and across regions is essential to achieve a significant improvement in compliance with implementation, development and enforcement of established legal principles

The improvement in the level of public participation in decision-making, access to justice, the defence and enforcement of the rights enshrined in the Constitution, and public access to relevant information are important. This is coupled with the strengthening of sub-regional, regional and global collaboration for the mutual benefit of all peoples of the world and the exchange of information among national Judiciaries with a view to benefiting from each other’s knowledge, experience and expertise.

Objectives


The general objective of the Conference is to discuss performance of the Judiciary in the previous year. Special attention will be given to the following. The effect of the Administration of the Judiciary Act on the activities, innovations and other capitals in the Judiciary Service. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic



Keynote Speaker; Principal Judge Emeritus, James Ogoola Munange

on the Judiciary Services operations, and the imminent rollout of innovations including the ECCMIS to aid in processes that lead to effective delivery of justice, identify gaps hindering performance and make proposals to modernise and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Courts in the administration of justice in Uganda. The Conference will specifically focus:

1. Discussion of the performance of each Court in 2021 against the set performance targets;



The keynote address will be delivered by the Principal Judge Emeritus, James Ogoola Munange on “The Administration of the Judiciary Act and Sustainable Transformation of the Judiciary”.

2. Discussion of achievements and challenges arising from implementation of the Administration of the Judiciary Act;

3. Share experiences and best practices in addressing the gaps in the administration of justice and make recommendations to address the gaps identified.

Topics

The keynote address will be delivered by the Principal Judge Emeritus, James Ogoola Munange on **“The Administration of the Judiciary Act and Sustainable Transformation of the Judiciary”**. There will be presentations on the performances from the different Courts, perceptions on the Administration of Justice in Uganda, Administration of Justice in the New Judiciary and Public Involvement in the Proper Administration of Justice. The other topics to be covered are Leading from the Bench: A Key to Sustainable Judicial Transformation, A New Paradigm Shift: Transitioning from Case Backlog to Case load Management and Managing Personal Finances and Planning for Retirement, among others.

Expected outputs

At the end of the Conference it is expected that:

1. Challenges to the implementation of the Administration of the Judiciary Act will have been identified and strategies laid to address them.
2. Judicial officers will have a clearer understanding of their role in the administration of justice and sustainable transformation of the Judiciary.
3. General improvement in court performance and service delivery.
4. Improvement in access to justice.
5. The Judiciary will improve on the fulfillment of its mandate. ●



Judiciary Annual Performance Report: The highlights

On November 15, the Chief Justice, Alfonse Chigamoy Owiny – Dollo, launched the first Judiciary Annual Performance Report at the Judiciary headquarters in Kampala. The report is the first of its kind since the enactment of the Administration of the Judiciary Act, 2020, which now requires that the Judiciary Annual Performance Report be aligned to the Financial Year, rather than the calendar year.

In the inaugural report, the Chief Justice noted that this was done “in fulfilment of Section 39(1) of the Administration of the Judiciary Act, 2020 that requires the Chief Justice to publish an Annual Performance Report for every concluded Financial Year, and distribute copies of the same to the President, the Speaker of Parliament and any other stakeholder.”

The report expounded on the achievements of the Judiciary during the previous Financial Year, as well as the challenges and impediments encountered. It also highlighted the Judiciary’s efforts towards strengthening the administration of justice in accordance with the theme of the Judiciary Strategic Plan V FY2020/21 to 2024/25 (JSPV).

Performance of the Judiciary during the FY2020/21

Financial performance; The Judiciary managed to utilise the funds received at an absorption rate of 96.6%. Out of the released budget of UGX 215,502,421,726, UGX 208,780,683,306 was duly utilised.

Case management; during the FY2020/21, Courts disposed of 156,875 cases out of a caseload of 317,929 accounting for 49% of all cases in the system. The cases disposed of translated into a 20% improvement in case disposal from 130,869 cases disposed of in the previous Financial Year.

The Chief Justice attributed the good performance of courts to the use of Alternative Dispute Resolution



The Chief Justice, Alfonse Chigamoy Owiny - Dollo, at the launch of the first Annual Performance Report on November 15th, 2021.

mechanisms such as Plea Bargaining, Mediation and Small Claims Procedure. This is in addition to weeding out of dormant cases in accordance with the law, use of video conferencing system to hear cases and utilisation of the lockdown period to write judgments by judicial officers.

Judiciary physical infrastructure; The Judiciary has 105 courts in Judiciary-owned premises, 56 in rented premises, while 77 are in district and sub-county buildings.

Many of these structures were constructed decades ago and their designs are old and outdated. With emerging issues such as population

growth, use of modern court equipment which need customised spaces, accommodation of special needs groups such as persons with disabilities (PWDs) who need ramps – these new demands have rendered these structures less suitable as courthouses. For FY2020/21 expenditure on rent was UGX 12.4 billion which was 6.2% of the Judiciary budget.

The Chief Justice relayed an update on the progress of the various construction projects. He said several court houses are under construction which will, in effect reduce on Judiciary’s expenditure on rent and upgrade structures to accommodate the needs of persons with disabilities (PWDs), use of modern court equipment and population growth. Construction



Members of the Judiciary Top Management led by Chief Justice Alfonse Chigamoy Owiny – Dollo with JLOS sector stakeholders at the launch of the first Annual Performance Report on November 15, 2021.

works of the Appellate Courts building which will host the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal are expected to be completed by April 2022 which he said will reduce the rent expenditure by over UGX 6 billion.

Other ongoing construction projects at various stages mentioned were Mukono High Court at the first-floor level; Justice Centres at Kole, Sembabule, Sheema, Buhweju; and Chief Magistrates Courts of Butambala, Kamwenge and Mayuge are at finishing stage.

Automation of court processes: The Judiciary in the previous Financial Year embarked on the process of automation of Court processes through the provision of Video Conferencing System, Digital Court Recording and Transcription at different courts. The Electronic Court Case Management Information System (ECCMIS) was also designed to automate the entire process of a Court case life cycle right from filing (e-filing) to archival (archival).

A phased approach for implementation of ECCMIS was adopted and the first Phase is planned to cover 18 courts which include the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeal/Constitutional Court, seven High Court Divisions, one High Court at the Circuit, five Chief Magistrates Courts and

three Magistrates Grade One Courts. The system was commissioned in October in this current FY2021/22 and mandatory training of the end-users was conducted.

Human Resource Development: In spite of the fact that staffing levels remained at 37% of the approved structure, the Chief Justice noted that during the year under review, the Judiciary received a new Chief Justice, a Deputy Chief Justice and a Chief Registrar. Additionally, six registrars and two deputy registrars were appointed to the Judiciary Service.

Thirty (30) judicial officers were promoted (nine to Deputy Registrars, five to Assistant Registrars, 14 to Chief Magistrates, one to Principal Magistrate Grade One and

one to Senior Magistrate Grade One). He equally disclosed that this FY2021/22, the new structure of Judicial Officers has been approved and plans are underway to fill gaps at the different court levels.


General Challenges and Recommendations

The report detailed the challenges which affected the administration of justice and the quick disposal of cases during the period which included manpower gaps, inadequate funding, escalating case backlog, limited jurisdiction of Magistrates Courts and inadequate court infrastructure. The others were lack of transport, limited automation of court processes, staff insecurity, COVID-19 and inadequacies among the key justice actors.

The Chief Justice made key recommendations that would assist in improving service delivery in the Judiciary. These included; the need for adequate funding for the Judiciary, recruitment of sufficient staff, implementation of the Administration of the Judiciary Act, 2020, strengthening automation of Court processes and effective implementation of the case management reforms.

The Chief Justice also stressed the importance of improving Court infrastructure with power backup systems, the construction of the Judiciary Archive, the expansion of the Judicial Training Institute (JTI), and building of Court of Appeal houses at Gulu and Mbarara, among others.

“The Judiciary is committed and ready to do whatever it takes to ensure that justice reaches every man and woman in this country – so much that it is as accessible to them as water is,” the Chief Justice pledged. Adding that the Government had already demonstrated to the Judiciary its inalienable support towards realising milestones in the transformation of the justice system. ●



Financial performance; Judiciary managed to utilise the funds received at an absorption rate of 96.6%. Out of the released budget of UGX 215,502,421,726, UGX 208,780,683,306 was duly utilised.



Access to justice broadened by automation of courts

Perhaps the biggest challenge for the Judiciary is to reduce the delay in the court process to improve access to justice. In an effort to broaden access to justice, the Judiciary has embarked on the process of automation of all courts as a one-stop solution to ensure that justice is accessible to every individual even during eventualities such as COVID-19 pandemic.

The digitalisation of courts is envisaged to make the justice process swift and keep abreast with the fast-moving world.

The Permanent Secretary/Secretary to the Judiciary, Dr Pius Bigirimana, projects that automation of courts which entails conducting trials online and also filing cases electronically is not only environmentally friendly, but it also ensure quick disposal of existing cases.

In a bid to embrace online hearing of cases, the Judiciary installed video conferencing systems at the Commercial Division, Mbarara High Court, Arua High Court, Masindi High Court, Masaka High Court, among others.

The video conferencing system enables cases to be handled remotely with court and parties submitting online and it has been very vital in the handling of cases during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown and the strict enforcement of social distancing.

To speed up the efforts of case hearing and production of the court transcripts, the Judiciary has also rolled out five (5) sets of digital court recording and transcription systems in different courts.

Further, the Judiciary designed and developed the Electronic Court Case Management Information System (ECCMIS) at the Judiciary headquarters in Kampala on October 19, the Chief Justice, Alfonse Chigamoy Owiny - Dollo, said the move is a major building block to e-government service and particularly,



A panel of Justices of the Court of Appeal led by the Deputy Chief Justice, Richard Buteera, presiding over a session.

Key benefits

- As far as the digitalisation of process is concerned, litigants should be able to keep themselves updated with court schedules online.
- Filing of cases and submitting e-documents will reduce the pile of papers in lawyers' chambers and court offices.
- This will consequently increase efficiency and reduce delay and complexity.
- Witness depositions may be recorded and in cases of urgency video recording of witness testimony may be admitted.
- This will fill the time gap of witness summoning, rendering the disposal of cases quicker.

While commissioning the long-awaited Electronic Court Case Management Information System (ECCMIS) at the Judiciary headquarters in Kampala on October 19, the Chief Justice, Alfonse Chigamoy Owiny - Dollo, said the move is a major building block to e-government service and particularly,

to the administration of justice.

"I encourage all stakeholders, most especially lawyers to embrace the initiative because the advent of Information technology is fundamentally changing the way people work and interact and now you will be able to file



a case from your chambers or any other place of convenience at any time,” he said.

The Chief Justice noted that the judiciaries all over the world, Uganda inclusive, are fighting two major bottlenecks affecting rendering of justice such as delay in disposal of cases with resultant case backlog that can only be overcome by embracing technology.

Kicking off

ECCMIS will take effect in March 2022.

The chairperson of the ECCMIS Technical Committee, Justice Immaculate Busingye, explained that the System aims at minimising human interventions.

“We are not changing the rules of the court process, but we are only making them electronically compliant with



To speed up the efforts of case hearing and production of the court transcripts, the Judiciary has also rolled out five (5) sets of digital court recording and transcription systems in different courts.

minimum human intervention,” she said.

Phased implementation

A phased approach for implementation of ECCMIS was adopted and the first Phase is planned to cover 18 Court

Stations that include: Supreme Court, the Court of Appeal/Constitutional Court, the seven High Court Divisions, one High Court at the Circuit, five Chief Magistrates Courts and three Magistrates Grade One Courts.

ECCMIS will provide a portal where one logs in and registers his or her case file. It will also have security safeguards that allow someone access to only information that they are entitled to and also deter anyone from corrupting the data.

In addition, the case filing and management process, if found online through a digitalised system, will become more transparent and automatic, thereby reducing the possibility of individual adverse influences on a particular case.●

COVID-19 helped me embrace digital courts

In March 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global pandemic and without so much of a warning, the President issued directives on 25th March suspending public transport and requiring only crucial staff to work in public offices.

These were followed by the Chief Justice’s contingency measures for the Judiciary dated 26th March 2020. By the aforementioned measures, only skeletal staff were to work at court on a rotational basis to handle crucial operations. This, without a doubt caused mayhem and an unprecedented impact on my work. Uncertainty became the order of the day as no one was sure of when “normal” work schedules would resume and quite frankly, how to handle the new normal.

Because courts are an essential part of society, it was not surprising that even when dealing with a pandemic and a total lockdown, courts were expected to function albeit minimally.

The banning of private vehicles from movement had the most devastating

effect on me. Being unable to travel to work and having to depend on the services of the Police to assist with transportation was inconveniencing.

This, however, opened a new window. Much as I am a digital law enthusiast, I had never imagined handling court matters electronically not because it was odd, but I guess one just gets used to the traditional way of doing things. But that was then, because I have been able to handle some court matters such as bail with the help of the zoom app.

Experiencing its efficiency and



convenience has been amazing to say the least. I am now more enthusiastic about a legal regime that will facilitate the full-scale application of the ‘digital court room’ to include hearings in both civil and criminal matters at the lower bench. I am aware of the challenges that we would have to overcome

for it to become a reality, but, I believe that if the COVID-19 pandemic has taught the Judiciary one thing, it is that we cannot and should not wait any longer to embrace technology and innovation in the administration of justice.●

Doreen Ainembabazi, Magistrate Grade One.



I had to walk to work to dispense justice

In a bid to curb the spread of the Corona virus disease, the Government issued a number of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) which were duly adopted by the Judiciary leadership. With that, justice delivery began to operate under a 'new normal'. The fact that crime or dispute does not know or respect calamity, meant that judicial officers automatically qualified as essential service providers.

Working more than 300 kilometres away from kin and kith, the lockdown found me at my duty station and thus forming a part of the skeleton staff that kept Gulu Chief Magistrate's Court up and running. For the first week of the lockdown that saw private cars banned from moving, I had to 'walk to work' to see to it that pleas were taken and the persons who could not be released on bail or court bond, or those who were charged with capital offences, were remanded to prison.

On learning about my 'healthy' movement to work, the Chief Magistrate, HW Matenga Dawa Francis (as he was then), immediately instructed the district leadership to process for me a movement permit and I officially became an 'essential service provider'.

Was it a walk in the park? Far from it. Every single person that came to Court was viewed as a potential COVID-19 carrier and as such treated with caution. We quickly set up a water point for washing hands, insisted that all persons accessing court wear a fitting mask, and most importantly; keep the recommended social distance.

Away from the fears, we continued to register more cases; particularly domestic-related offences. One would have thought that the lockdown would be utilized by families to offer each other love and support, but that was not the case. Unlike



the usual cases of husband and wife battering, there were more cases of children beating up their parents mostly due to land wrangles. We also saw an increase in land-related disputes involving siblings and neighbours.

All in all, it was very clear that even in the face of a pandemic such as Covid-19, courts cannot afford to close shop since that would mean a breakdown in the justice programme chain. ●

As shared by Christine Turibamwe, Magistrate Grade One

We now conduct trials from prison

Towards the end of March 2020, the Government announced the imposition of a lockdown and several associated guidelines that have, however, been reviewed with time.

The imposition of the lockdown and gazettelement of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) negatively impacted the daily court operations, especially in Moyo magisterial area where I was working.



Court, we were left with no option but to adjourn the cases to future dates. This unfortunately increased the backlog. For example, 168 criminal and civil cases were registered yet only 60 were disposed of.

The announced lockdown measures didn't necessarily eliminate crime in the country. For the suspects arrested and respectively arraigned in court for trial, it was challenging having them remanded because there is only one gazetted isolation centre at Gili Gili Government prison in Arua for the entire

region which was more than 200kms away. Even after being remanded in prison, the SOPs did not allow the return of accused persons to court to attend trials. It was also hard for their relatives to visit them while in custody.

With the gradual lifting of the lockdown and issuance of guidelines by the Chief Justice, operations have substantially resumed. For accused persons on remand, we are conducting hearings from the prison facility while proceedings in open court are scientific. ●

As told by Asiku Swaleh, Magistrate Grade One



Success of Plea Bargaining in the Mukono and Goma courts during the COVID-19 lockdown

Mukono and Goma courts registered success in disposing of criminal cases even amidst the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

HW Kagoya was able to conclude three to four matters every hour and roughly 15 cases in a day’s court session. Between March – October 2021 alone, she had a total of 188 cases resolved. Almost 45 per cent of concluded cases resulted in an immediate release of the convicts. “In some cases, the charge was so minor that by the time the case was resolved, the convicts had served the appropriate sentence,” she says.



Goma, initiated Zoom hearings to mitigate the issues that would delay justice leading to case backlog and congestions in prisons due to court restrictions.

She was, however, met with an obstacle especially in tracing inmates, caused by the routine transfers

of prisoners from prisons gazetted as isolation centers.

As a solution, the Magistrate created a WhatsApp group for stakeholders from Uganda Prisons Service, Uganda Police Force, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and Community Service to facilitate proper coordination, communication and organisation of plea bargain sessions. The group was used

to share cause lists and zoom links for online hearings.

Despite the successes, the courts faced a number of challenges relating to mobility, accessibility, equipment, technological and procedural issues.

From the experience, HW Kagoya made recommendations that courts ought to embrace the use of online technologies such as Zoom and WhatsApp groups for stakeholder management.

She noted that stakeholders should be provided with the necessary equipment and resources to participate in online court sessions, for example, computers, routers, laptops and smart phones and monthly mobile internet data for courts. ●

As shared by HW Jackline Kagoya, Magistrate Grade One

Government interventions to reduce the spread of the disease such as lockdowns, social distancing, curfews and restrictions of business activities, crippled court operations yet there was an increase in crime rates.

Subsequently, the Chief Justice issued operational guidelines restricting Judiciary staffing levels to 30% in March 2020 which dropped further, to 10% in June 2021. Trials were suspended, judicial officers were required to only hear urgent matters including interlocutory applications, bail applications, plea taking, other emergency civil matters and delivery of judgements.

The Mukono Chief Magistrate’s Court and its subordinate courts, handle criminal matters for remandees in 18 different prisons. However due to public health rules, remandees could not be brought to Court.

In this regard, HW Jackline Kagoya, Magistrate Grade One at Mukono and



A Plea Bargaining session in Gulu Main Prisons.



Tracking Principal Judge's quest to tour all courts under his supervision

On March 10, 2020, the Principal Judge, Hon. Justice Dr Flavian Zeija embarked on a countrywide inspection and tour of all courts. Not even the unpredictable weather nor the COVID-19 pandemic would deter him from going through the plains and hilly terrains of every corner of the country.

The Principal Judge said the familiarization tour was meant to give him a true picture of the challenges faced on ground in dispensation of justice and as such facilitate informed planning. Dr Zeija was often joined by the Permanent Secretary/Secretary to the Judiciary, Dr Pius Bigirimana, the Chief Registrar, HW Sarah Langa Siu and a representative from the Engineering and Estates Department.

Best practices

The chief magistrate's courts of Mpigi, Entebbe and Bundibugyo were commended for having the most organized archives. While Apac and Bugembe Courts were recognized for outstanding innovations for ensuring cleanliness, orderliness and management of the ambience at court premises.

Records keeping

The Principal Judge noted that proper record-keeping was still a challenge at most courts. He recommended that all files be arranged in clusters of 50 in chronological order according to the year of registration rather than the year of completion.

Registry management

The inspection team emphasized the need of updating manual registers since it not only makes it easy to trace a file, but will also facilitate the migration of data to the Electronic Court Case Management Information System when it is rolled out.

Exhibit stores

At all stations visited, the Principal Judge recommended that an updated Exhibits Book be kept and used to take stock of all items in the exhibit room. In addition, all exhibit items should be labelled with their case numbers.

As a best practice, it was emphasized that

the stores are regularly cleaned up and a stocktaking exercise carried out to avoid overcrowding.

Backlog and case management

The Principal Judge appealed to all judicial officers to prioritize cases that are more than two years old. He added that organizing civil sessions does not need special funds and would help in clearing backlog.

Chief Registrar, on the other hand, urged all judicial officers as a rule of thumb to always follow the principle of 'first in first out' in family causes since such matters impact the wellbeing of children. Similarly, all courts were tasked to keep a case ageing list

Challenges and observations

ICT Services; The Principal Judge condemned the practice of partially installing ICT facilities at different stations and then leaving them non-operational for long periods. It was also observed that most courts do not get any ICT support. He urged the officers to make use of the online CCAS option pending the nationwide rollout of the Electronic Court Case Management Information System (ECCMIS).

While inspecting the courts under the Gulu High Court circuit, the Principal Judge flanked, by the Chief Registrar and Permanent Secretary/Secretary to the Judiciary, applauded the Gulu Systems Administrator for the efficient and effective IT support.

Structural Facilities and Planning; After visiting different courthouses, it was observed that there was a need to standardize structural plans. Some court buildings are too small, others do not have the vital offices catered for, such as archives, libraries, exhibit stores, in-chamber



The Principal Judge, Dr Flavian Zeija and the Chief Registrar, HW Sarah Langa Siu, enroute to an inspection of the Court at Buvuma Islands on August 11, 2021.

lavatories among others, hence the need for uniformity. The Principal Judge has also stressed the urgent need to engage local leaders to secure land where courts can be constructed. For courts where structures already exist, secure their titles.

Where courts are housed in dilapidated rented buildings, the Permanent Secretary/Secretary to the Judiciary urged Magistrates to identify better premises that can accommodate courts and make a report to headquarters.

Transport facilities and staffing; Due to budget cuts as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Principal Judge implored the Judicial Officers to be patient up to the next Financial Year (current FY2021/22) to handle issues such as procurement of vehicles and recruitment of staff. So far, a number of vehicles have been procured including cars for newly appointed judges, all registrars, senior administrators, hard-to-reach magisterial areas and motorcycles for process servers.

He also appealed to judicial officers to find ways of improvising, especially in challenges that the Judiciary headquarters may not solve in the short term. This, the Principal Judge said, would call for stakeholder engagements, the use of operational funds



for minor renovations and purchases, and assigning staff in acting capacities where positions are not filled.

Scope

Even amidst the challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic like the three lockdowns that temporarily curtailed him from carrying out his routine inspections as scheduled, the Principal Judge still managed to step foot at every operational court at the moment within a period of one year and a half, from March 2020 to October 2021. Koome (island) court was the only exception due to the lack of an appropriate vessel to ferry the Principal Judge-led team to the Island.

Points of emphasis

In any given court, the main points of inspection were in respect to the status report on human resource, workload, case backlog, court infrastructure, security, ICT facilities, records keeping, exhibit stores, registries and holding cells.

On her part, the Chief Registrar, who administered a questionnaire on the proper management of stations, emphasized time keeping, daily signing in the attendance book, timely courteous delivery of justice to all court users, stakeholders engagements, team building, strategies to curb corruption, among others.

As a long-term solution, the Permanent Secretary/Secretary to the Judiciary observed that the challenges of the institution emanate from under-funding to staffing gaps which would be solved by the implementation of the Administration of the Judiciary Act. These include inadequate staffing, construction of courthouses, acquisition of transport facilities, and operationalisation of dormant courts among others.

In all the areas visited, the officers commended the Principal Judge's efforts in reaching all the courts under his supervision to acquaint himself with the challenges the lower cadres face in the administration of justice. ●

Judicial Officers Shine in 2020 CEPIL Judiciary Scorecard

Despite the impediment brought about by the outbreak of COVID-19, judicial officers at all levels have continued to shine in administration of Justice as per Center for Public Interest Law (CEPIL) Judiciary scorecard report 2020.

CEPIL, a nonprofit making organisation, initiated the Judiciary scorecard to assess the performance of judicial officers based on judgments delivered in the year.

The 2020 Judiciary scorecard report ranked top Justices; Dr Lilian Tibatemwa-Ekirikubinza, Paul Mugamba and Stella Arach-Amoko at the Supreme Court.

At the Court of Appeal, Justices Fredrick Egonda-Ntende, Kenneth Kakuru and Geoffrey Kiryabwire were ranked best while Musa Ssekaana, Lydia Mugambe, Olive Kazarwe Mukwaya, Jane Okuo Kajuga, Paul Gadenya and Alexandra Nkonge Rugadya topped High Court with outstanding performance in delivery of justice in 2020/2019.

At the magistrate level Paul Kedi, Susan Adong and George Watyekere were rated the best.

Overall observation indicated that judicial officers scored commendably on aspects relating to being ready and prepared, presiding over with efficiency and capacity as well as being non-discriminative.

Specifically, the Anti-Corruption Division was ranked the best court with an outstanding performance of 79%.

Rationale

CEPIL's Research Assistant, Rogers Twesigye, explained that they relied on performance indicators such as fairness in administration of justice (45%), impartiality (30%), professionalism (10%), certainty (5%), behaviour and attitude (5%) and communication (5%) to

rank Judicial Officers.

Twesigye said their performance was also assessed based on the quality of the judgments they wrote, drawing from the common law jurisprudence of what amounts to a good judgment.

A total of 3,962 people, including 15 judges, 31 magistrates, 13 registrars, 196 court clerks were interviewed.

Commenting on the report, the Chief Justice, Alfonse Chigamoy Owiny - Dollo said the report will act as a learning point for the Judiciary to pick lessons as it contains useful information in the administration of justice.

"The report is balanced and I believe it does not in any way demoralise judicial officers who have ranked lower than others or should make those who have excelled to relax," observed the Chief Justice.

He commended CEPIL for coming up with the report despite interruptions from COVID-19 pandemic and implored them to disseminate the report to various stakeholders to develop a holistic approach in the administration of justice.

He noted that building a pro-people effective service delivery matrix requires participatory information gathering, dissemination and implementation.

The Chief Justice, however, noted that a lot has changed since the enactment of the Administration of the Judiciary Act, 2020 and it has given the Judiciary an opportunity to embark on improving access to justice. ●



This is how we will steer the Judiciary – Top Management

The Judiciary Top Management have great plans on how they will propel the Judiciary to new heights. The Chief Justice, Deputy Chief Justice, Principal Judge and Chief Registrar have priority areas which they will focus on to ensure that the institution delivers justice for all. The Permanent Secretary/ Secretary to the Judiciary equally highlights the milestones registered in the last two years.

The Chief Justice's eight interventions

The Chief Justice, Alfonso Chigamoy Owiny - Dollo has outlined eight interventions that his administration will hinge on to improve the administration of Justice. These are; Judicial Reforms and Innovations, Improved Budgetary allocations to the Judiciary, Law Reforms and Develop Guidelines and Directions to aid in the administration of Justice. The others are; Public Trust building/ Strengthen Mechanisms to fight Corruption, Development of Court Infrastructure, Operationalize all courts, Monitoring and Evaluation Committees and Enhanced Human Resource.

The Chief Justice says he is committed to work with different stakeholders to ensure that these required interventions are achieved.

Judicial reforms and interventions

Under this intervention, the Chief Justice is committed to ensuring the implementation of the Electronic Court Case Management Information System and automation of courts. He is looking at enhancing the research arm of the Judiciary and Research Assistance to improve access to e-resources. His goal is to ensure all courts are fitted with audio-visual facilities and officers are skilled on the new innovations.

With these in place, the Chief Justice was confident that there will be reduced cost of case processing and handling during registration not to mention increased tracking of cases.

He believes that with increased access to online services, there will reduce opportunistic corruption associated with filing, file searches and retrieving of records from archives. Ultimately, this will increase JLOS monitoring and accountability by individual officers/ courts.

Improved budgetary allocations

The Chief Justice to lobby for increased resource allocation to the Judiciary

and ensure proper utilization and accountability. The Chief Justice is committed to participatory planning and budget process (bottom top approach).

This, in his view, will result in increased court sessions and reduced backlog and infrastructural development. He also observed that there will be increased e-payment of court fees across the country but above all a well-motivated staff.



Chief Justice, Alfonso Chigamoy Owiny - Dollo



Law Reforms

With the passing into law of the Administration of Judiciary Act, the Chief Justice is lobbying for the enhanced jurisdiction of magistrates to suit the current needs of justice. Guidelines and directions are being developed to aid the administration of justice. These include guidelines on juvenile justice and Appellate Mediation among others.

The head of the Judiciary believes this will streamline service delivery as well as reducing workload and delays in courts.

Public trust building/ strengthening mechanisms to fight corruption

After the development and launch of the Client Charter in October, the Chief Justice has now embarked on ensuring that each court is assigned an official desk phone.

His plan is to ensure that there is a complaints book and or desk at every court. In a bid to eliminate petty corruption and ensure transparency, Court Fees Charts will be displayed at every court for users to verify.

The Chief Justice is also passionate about the development and implementation of an appropriate Information, Education and Communication (IEC) strategy.

The Chief Justice is calling for strengthening and enhancing inter-agency information sharing and communication.

“There needs to be development of innovative ways of facilitating communication, as well as education and sensitization of the public to enable stakeholders understand and participate in the fight against corruption in the courts,” the Chief Justice said.

He called on all courts to utilize open days to give the public information on different court processes and also disseminate

simplified versions of information and legislations on accountability, as much as possible.

This will translate into increased proportion of disciplinary actions taken against errant officers and increase on the number of impromptu visits and stakeholders engagements. His plan is to ensure that there are increased attendance of open days and access to justice stakeholder meetings. Further, he envisions conducting more public awareness campaigns to improve visibility.

He has recommended the popularization of the Client Charter and having functional information desks country wide manned by skilled customer care officers.

Court infrastructure

With the construction of appellate courts taking shape, the Chief Justice has promised to lobby for the construction of more courts with clear and unique justice identity. He has highlighted the need for increased housing units for judicial officers in hard to reach areas with courts fitted with alternative power sources.

Operationalize all courts

For effective service delivery, the Chief Justice is advocating for increased staffing for Court of Appeal to facilitate the opening up of regional Courts of Appeal. Additionally, ensure operationalization of all the gazetted magisterial areas, as one of the means to bring services closer to the people.

As a way of improving visibility, the Chief Justice has highlighted the need to provide courts with adequate signage and also build more courts with similar architectural designs. This will decrease the number of courts operating in rented facilities.

This, he believes, will increase public trust and respect for court decisions as well as adjudication of corruption-related offences in a logical, expeditious

and cost effective manner. The Chief Justice has also undertaken to inspect all courts.

Monitoring and evaluation committees

The Chief Justice is a firm advocate of joint monitoring from all judicial departments for a holistic support to the courts where there will be regional monitoring teams supported by Circuit judges.

This will see an increase in the number of courts reached and assessed which will guide on the desired interventions to improve access to justice in some courts.

Enhanced human resource

The Chief Justice envisions a human resource that is trained on emerging ICT/ electronic activities, improved terms of service, transport and tools of service and housing for isolated and remote courts. The other components that he seeks to improve are in the area of health insurance and retirement and benefits.

The head of the Judiciary envisions equitable treatment of judicial officers during transfers as well as the development and implementation of a good human resource policy. He has also highlighted the need to conduct training needs assessment for staff.

This, the Chief Justice believes, will increase the number of staff recruited, inducted and deployed. It will also increase the number of staff using modern court tools. He roots for improved accommodation needs for hard to reach areas as well as reduced delays in access to pensions by retired judicial officers and support staff.

The Chief Justice believes that factors such as financial availability, cooperation and proper coordination are to remain constant, efficient and highly motivated manpower shall be recruited and deployed. ●



The Deputy Chief Justice's plan for the Court of Appeal

Right from his maiden address as the new Deputy Chief Justice, Richard Buteera, has emphasized that team work will be the hallmark of his reign. But that is not all, here is what he intends to achieve at the Court of Appeal.

1. Prioritisation and expeditious disposal of the pending 280 Constitutional Petitions and 115 Constitutional Applications.

“We need to prioritise Constitutional matters over other cases, hear and dispose them of expeditiously. These take precedence over other matters,” he said.

2. We have planned to hear and dispose of the eighty-one (81) Election Petition Appeals and twenty-four (24) Election Petition Applications that have arisen from the last general elections, held in January, 2021. We intend to conclude these election matters within six (6) months after getting the requisite funding.

3. Priority has been given to anti-corruption cases as well. The Court should be used as a platform to eliminate corruption as it involves misuse of public resources. The Court should hold those that misuse public resources accountable. If corruption is not checked, it may have negative effects on the rule of law, human rights and good governance.

4. “We intend to review the legal and regulatory framework in which the Court of Appeal operates to attain efficiency and effectiveness in the execution of our work. Review of the Court of Appeal Rules to accommodate innovative methods of hearing and disposal of cases is part of our plan. For instance, having Appellate Mediation Rules in place will help us to manage our case load and reduce case backlog,” he said.

5. Through the observation of the COVID-19 Standard Operating Procedures, a number of lessons have been learnt and good



The Deputy Chief Justice, Richard Buteera

practices adapted to. “The application of e-justice tools to conduct online court business are now part of our daily routine. Online meetings by use of zoom, online hearings, filing of submissions and delivery of rulings and judgments should continue to be applied as good practices that started as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.”

The practice of holding virtual meetings at the Court of Appeal has been found effective as less time is spent on conducting these meetings. Physical meetings that used to last for two (2) hours on average now take 30 minutes on average.

6. We hope to explore ways of supporting administrative staff in improving their welfare and enabling them to execute their mandate. They deserve tools of work in form of financial and material support.

7. “We shall continue to hold regional sessions outside Kampala. These sessions

have led to quick disposal of a number of cases in the regions where they have been held. This way, justice is seen as being done since the administration of justice is taken close to the people,” he said.

8. “We intend to strengthen the appellate Mediation Registry. We shall continue to sensitize the stakeholders about the importance of Appellate Mediation. As a result, our workload will be well efficiently managed,” Justice Buteera said.

9. In addition to posting all the Court of Appeal decisions on ULLI, we printed Election Petitions Judgments and availed volumes of the bound books to the Justices of the Court of Appeal and Judges of the High Court. We intend to print all other judgments in the Civil, Criminal and Constitutional categories, especially to help those that may not be able to access the internet. ●



Principal Judge's Plan for the High Court

The Principal Judge has Five key areas he is laying emphasis on, all geared at improving service delivery in the courts. These are;

Inspection of High Courts and all magisterial areas

The Principal Judge envisioned that by the end of the calendar year 2021, he would have finished inspection of all the High Court circuits and the Magisterial areas. He, however, intends to improve on routine court inspections which in his view shall improve service delivery to the people.

One of his major aims is to teach and share with court staff good practices to improve service delivery by emphasizing good customer care, good time keeping and hard work among all court staff.

The others are to receive and address all complaints from the court users and make necessary changes in staff deployment for effective service delivery in all courts.

In carrying out this inspection function, the Principal Judge assesses if the courts have essential tools for operations and whether there are essential staff.

Dr Zeija believes such exercises help in the reduction and identification of bottlenecks in all courts since they promote effective and efficient keeping of court records, files and exhibits.

Increase the number of judicial officers

It is in the Principal Judge's plan to lobby



Principal Judge, Dr Flavian Zeija

for an increase in the number of judicial officers both at the courts of record and the subordinate courts. As at that date of publication, only 59 judges had been appointed out of the 82. The Principal Judge desires that the same is filled and subsequently expanded.

He also intends to see to it that all gazetted High Court circuits are operationalized. Plans to operationalize five more circuits that include Luwero, Rukungiri, Tororo, Hoima and Moroto are in advanced stages.

Plea Bargaining sensitization

The plan is to visit at least six prisons each quarter and sensitize inmates about the benefits of Plea Bargaining. The goal is to ensure that at least 1,200 plea bargain agreements are made every quarter.

In addition to securing funds for more sessions, the Principal Judge has pledged to support the Criminal Division start

hearing of criminal matters on a daily basis as opposed to session-based hearings.

Hearing of cases

Just like he promised at the beginning of his term as Principal Judge, Dr Zeija is committed to hearing cases and writing judgments from every Division of the High Court each quarter. He projects that 40 cases will be heard and judgments written per quarter.

Law reform

As Chairperson of the Judiciary Law Reform Committee, this Committee is working at ensuring that there are reforms and or proposals in the following areas:

- Review Court of Appeal Rules.
- Amendment of Executions and Bailiffs Rules.
- Enactment of a Practice Direction on establishment of the Infrastructure and Environment Division of the High Court.
- Amendment of the Magistrates courts Act to enhance the pecuniary jurisdiction of Magistrates.
- Re-organization of magisterial areas.
- Enactment of Amicus curiae guidelines.
- Enactment of Bail guidelines.
- Review of court fees.
- Enactment of rules on vexatious litigants.
- Enactment of guidelines on state briefs.
- Enactment of children-friendly court procedures. ●

Mpigi Model Archives

"Now this is how all archives should look like. We are going to use this as a model for all courts across the country," these were the opening remarks of the Principal Judge, Dr Flavian Zeija, as he entered the Mpigi Chief Magistrate's Court archives room.

This was one of the places that the Principal Judge, flanked by the Chief Registrar, HW Sarah Langa Siu, visited on his last leg of the tour of courts under Mpigi High Court Circuit.

The archive room, fitted with modern

glass cabinets sits on a wall-to-wall maroon carpet. The files in the cabinets are well catalogued according to case category and clustered in bundles according to their year of registration to allow easy retrieval.



PS/SJ takes stock of Judiciary milestones in the last two years

Dr Pius Bigirimana, the Permanent Secretary/Secretary to the Judiciary has opened up on the successes and achievements of the Judiciary in the past two years. Dr Bigirimana shared that no doubt, COVID-19 disrupted every aspect of life world over and the Judiciary was no exception. He, however, noted that although various aspects of the Judiciary's work plans were affected, particularly disposal of cases, which is the core mandate of the Judiciary, and other critical support services such as execution of contractual obligations by contractors like those engaged in construction and renovation of buildings, many milestones had been registered.

Innovations

To bridge the gap, the PS/SJ further observed that, "a number of innovations such as the use of ICT through video conferencing and online submissions enabled the Judiciary to handle a number of cases that wouldn't have been handled using traditional methods. The use of Zoom for meetings and commitment of staff to adapt and deliver on some of their targets enabled the institution to perform better than it would have been able to."

The Administration of the Judiciary Act

Dr Bigirimana also pointed out that the passing of the Administration of Judiciary Act, 2020, much touted as a game changer, has helped in a number of ways such as being recognised as an independent arm of Government as provided for by the Constitution for purposes of operational autonomy.

"For instance, the enhancement of the judicial independence has enabled the institution to make a case to have its own Programme under the NDPIII (the Administration of Justice Program) which ensures autonomy in the planning and budgeting function thus ensuring that there is no disruption and or suffocation of its plans as was the case in the old



Dr Pius Bigirimana, the Permanent Secretary/Secretary to the Judiciary

dispensation," he said.

"The improvement of the terms and conditions of service of judicial officers by providing for relatively attractive packages. This has not only motivated the judicial officers but also made the Judiciary very attractive as an employer and there is no doubt the Judiciary now has the capacity to attract high caliber human resource."

The Judiciary Accounting Officer, further noted that the AJA has also catapulted goodwill from the other two arms of Government and all the necessary support is being availed to ensure that the Judiciary delivers on its mandate. He noted that the need to deliver adjudication services to the lowest level has been recognised by both arms of Government, and that the President and Parliament are committed to ensuring that the necessary resources are availed to implement the Judiciary's Strategic Plan V.

"After the passing of the AJA law, the Judiciary Council was constituted and it has been sitting. Its Rules of Procedure were enacted, adopted and the Council has so far advised the Chief Justice on a number of issues," observed the PS/SJ.

Highlighting further the benefits of AJA, the PS/SJ observed that the Act also led to

implementation of the retirement benefits to judicial officers as a retired Chief Justice and Deputy Chief Justice are paid a monthly retirement benefit equivalent to the salary payable to a sitting Chief Justice or Deputy Chief Justice for life.

Other Judicial Officers from Supreme Court Justice down to a Magistrate Grade Two, including the Principal Judge, are paid "a monthly retirement benefit equivalent to 80 per cent of the salary payable to (their serving counterparts) for life". The government also pays each retired Judicial Officer "a one-off lump sum retirement benefit equivalent to 2.4 per cent of his/her annual salary multiplied by five and the years of service." Where a judicial officer dies while in service, their families are paid the one-off lump sum retirement benefit, plus the monthly pension for 15 years. Where the officer dies during retirement, the families are paid the monthly payment "for the unexpired period of the 15 years."

Expanded structure

In August, Cabinet approved the expanded structure of the Judiciary. The approved structure saw the number of Justices of the Supreme Court rise from 11 to 21 including the Chief Justice. There was also an increment in the number of Justices of the Court of Appeal to 56, including the Deputy Chief Justice to provide for the eight Regional Courts of Appeal, increment of the Judges of the High Court from 82 to 120, increment in the number of Registrars from 9 to 12 as well as other categories of Registrars, provision to have a Chief Magistrate at every district, and a Magistrate Grade in every constituency. The expanded structure also provides for a Magistrate Grade One in every chamber of a Justice/Judge as Researchers.

"The establishment of non-judicial officers is yet to be adopted as implementation of the one for judicial officers is dependent on this. The Chief Justice inaugurated the publication of the state of the Judiciary in 2021 following the closure of the FY



2020/2021 in line with the Act. The Report was disseminated to various stakeholders as required.

Through the same Act, the Judiciary is guided on the operations as they await the passing of regulations for full operationalisation.

On relating the Act with increment of Judiciary’s budget, the Secretary to the Judiciary said that AJA has brought about goodwill and a realisation by the other arms of government on the need to ensure the Judiciary is well resourced to promote delivery of justice, economic transformation and promotion of the rule of law.»

Developmental projects

The Secretary to the Judiciary also pointed out that there are a number of development works underway like the construction of the Appellate Courts, Mukono High Court, Buhweju and Sheema Justice Centres, Kamwenge CM Court and Mayuge CM Court.

The other courts include; Kole, Maracha, Namayingo, Sembabule, Kibale justice centres and Butambala CM Court.

“Most of the above have their works

at above 70% completion and several renovation works have been done at several courthouses including Hoima, Masindi, Masaka, and Ntungamo. Some are under procurement,” Dr Bigirimana said.

The Judiciary, in the next Financial year FY 2022/2023, has planned to undertake a number of constructions including Soroti High Court, Rukungiri High Court, Chief Magistrate Courts in Lyantonde, Alebtong and Budaka; Magistrate Grade I courts in Patongo, Abim and Karenga. Those under design are the regional Courts of Appeal in Gulu and Mbarara; expansion of the Judicial Training Institute and the Judiciary Archives.



ON COURSE: Progress on the construction of Appellate Courts

“A number of new constructions and renovations are also lined up in the Budget for the FY 2022/2023. The vision is to have all courts accommodated in Judiciary-owned buildings and to have all infrastructure in an acceptable state.”

Dr Bigirimana’s stated that the plan to have Regional Courts of Appeal will kick off with Gulu and Mbarara courts in the FY 2022/2023.

Automation of court processes

On the issue of automating court processes, Bigirimana says that the court process is going to be automated through the Electronic Case Management System which is set to be live March 2022. The new system will provide a portal where one logs in and registers his or her case file. It will also have security safeguards that allow someone access to only information that they are entitled to and also deter anyone from corrupting the data.

In 2019, the Judiciary signed a five-year contract with Synergy International Systems to set up ECCMIS and the digitalisation of court proceedings. ●

Improving mobility of Judicial Officers

For quite a long time, the Judiciary has had challenges of transport, making mobility of judicial officers’ problematic. Many judicial officers, especially those visiting locus, had to look for lifts or abandon it hence affecting land justice.

This, however, is changing and according to Judiciary Permanent Secretary, Dr Pius Bigirimana, the Judiciary is on course to ensure all judicial officers get vehicles. “All Judges, Registrars and majority of Chief Magistrates have vehicles. Our efforts are now to ensure that Magistrates Grade One are catered for so that there is no excuse given for delayed disposal of cases or even failure to visit locus in land matters,” Dr Bigirimana noted.



The Permanent Secretary/Secretary to the Judiciary, Dr Pius Bigirimana and Chief Registrar, HW Sarah Langa Siu, hand over keys of a brand new vehicle to Registrar, HW Eliasa Omar Kisawuzi on November 24, 2021.

In 2021, more than 59 vehicles were distributed to judicial officers.

Bigirimana commended the Government and the finance ministry for availing the required funds to the Judiciary to facilitate its operations.

“When you support the Judiciary, you are supporting economic growth because contrary to what some people think, the Judiciary is not a consumer, but a key actor in ensuring development through timely adjudication of cases such as land conflicts among others,” he said.

All Registrars; Eliasa Omar Kisawuzi, Harriet Ssali, Susan Kanyange, Rosemary Bareebe, Amos Kwizera, Flavia Nassuna Matovu, Mary Kaitesi, Flavia Nabakooza and Samuel Emokor, got new vehicles. ●



The Chief Registrar's 12-point programme

The Chief Registrar has a 12-point agenda some of which she terms as “a set of simple cost-effective strategies” include the following:

1. Bonding with staff and building teams

The software (staff) are the most critical resource of the Judiciary. As an implementer of the policies of Hon. Chief Justice, Deputy Chief Justice and Principal Judge, touching base with the foot soldiers is important. Right from the onset, our main focus will be to bond with fellow staff and strengthen working relationships between Courts and the Chambers of the CR, and also between Courts in the same region, etc. Strategies involve (i) physical visits to the different courts to meet and get to know the officers, and other court staff (ii) virtual meetings with officers (iii) special bonding meetings dubbed ‘meet and greet’ between the CR and each category of judicial officers of the lower bench, including registrars. We will prioritize positive interactions, team building, and listening in to concerns, questions and giving and receiving feedback from our officers.

HW Langa aims at understanding workplace challenges and discuss how to harness opportunities within. We aim at encouraging each other to reflect on where we have come from as individuals and as a Judiciary, and inculcate a strong sense of oneness as the ‘judicial family’, with shared aspirations among all staff as a way to promote/ sustain staff satisfaction with their job and increase productivity.

2. Develop regulations under the AJA and law reform

As the technical office in the Judiciary, the development of Regulations to give effect to the Administration of the Judiciary Act (AJA), 2020 is top on agenda and the process is on course. These include Regulations on the Judiciary Service (one of the highlights therein is a deployment policy); Committees of the Judiciary; Inspectorate of Courts; Judicial Training



Chief Registrar, HW Sarah Langa Siu

Institute. The Administration of the Judiciary (Judiciary Council) Practice and Procedure) Rules, 2021 were duly issued. Regarding law reform, the proposals for reform will continue to be initiated and submitted to the Judiciary Law Reform Committee, chaired by the Principal Judge.

3. Improving the work environment

Every judicial officer should have a conducive work environment. We have prioritized furnishing chambers and providing the required tools of work like computers, legal reference materials, suitable furniture given the nature of work, organised registries, archives, exhibit stores, a befitting Court ambience with branded curtains. This, she says, will be done in a phased manner but the work environment of judicial officers across board and all staff of the Judiciary should be improved. A Judiciary Architectural Plan for customised suitable Court structures addresses this and more.

4. Taking stock, document best practices, and take action on reports

Currently, there are various reports from the Registries and Courts that have extremely valuable recommendations.

These will be prioritized and relevant action taken. The issues raised in the reports have been categorised into short, medium and long term for purposes of implementation. Some of the reports have documented best practices and innovations in some courts that can be shared with others. For example, there are some courts that are reported to be case backlog free. Our priority is to establish how such courts achieved this, and to give those judicial officers a platform to share their successes, experiences, and challenges, as a way to motivate others to draw lessons, and unlock the untapped skills and innovativeness of judicial officers.

5. Enhance supervision of Courts

The need for a well established system of supervision of courts is one of the core interventions to be strengthened and implemented urgently and consistently in order to enhance service delivery. Although this practice does exist, to a large extent, it is relatively quiet. It is done on a small scale, and seems to be seen by many as the role of only the Inspectorate of Courts. We have devised four main strategies to enhance supervision in order to harness its great benefits (i) tasking all Registrars and Chief Magistrates who are managers of their respective Courts to prioritize supervision at the lower levels (ii) developed and availed a comprehensive inspection tool, which has now been availed to the said Officers to guide their inspection. This tool assesses several parameters, including time management in courts, caseloads, stakeholder engagements, mechanisms to curb corruption, staffing levels among others (iii) Quarterly meetings with Registrars and Chief Magistrates have been revived for members to sharpen each other, with peer learning for improvement, particularly, emphasized where there are gaps; (iv) decentralize the Inspectorate of Courts once more recruitments are done to ensure the presence of inspectors at the courts is regular.



6. Improve performance of judicial officers

Adjudication of cases is the core mandate of the Judiciary. Performance management will be the game changer for the Judiciary. The need therefore to hold judicial officers accountable is very pertinent. Two dimensions will be emphasised – the quality and quantity of judicial output.

a. Quality assurance in judicial work

“Given that our vision is to be a Judiciary that administers justice to all, it is pertinent that excellence is seen in the judgments and rulings delivered by Judicial officers,” she said. The following mechanisms are being/will be emphasized for quality assurance;

- Training judicial officers on legal and judgment writing skills
- Timely induction of newly-appointed judicial officers
- Encouraging and promoting peer learning in judgment writing, especially for newly recruited officers
- Coaching, mentorship and or attachment where necessary
- Reviewing the mandate of the Inspectorate of courts to focus also on quality assurance and performance management
- Reviewing and disseminating the Registry Operations Manual to all Courts to ensure that Court records are prepared, maintained and stored properly.

b. Quantity

To effectively address case backlog, the Chief Registrar plans to review targets for different categories of judicial officers. She says the 360% Performance Enhancement Tool (PET) that is in the pipeline is timely.

c. Effective reward and sanction mechanism

The carrot and stick approach will continue to apply through the full application of the provisions of the Public Service Standing Orders on recognising and rewarding performance;

and managing poor performance.

This will be strengthened upon implementation of the Performance Enhancement Tool and development of the Judiciary Service Regulations.

7. Case backlog

To address case backlog, she proposes the following;

a. Enhancement of jurisdiction of the Registrars and Magistrates: reform of various laws including the Magistrates Court Act to enhance pecuniary jurisdiction of magistrates in civil matters. Even Registrars should have jurisdiction to handle cases of a given pecuniary value. This will significantly reduce case backlog in the High Court.

b. Implementation of the 2017 case backlog reduction strategies: follow up, emphasise and ensure implementation of the case backlog reduction strategies of 2017 that emphasised Alternative Dispute Resolution (small claims procedure, plea bargaining) automation, weeding out of dormant/non-starter cases, disposal of cases of more than two years and older within 20 months etc.

c. Training: Registrars and Magistrates will be trained on the 2019 amendments to the Civil Procedure Rules and Practice Directions that are intended to simplify the procedures and processes in civil litigation and reduce delays. The Practice Directions on Adjournments is also key in addressing unnecessary adjournments, a factor in case backlog.

8. Address corruption and indiscipline

The Chief Registrar is geared at the development and implementation of the Judiciary Anti-Corruption Strategy to curb corruption. The strategy is hinged on three pillars i) prevention of corruption in the Judiciary; ii) detection, investigation and adjudication of corruption in the Judiciary and iii) punishment of corruption in the

Judiciary. Mentorship programme and revival peer committees are key in the Strategy.

9. Document history of the Judiciary and establish Museum

She is working on documenting the history of the Judiciary from 1902. This way, we shall all know and appreciate how far we have come, celebrate the milestones through the years and profile those who have made significant contribution in the Judiciary through jurisprudence, reforms and innovations among others.

10. Improve image and communication strategy

It is said that ‘image is everything’ and our image as Judiciary is important. With the approval of the new expanded Judicial structure, the plan is to establish a robust public relations and communications strategy. In the offing is the Judiciary Communication Strategy that will improve communication and also check unregulated communication and misuse of social media. A robust communications function in the Judiciary will improve our visibility, brand identity and demystify several misconceptions among our users.

11. Training program and calendar

Ms Langa’s passion is ensuring that there is a comprehensive training calendar for all staff of the Judiciary. I am pleased to report that the Judicial Training Institute (JTI) is developing a comprehensive curriculum that will inform the programme and calendar. The JTI is currently doing a great job training staff and that trend must continue, funds permitting. A highly skilled workforce across the board is key in meeting the demands of our users.

12. Engagement with stakeholders

The Chief Registrar is committed to ensuring purposeful engagement with the other arms of State, the public, media, development partners and all categories of stakeholders. ●



JANUARY

Shuffling Judges

The Principal Judge, Dr Flavian Zeija (pictured), shuffled 26 High Court judges.

The changes saw the then head of the Criminal Division of the High Court, Justice Wilson Kwesiga, take a back seat to wind up his judicial work within the

Division, in preparation for retirement.

Justice Michael Elubu, took over the reins of the Criminal Division and was to be deputised by Justice Tadeo Asiimwe (formerly Mbarara Senior Resident Judge).



Management of Election Petitions



Judicial Officers at different levels underwent training to prepare them for the management of election petitions from the January 14, 2021 General Elections.

FEBRUARY

41 Civil Appeals Handled

The Court of Appeal kicked off a three-week-long session of the day-to-day hearings where 41 Civil Appeals and seven applications were handled. The session was presided over by Justices Geoffrey Kiryabwire, Hon. Monica Mugenyi and Remmy Kasule. The Court's Registrar, HW Susan Kanyange, explained that most of the appeals handled were matters which were filed in 2006 and in 2013.

New SCP Courts

At the close of business on, February 26th, 2021, there were a total of 118 Courts that were utilising the Small Claims Procedure (SCP), fast access to justice initiative that targets low-income earners. The new courts where the Procedure is being utilised are Buliisa, Bundibugyo and Nansana where the Principal Judge, Dr Flavian Zeija, presided over the launches. Another

launch at Njeru Magistrates Court was flagged off by Mukono Resident Judge, Hon. Justice David Batema.

In Buliisa, the Principal Judge emphasised that the procedure has helped reduce the backlog in civil matters whose subject matter is below UGX10 million. He observed that judicial under-staffing has led to the bulk of unsettled cases in courts.



Kalangala HC session

The Masaka Resident Judge, Hon. Lady Justice Katamba Victoria Nakintu Nkwanga, opened a High Court Criminal Session at Kalangala Chief Magistrate’s Court where 40 cases were handled.

According to the cause list signed by the Masaka Deputy Registrar, HW Dr Agnes Nkonge, the bulk of cases to be handled are aggravated defilement.

This is the third High Court session to be conducted at the Court since its inception, the first being in 2014, and the other in 2016. The off-shore session was one of the efforts by the Judiciary to take services closer to the public it serves.

Honouring Judges

The Judicial Officers at the Commercial Division of the High Court turned up fully robed as they saw off Justices Dr Henry Peter Adonyo (formerly the head of the Division) and Boniface Wamala.

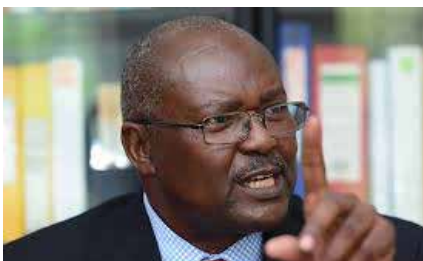
The two had been transferred to other stations, Justice Dr Adonyo to Soroti

as Senior Resident Judge and Justice Wamala to the Civil Division.

Each of the Judges and Registrars at the Court were fully robed as a sign of respect, wig-in-tow as they reminisced on how the two had impacted their lives.

Recognising research officers

Research officers at the International Crimes Division (ICD) were awarded certificates of completion after completing a two-month online course in International Law from Case Western Reserve University School of Law in Coursera. In a ceremony presided over by the then head of ICD, Justice David Wangutusi (pictured), and witnessed by Justice Duncan Gaswaga, the six researchers expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to expand their knowledge base. Justice Wangutusi thanked Judge Gaswaga for securing the opportunity and the researchers for enduring and getting done with the task.



Plea Bargaining hands-on training in Masindi

Two Plea Bargaining court sessions were ready to proceed as part of a three-day hands-on training currently going on at Masindi Main Prison.

Judges Jane Okuo and Jesse Byaruhanga Ruyema had 88 cases where the accused persons had signed agreements ready to plead guilty in exchange for

lesser charges or lenient sentences.

The two Judges were being helped by a team of prosecutors and defence attorneys together with the Judiciary Technical Advisor, Mr Andrew Khaukha, who doubles as coordinator of the Plea Bargaining programme.

Luwero High Court Grand Plan

The Principal Judge, Dr Flavian Zeija, named a six-member team to operationalise the Luwero High Court Circuit to handle cases arising from Luwero, Nakasongola, and Nakaseke districts.

The Court is one of the 20 Circuits that were designated in 2016 under the Judicature (Designation of High Court Circuits) Statutory Instrument No. 55 of 2016. Six out of the 20 Circuits remain

non-operational due to the limited number of judges in the Judiciary and the lack of other relevant resources, which include courthouses.

Hon. Lady Justice Henrietta Wolayo, is the Chairperson for the Committee, which was tasked with coordinating the operationalisation of the Court and report back to the Principal Judge by June 30th, 2021



MARCH

New bailiffs' Executive

The Uganda Court Bailiffs Association (UCBA) Executive was sworn into office. The Chief Registrar, who was represented by Deputy Registrar, HW Ayebare Thadius Tumwebaze, congratulated the five-member Executive upon their election. The Executive members are Mr Brian Kanyesigye (President), Ms Komugisha Sarah (Vice President), Ms Nankunda Evas (Publicity Secretary), Mr Crenima Brandon Mutalya (General Secretary), and Mr Murinze Nelson (Treasurer).

Mr Kanyesigye pledged to serve with diligence. The Chief Registrar commended the Association for the timely election of the Executive despite the challenges posed by COVID-19.

Case Backlog Committee goes East

In a bid to ensure that courts work at reducing case backlog, a team from the Case Backlog Monitoring Committee was at Soroti and Mbale High Courts where they held meetings with Judicial Officers on how to deal with this matter. The Committee members covering the Eastern region are Supreme Court Justice, Justice Mike Chibita, Court of Appeal's Justice Stephen Musota and Judiciary Technical Advisor, Mr Andrew Khauxha.

In Soroti and Mbale, Hon. Justice Chibita received reports on the courts' backlog clearance plans and the status of ICT/Court Case Administration System. Several proposals were made on how to eliminate case backlog as well as address challenges affecting the administration.

Judiciary Council holds inaugural meeting

The Judiciary Council held its inaugural meeting on March 30th, 2021. The Council, a creation of the Administration of the Judiciary Act, 2020, is the top organ responsible for advising the Chief Justice on policies for planning and developing the Judiciary to improve the administration of justice.

"In accordance with Section 4 of AJA, 2020, I take the honour to constitute and do hereby constitute you into the Judiciary Council of the Judiciary of Uganda," pronounced the Chief Justice, Alfonse Chigamoy Owiny- Dollo, at the end of his inaugural speech.

"A strong Judiciary Council will strengthen the hands of the Chief Justice to administer the Act and a robust Judiciary," said the Chief Justice.

"We are in the process of constituting Committees and would call upon the Council to approve them at the next sitting," he added.

The Chief Justice paid special tribute to his predecessors': "Chief Justice Emeritus Samuel Waako Wambuzi for nurturing and watering the Bill; Chief Justice Emeritus Benjamin Odoki for

his noble pursuit of the Bill; and Chief Justice Emeritus Bart M. Katureebe for relentlessly and passionately pursuing the Act to its realization on the 19th of June 2020," he said.

The Council's membership includes the Chief Justice (chairperson), Deputy Chief Justice, Principal Judge, Attorney General, Director of Public Prosecutions, One Justice representing Superior Courts, One Judicial Officer representing the lower bench. Others are the Solicitor General, Chief Registrar, Secretary to the Judiciary, a representative of JLOS institutions, President of Uganda Law Society, the Chairperson of Uganda Law Council, Chief Inspector of Courts, and two members of the public.

The other members of Council include; Chief Inspector of Courts, Rubby Aweri- Opio; Court of Appeal Justice, Geoffrey Kiryabwire; Chairman Uganda Law Council, Justice Stephen Martin Egonda-Ntende, and Chief Registrar, Sarah Langa Siu. HW Rosemary Bareebe, ULS President Pheona Wall; Director CID, Grace Akullo; Deputy Solicitor General, Christopher Gashirabake; and Mr Samuel Herbert Nsubuga and Esther Kyoziira, for the public.

New Chairperson of JTI Governing Council

The Chief Justice, Alfonse Chigamoy Owiny- Dollo, appointed Supreme Court Justice, Mike Chibita, as the new chairperson of the Governing Council of the Judicial Training Institute.

Justice Chibita replaced fellow Supreme Court Lady Justice Stella Arach Amoko, who was the Council's first chairperson.

COVID-19 guidelines for the courts

In March 2020, the Chief Justice issued guidelines to govern operations of Courts in line with the directives issued by the President.

The directive partly prevented the physical presence of prisoners in courts.



Public Awareness Sensitization

A team from the Judiciary’s Public Relations and Communications Unit embarked on a sensitization campaign targeting court users and the public in areas of Mpigi, Buwama and Nsangi. The sensitization drive began at Mpigi High Court and the Chief Magistrates Court. The team then proceeded to Buwama Magistrates Court where they engaged the public and sensitized them on the different initiatives put in place to improve access to justice.

These included Plea Bargaining in criminal matters, Alternative Dispute Resolution and Small Claims Procedure for civil disputes and the new Judiciary Client Service Charter.



Austria Pays Courtesy Call on CJ

The Chief Justice, Alfonse Chigamoy Owiny- Dollo, held a meeting with officials from the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC) to brief him on Austria’s achievements. ADC was the lead agency of the JLOS Development Partners Group.

The meeting, which took place in the Chief Justice’s chambers at the

Supreme Court, Kololo, saw Dr Roswitha Kremser and Dr Katja Kerschbaumer share insights into human rights’ recent developments and transitional justice. The two officials who were meeting the Chief Justice as the Chairperson of the JLOS Leadership Committee, discussed the implications of the switch to programme-based budgeting in Uganda.

Judiciary Drivers get New Skills

More than 50 Judiciary drivers attended a two-day exercise on defensive driving, customer care, and vehicle management. While flagging off the training, the Permanent Secretary and Secretary to Judiciary, Dr Pius Bigirimana, stressed the importance of drivers in the Judiciary.

During the training, members of the Judiciary Senior Management discussed with the drivers the issues affecting them. The head of the drivers, Mr Musanza Stephen, presented some of the challenges they face in executing their duties, which included; meagre salary, welfare, and working overtime. Other issues included the non-payment of disturbance allowances, consolidated funds and other payments from training,

abrupt travels and lack of shelter at the Judiciary headquarters.

He requested that both sides be accorded a chance to air out their side of the story in case of misunderstandings with their bosses.



Training on Land Adjudication

Magistrates at the level of Chief Magistrates and Magistrates Grade One took part in a one-day training on Adjudication of Land Matters.

The training, was facilitated by Lady Justice Damalie N. Lwanga, Justice John Eudes Keitirima, Lady Justice Flavia Senoga Anglin and Mr Robert Opio, the recently retired Commissioner Land Registration.

While addressing the more than 15 participants, the Chief Registrar, HW Sarah Langa Siu, observed the challenges in executing court orders.



DCJ Presides Over IGG Declaration System

The Deputy Chief Justice, Richard Buteera, presided over the launch of the Inspectorate of Government Online Declaration System (IG-ODS) marking the beginning of the Declaration Period. The Inspectorate of Government developed the online declaration system (IG-ODS) for leaders to declare their income, assets and liabilities online, to the Inspector General of Government. Since then, upgrades of the existing system with new features have made the IG-ODS easier and faster to use.

As such, the office of the IGG no longer receives hard copies of declaration forms from leaders. Everything is done online using the IG-ODS.



Meet with MPs on Judiciary Priorities

At least 15 members from the Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee took part in an interface with the Judiciary management. The Chief Justice, Hon. Justice Alfonse Owiny-Dollo, said the meeting discussed the Judiciary's key priorities in line with the administration of justice and the desire to take justice closer to the people.

He also said he used the opportunity to rally the MPs to support the Judiciary's enhanced budget to operationalise the Administration of the Judiciary Act 2020 fully. The Legal Affairs Parliamentary Committee Chairperson, Jacob Oboth Oboth, said his Committee was committed to supporting the Judiciary's bid for an enhanced budget, among other things.

Farewell Dinner for DPG Chairperson

The JLOS leadership held a special dinner at Sheraton Hotel in Kampala to bid farewell to the outgoing Chairperson of the Development Partners Group (DPG), Dr Roswitha Kremser of the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC). The Chief Justice and Chairperson of the JLOS Leadership Committee, Hon. Justice

Alfonse Owiny-Dollo, used the platform to thank Dr Kremser for a job well done.

He welcomed the new Chairperson of the Development Partners Group (DPG), Ambassador Karin Boven, of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Kampala.



Third Annual Training on Climate Justice

The Deputy Chief Justice, Richard Buteera, encouraged Judicial Officers to exploit all avenues available to widen their knowledge about climate justice for efficiency and effective handling of related cases. He made these remarks on March 18, 2021 while delivering a keynote speech at the Third Annual Training on Climate Justice in Uganda held at Mestil hotel.

The two-day event was organised by the Judicial Training Institute in partnership with Greenwatch under the theme: "Understanding climate change and exploring the role of the Judiciary in implementing climate Justice." Addressing a cross-section of Judicial Officers, the Deputy Chief Justice noted that climate change is one of the greatest challenges affecting the world today.



New Contracts Committee Chairperson

Deputy Registrar and Private Legal Secretary to the Deputy Chief Justice, HW Dr Mushabe Alex Karocho, was appointed as the Judiciary Contracts Committee’s new chairperson. Dr Mushabe replaced the Chief Registrar, HW Sarah Langa Siu.

The other Committee members are; Deputy Registrar at ICD, HW Atingu

Beatrice Stella; Magistrate Grade One and Personal Assistant to the Chief Justice, HW Lochomin Peter; Senior Assistant Secretary, Ms Aidah Kemigisa; and Senior Economist, Ms Destiny Letasi Asea, who serves as the Committee’s Secretary. HW Dr Mushabe received instruments of work, including a report and a seal, during a handover ceremony.



APRIL

Makindye DCC Meet

The Makindye Chief Magistrates Court held its quarterly District Chain-linked Committee (DCC) meeting. Representatives of different JLOS institutions exchanged views on delivering justice for areas around Makindye fairly promptly.

This year, the meeting was chaired by Chief Magistrate HW Katushabe Prossy (as she was then), who commended the stakeholders’ efforts in justice delivery.

“I would like to thank you all for closely working with the court and being available whenever you are called upon, for the efforts you render when it comes to Justice delivery and the good working relationship we have with you.

I pray that you keep the spirit positive,” she said.

Customer Care Training for Frontline Officers

Frontline officers such as communication officers, office supervisors, clerks, and process servers have been called upon to serve Judiciary clients with patience, honesty, kindness, humility and decency.

The call was made by the Chief Registrar, HW Sarah Langa Siu, while presiding over the opening of a one-day customer care training for more than 80 frontline staff held at the Judicial Training Institute (JTI) at Nakawa,

Kampala.

The Permanent Secretary/Secretary to the Judiciary, Dr Pius Bigirimana, also cautioned the officers at the training against vices such as indecent dressing, facilitating the disappearance of court records and asking for bribes.

“We shall be conducting more of these seminars very soon for the benefit of other staff members of the Judiciary,” said Dr Bigirimana.



MAY

Arua set to be Backlog Free

The Arua High Court circuit is committed to clearing criminal backlog and clearance of backlog of miscellaneous applications by the end of this year.

The commitment was made by the Resident Judge, Hon. Justice Isah

Serunkuma in Arua while presenting a detailed plan on how the court will clear backlog to the Case Backlog Monitoring Committee.

It was reported to the Committee which was headed by Court of Appeal Justice,

Hon. Justice Fredrick Egonda-Ntende, that out of the 1,236 cases pending at the Court, 900 were classified as backlog. About 252 criminal matters of the 900 await court hearing, 27 are criminal appeals while 25 are Criminal Miscellaneous Applications.



Constitutional Court dismisses 41 petitions

The Constitutional Court concluded the hearing of 50 Constitutional Petitions in one week, where 41 of these were dismissed. The Justices notified the parties in the nine matters that judgment would be delivered on notice.

The weed-out session was presided over by Justices; Kenneth Kakuru, Hellen Abullu Obura, Barishaki Cheborion, Stephen Musota and Monica Mugenyi.

The Court's Registrar, HW Susan Kanyange, explained that some of the

matters were dismissed because the applicants were seeking remedies that the court had already pronounced itself on. Adding that others were non-starter cases that had taken long in the system.



208 lawyers enrolled as advocates

The Chief Registrar, HW Sarah Langa Siu, presided over the ceremony where 208 lawyers were enrolled as advocates of the Courts of Judicature.

The mass enrollment was split into two sessions to observe the COVID-19 Standard Operating Procedures. The process entailed the new officers of court registering their names on the roll of advocates and receiving practising certificates.

With their new practising certificates, the advocates can now appear in Magistrates Courts for one year. Thereafter, they will be eligible to appear before the High Court.

In both shifts, HW Langa encouraged the young lawyers to work with passion, honesty, integrity and observe ethical conduct that befits the calling of advocates.

EAC Consultation Process

Drafting experts of the East Africa Community Political Confederation Constitution were at the Judiciary headquarters in Kampala for a consultation process. They met Judiciary's Top Management headed by the Deputy Chief Justice, Richard Buteera. The Political Federation is the ultimate pillar in the EAC integration process, preceded by the Customs Union, Common Market and Monetary Union.

Chaired by Uganda's Chief Justice Emeritus, Benjamin Odoki, the team was collecting views from stakeholders and opinion leaders in Uganda through national consultative forums.

The Deputy Chief Justice committed Judiciary's support to the initiative to help the people of East Africa live in harmony. "As a Judiciary of Uganda, we are greatly honoured to contribute to the formulation of the Constitution of the East African Community Political Confederation," he said. Adding, "we hope that the views gathered from this consultation will significantly help in shaping the destiny of the EAC."

Deputy Chief Justice Luwero Visit

The Deputy Chief Justice, Hon. Justice Richard Buteera, and Chairperson of the Case Backlog Monitoring Committee was in Luwero, where he held a meeting with Judicial Officers under Luwero and

Nakasongola Chief Magisterial areas.

He urged them to be interested and get involved in the registry work.

"If the registry does not capture what you have done, then it is futile. What you do should be reflected in your returns and data entry," he said.



EAC Political Confederation Constitution drafting experts consult Judiciary

On Monday, 03 May 2021, the drafting experts of the East Africa Community Political Confederation Constitution were at the Judiciary headquarters in Kampala for a consultation process. They met a delegation of Judiciary's Top Management headed by the Deputy Chief Justice, Hon. Justice Richard Buteera.

The Political Federation is the ultimate pillar in the EAC integration process, preceded by the Customs Union, Common Market and Monetary Union.

"The political confederation is thus a transitional model to the Political Federation which is the fourth and ultimate stage in the EAC integration process," said Justice Benjamin Odoki, the Chairperson of the Committee of Experts tasked with drafting a model constitution for the confederation.

Justice Odoki, who is also a former Chief Justice of Uganda, was leading the team to collect views from stakeholders and opinion leaders in Uganda through national consultative forums.

Chief Justice emeritus explained that the Committee would like to consider the views of Judiciaries while drafting the Constitution for the Confederation since the Judiciary in all partner States is the custodian of the Constitution.

In response, the Deputy Chief Justice committed Judiciary's support to the initiative to help the people of East Africa live in harmony.

As a Judiciary of Uganda, we are greatly honored to contribute to the formulation of the Constitution of the East African Community Political Confederation," he said. Adding, "we hope that the views gathered from this consultation will significantly help in shaping the destiny of the EAC."



The Deputy Chief Justice proposed several issues, including the need to put the regional Court of Appeal in place to improve access to justice.

According to Hon. Justice Buteera, once there is a regional Court of Appeal, people will be able to access such courts if they are not satisfied with the decision of the local courts.

Supreme Court Justice, Mike Chibita, singled out potential bottlenecks that should be addressed as the EAC moves towards a confederation. He said there should be harmonisation of hierarchies in the judicial system, pointing out that under the old EAC, each Partner State only had high courts only as their apex judicial organ with all appeals being filed before the East African Court of Appeal.

Senator Amos Wako said the now-defunct East African Court of Appeal was the appellate court for all matters except issues of interpretation of the national constitution.

Wako, who is also a former Kenyan Attorney

General, said the focus of EACJ had been mainly on human rights issues, adding that this was due to the jurisdiction defined by the Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC.

The Deputy Chief Justice informed the committee of experts that the Judiciary in Uganda would give its comprehensive views in a memorandum.

Throughout the 14-day consultations in Uganda, this Committee held consultations with civil society, local leaders, opinion leaders and the business community, among other stakeholders, seeking their views on the kind of Political Confederation they would desire for the EAC.

Apart from Kampala, the team of experts also held consultations with a cross-section of stakeholders in Entebbe, Arua, Gulu, Mbale and Kabale.

Present at the engagement was the then head of Civil Division, Hon. Justice Ssekana Musa, the Permanent Secretary/Secretary to the Judiciary, Dr Pius Bigirimana and the Chief Registrar, HW Sarah Langa Siu.



Kampala Criminal Appeals session

The Court of Appeal started hearings of 30 criminal appeals. The session was handled by Justices; Fredrick Egonda-Ntende, Catherine Bamugemereire and Christopher Madrama and consisted of 11 murders, five aggravated defilements, four aggravated robbery and three anti-corruption related appeals.

The other appeals handled were two; Manslaughter, one Arson, one Rape, one unlawful possession of specimen of protected species, and two other orders.

Inter-country adoptions

The Head of the Family Division of the High Court, Hon. Justice David Matovu, held a meeting with officials from the US Embassy in Kampala to follow up on the fate of inter-country adoptions at the Division. The meeting was attended by US Consul Arnold Gene and his assistant, Ms Naira Kigozi, in the presence of Judges; Ketrah Kitarisibwa Katunguka and Lydia Mugambe. The two Judges were assigned the responsibility of handling inter-country adoptions at the Division. During the meeting, they discussed the US inter-country adoptions process and the legal instruments governing it and the US government agencies in charge.

Cautioning ECCMIS detractors

The PS/SJ, Dr Pius Bigirimana, vowed to cause the arrest and prosecution of any individual who tried to fail the upcoming Electronic Court Case Management Information System (ECCMIS).

He issued this warning while closing a five-day training for systems administrators on ECCMIS at the Judicial Training Institute in Nakawa, also with a reminder to the technical staff of the Judiciary that the system's success or failure would largely depend on them. The PS/SJ commended the Principal Information Technology Officer, Mr David Sunday Kikabi, for being a dedicated manager of the programme.

Law Reform Committee considers proposals on Bail Guidelines

Judiciary's Law Reform Committee, one of the key interventions in implementing recommendations of the 2017 Case Backlog Reduction Report, met to discuss the proposed presentation of the Reviewed Bail Guidelines. The 19-member committee, which is chaired by the Principal Judge,

Hon. Justice Dr Flavian Zeija, proposed that Registrars and Magistrates submit returns to the Permanent Secretary/ Secretary to the Judiciary every month, giving details of bail refund claims as well as amounts forfeited to the State.

The Committee emphasised that court

orders must be extracted to accompany bail refund claims and reflect forfeitures to the State. The Principal Judge noted that the Guidelines were meant to complement the existing legal provisions on Bail.





81 lawyers Enrolled

The Chief Registrar, HW Sarah Langa Siu, has called upon the young lawyers to set out to be good brand ambassadors for the legal profession. “Add value wherever you go, let excellence be your trademark that people will know that you will leave a difference when you go to a place,” she said.

She made this call during an enrolment exercise where at least 81 lawyers were enrolled as advocates of the High Court at the Judiciary, headquarters in Kampala.

ECCMIS user trainings kick-off

Court of Appeal’s Justice Frederick Egonda-Ntende, flagged off an exercise to mark the beginning of user training in the new Electronic Court Case Management Information System (ECCMIS). Justice Egonda-Ntende chairs the Judiciary ECCMIS Steering Committee.

The two-month-long segmented training, which will run-up to June 30, 2021, will see different users such as Justices, Registrars, Systems Administrators, Trainers, Clerks, Transcribers and Process Servers trained on how to utilise the new system ably.

While addressing more than 35 Systems Administrators taking part in a five-day training at the Judicial Training Institute in Nakawa, Hon. Justice Egonda-Ntende emphasised the need for all users to understand their roles for proper utilisation of the System.



JUNE

JSC promotes 32 Judicial Officers

The JSC promoted 32 judicial officers in the magistracy and registrar ranks. The promotions included nine Judicial Officers promoted to Deputy Registrar, five to Assistant Registrar, 14 to Chief Magistrate, one Principal Magistrate Grade One, and one to Senior Magistrate Grade One. Also appointed is a Senior State Attorney and an Advocate as Deputy Registrar and Chief Magistrate respectively. “We are delighted with the promotions because it is a perfect boost in the ranks where we have a huge caseload,” said the Chief Registrar, HW Sarah Langa Siu.

Transfers of Registrars, Magistrates

The Judiciary shuffled 42 judicial officers at the rank of Registrars and Magistrates. The changes affect mainly the recently appointed officers on promotion, plus a few others on transfer.

While communicating the changes, the Chief Registrar, HW Sarah Langa Siu, said deployments and transfers were in the interest of improving the administration of justice in the various Courts.

Some of the Divisions like Land,

Commercial and Family needed boosting, given the volume of work in the respective Registries,» she said.

The two newly-appointed Judicial Officers: HW John Paul Edoku (Deputy Registrar) and HW Ronald Kayizzi (Chief Magistrate), were deployed to the Registry of Planning, Research and Development and Moyo Chief Magistrate Court, respectively. The changes saw at least 10 Judicial Officers at the Deputy Registrar and Chief Magistrate ranks transferred to different stations.

JULY

Swearing-in ceremony of new Judicial Officers

The Chief Justice, Alfonse Chigamoy Owiny-Dollo, officiated at the swearing-in ceremony of two new Judicial Officers who were appointed to the lower bench by the Judicial Service Commission.

Mr Edoku John Paul (formerly Senior State Attorney in Attorney General’s

chambers) and Mr Kayizzi Ronald (formerly an attorney in private practice) were sworn in as deputy registrar and Chief Magistrate.

The Chief Justice welcomed the duo to the Judiciary family. He said: “having emerged victorious in the competitive

selection process, I have no doubt this is deserved and has come when the Judiciary is in dire need of more Judicial Officers with scarce distribution across the country. I thank the Chief Registrar for acting swift to have the function performed in spite of the COVID-19 challenges.”



AUGUST

Judiciary Launches medical scheme for all its Staff

The Judiciary launched a group medical scheme for all Judiciary staff in a ceremony held at the Judiciary headquarters in Kampala.

The launch was presided over by the Permanent Secretary/Secretary to Judiciary, Dr Pius Bigirimana flanked by the Chief Registrar on behalf of the Top Administration of the Judiciary. The scheme, the first of its kind for the institution, is billed at UGX1.2 billion and supported by the Government of Uganda.



The Permanent Secretary stated that the medical insurance scheme will benefit all Judiciary staff in the different categories

deployed across Uganda.

More than 2,300 Judiciary staff in categories of Justices, Judges, Registrars, Magistrates and administrative staff will access Medical Insurance from Jubilee Insurance Company, UAP OLD Mutual Insurance and Prudential Assurance.

In her remarks, the Chief Registrar stated that the top management is responding to the needs of its staff to ensure a healthy workforce to serve the people.

Cabinet okays Judiciary structure

Cabinet approved the implementation of the revised structure that will see the Judiciary become an autonomous arm of government and among others, the salaries for judges increased by about 40% whereas the Court of Appeal will extend wings to regions.

Structure for the Upper Bench

S/n	Category	2009 Approved structure	2021 approved structure
1	Judges of the Supreme Court	11	21
2	Judges of the Court of Appeal/Constitutional Court	15	56
3	Judges of the High Court	82	151
	Total	108	228

This ended the era of the Judiciary being viewed as a Government department.

Cabinet equally approved the implementation of the revised structure and salaries for judicial officers.

Following the approval of the new Judiciary structure in 2021, the structure of the Upper Bench and the Lower Bench would therefore be enhanced as shown in Table below respectively:

Structure of the Lower Bench

S/n	Category	2009 Approved structure	2021 approved structure
1	Chief Registrar	1	1
2	Registrar	9	12
3	Deputy Registrar	47	80
4	Assistant Registrar	32	40
5	Chief Magistrate	100	160
6	Senior Principal Magistrate Grade I	10	40
7	Principal Magistrate Grade I	20	50
8	Senior Magistrate Grade I	30	70
9	Magistrate Grade I	386	454
10	Principal Magistrate Grade II	9	0
11	Senior Magistrate Grade II	7	0
12	Magistrate Grade II	18	0
	Total	669	907



ODPP Officials visit DCJ

Officials from the Office of the Directorate of Public Prosecution (ODPP) paid a visit to the Deputy Chief Justice, Richard Buteera, at his chambers at the Court of Appeal to have a bilateral discourse on how to improve working relations between the Court and the prosecution office.

The four officials were led by the Director of Public Prosecution (DPP), Hon. Lady Justice Jane Frances Abodo with Deputy DPP Mr Charles Elem Ogwal, Senior Assistant DPP and Head of Department Appeals, Ms Nabaasa Carolyn Hope and Assistant DPP, Ms Vicky Nabisenke.

Among the issues that were discussed with the Deputy Chief Justice is the impact of the budget cuts that has constrained the effective work of the ODPP.

Judiciary, EU Envoys meet

The Chief Justice, Alfonse Chigamoy Owiny- Dollo and Top Management of the Judiciary held a meeting with European Union Heads of Mission at the Supreme Court in Kololo.

The meeting aimed at identifying areas that need to be strengthened for Judiciary to perform its constitutional mandate more effectively.

The Chief Justice commended the EU for the support rendered to the Justice, Law and Order Sector.

“The Judiciary would like to render timely, equitable justice to everybody in this country and whenever you strengthen us, you strengthen our service delivery”, said the CJ.



Criminal Division Juvenile Session

The Criminal Division of the High Court started hearings of a Juveniles Session at Naguru Remand Home where 20 cases will be handled. The session was presided over by the Head of Division, Hon. Justice Michael Elubu. Before the session could kick-off, Hon. Justice Elubu was taken on a guided tour of the

premises by the Senior Probation and Welfare Officer, Ministry of Gender and Social Development and in-charge of the Remand Home, Ms Kyomugisha Mary.

He went on to hold a brief meeting with state attorneys and defence counsel to discuss how best the session would run.

SEPTEMBER

President Museveni graces Benedicto Kiwanuka’s Memorial Lecture

President Yoweri Museveni and the Judiciary administration agreed to meet and discuss the question of bail.

The President is against the grant of bail to capital offenders, saying it is a provocation and on the other hand the Chief Justice, Alfonse Chigamoy Owiny- Dollo says bail is a constitutional right granted at the discretion of judges after considering the circumstances of the case.

The President also unveiled the new Benedicto Kiwanuka bust. He also launched Chief Justice emeritus, Samuel William Wako Wambuzi’s book in which he details the administration of justice over the years.





PS/SJ, CR Meet with Court Clerks

The Judiciary administration is committed to ensuring that court clerks are placed to their rightful salary scale under Public Service. This promise was made by the Permanent Secretary/Secretary to Judiciary, Dr Pius Bigirimana, at a meeting that he and the Chief Registrar, HW Sarah Langa Siu, held with representatives of clerks.

The meeting was at the request of the clerks' leaders, Mr Bulenga Brian (Chairperson), Ms Twijukye Elizabeth (Vice Chairperson) and Mr Areeba Wonder (General Secretary), who wanted to voice out their concerns to the Judiciary administration.

The PS/SJ observed that there was a need to expedite streamlining the issue of being wrongly captured in the system.

"I do not see how people should be given a salary Scale of where they do not belong," Dr Bigirimana said. Although the minimum requirement for the position is a Diploma in Law, court clerks are currently recruited on U7 Salary Scale instead of U5 as provided for in the Public Service Standing Orders. The Chief Registrar thanked the leadership of the clerks for airing-out their issues and pledged to ensure that such engagements continue.



Justice Wangutusi preaches Mediation to Teso religious leaders

The Mediation Registry held a two days training in Soroti District which saw 25 religious leaders turning into court accredited mediators.

The religious leaders under their umbrella body, Teso Religious Leaders' Efforts for Peace and Reconciliation (TERELEPER), organised the training to enhance their skills in resolving disputes such as resolving land and family disputes.

The training was facilitated by Justice David Wangutusi and Registrar HW Kisawuzi Eliasa.

Justice Wangutusi told the participants that while they have been carrying out Mediation privately, they were now accredited by the court which will boost their confidence while conducting Mediation.

Industrial Court Judges pay courtesy call on DCJ

Industrial Court Judges; Hon. Justice Asaph Ruhinda Ntengye and Hon. Lady Justice Tumusiime Mugisha Linda paid a courtesy call on the Deputy Chief Justice, Richard Buteera, in his chambers at the Court of Appeal.

The two congratulated him on his appointment as Deputy Chief Justice. They went on to seek his wise counsel in some of the day-to-day administrative, adjudicative and practical realities they go through.



Buliisa Justice Centre handed over

The Buliisa Justice Centre was handed over to the Judiciary and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecution by the Project Contractors, BMK (U) LTD. The UGX1.6 billion, project which started in April 2019, was funded by the Justice Law and Order Sector. The Centre is comprised of a court administration block and a court

hall, as well as the residence and offices of the Resident State Attorney.

Several stakeholders from JLOS institutions inspected each of the buildings, that make up the newly-constructed Justice Centre in Buliisa district.



OCTOBER



EACJ awareness session

The Principal Judge, Dr Flavian Zeija, presided over the opening of a training on understanding the East African Court of Justice (EACJ) and good governance and the rule of law in the East African Community at the Commonwealth Resort in Munyonyo.

The day-long training for Judges of the Civil and Commercial Divisions of the

High Court was held under the theme: “Enhancing the ability of the Bench and the Bar in East Africa to promote and expand the East African Civic Space through the East African Court of Justice Legal Architecture”.

The Principal Judge, in his remarks, stated that the people of Uganda and East Africa have high expectations from

the National courts and the EACJ.

“To meet the high expectations of our people, we must be efficient. To achieve efficiency, continuous training/ refresher courses become inevitable. We have to continue to keep relevant to our tasks as the integration of East Africa continues to grow from strength to strength.”

IGG pays courtesy call on CJ



The new Inspector General of Government, Hon. Beti Olive Namisango Kamyaturomwe, paid a courtesy visit to the Chief Justice, Hon. Justice Alfonse Chigamoy Owiny- Dollo, in his chambers at the Supreme Court.

During the visit, the Chief Justice stressed the need for the two Government entities to help stir the country to move forward to a place “where we (Ugandans) play our part and strive to leave this country better than we found it.”

Despite the independence of the three arms of government, the Hon. Chief Justice equally emphasised the need for the three to work together as interdependent bodies.

Engagement for stakeholders under Administration of Justice Programme

Senior officials from 15 institutions under the Administration of Justice Programme met at the Judiciary headquarters for a validation exercise of the Programme as well as its corresponding Implementation Action Plan (PIAP) under the third National Development Plan. The validation exercise was attended to by the Program’s Working Group comprising of Accounting Officers from the Uganda Police Force, Uganda Prisons Services, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Uganda Human Rights Commission, Law Development Centre, Tax Appeals Tribunal, and Ministries of; Internal Affairs, Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Gender, Labour and Social Development as well as Local Government.



Judiciary committed to resolving issues affecting land justice - Principal Judge

In October, the Land Division held its Court Users Meeting where key stakeholders deliberated on a number of issues affecting land justice.

The meeting was officiated by the Principal Judge, Dr Flavian Zeija, who reassured the stakeholders of the Judiciary's commitment to resolve land disputes in the shortest time possible.

"Ensuring that land disputes are resolved in a timely and fair manner is one of the key priorities of the Judiciary administration, intended to safeguard the lifeline of our people and the backbone of our economy," he said.

At the meeting held under the theme

"Access to Justice - the way forward", the Principal Judge highlighted the importance of such engagements in building public trust and efficiency as courts execute their mandate. "Such meetings provide a platform for the Judiciary to interface with our stakeholders, the court users, and the general public. This, in turn, fosters public confidence in the judicial system," he said.

According to Justice John Eudes Keitirima, the Head of the Land Division, the Court currently had a workload of 10,788 cases out of which 4,301 cases were backlog. He said with such a workload, the Division requires about 20 Judges and five Registrars it is to operate at optimal levels.

Double registration of titles by the

Commissioner of Land Registration, irregularities in execution of court orders by Police, discrepancies in the land laws and regulations, and limited number of judges to deal with land disputes were some of the key challenges that were identified.

The Chief Registrar, HW Sarah Langa, urged the Court administration to liaise with Police and other non-represented stakeholders to enlist their participation in future engagements if such meetings are to be fruitful and realise their purpose.

Mr Peter Mulira, a senior advocate, called for radical reforms in the office of the Commissioner of Land Registration and urgent harmonisation of laws governing succession and transfer of land ownership.

NOVEMBER

No room for reckless driving - PS/SJ

The Permanent Secretary/Secretary to the Judiciary, Dr Pius Bigirimana, issued a stern warning to drivers, cautioning them against reckless driving. This was during a two-day training for Judiciary drivers on October 16th, 2021.

Dr Bigirimana called on the drivers to take great care of the vehicles as well as

respect their principals.

In his address to the drivers, he cautioned them against reckless driving which is an offence and could warrant arrest. He added that drivers would be held personally liable for any damages or repair costs accruing from careless driving.



Non-Judicial Staff Inducted

More than 85 new non-judicial staff were taken through an induction exercise to enable them efficiently execute their tasks in the Judiciary. The induction exercise which was organised by the Human Resource Management Department was held at the Judicial Training Institute in Nakawa.

The key presentation was delivered by the Under Secretary, Ms Maureen Kasande, on the mandate, structure and composition of the Judiciary. She advised the participants to always strive for professionalism in all they do because it is one of the Judiciary's core values.

The Registrar Judicial Training Institute, HW Mary Kaitesi, emphasised to the participants that the training was meant to equip them with knowledge and skills to improve the operations in courts for improved service delivery.



CJ engages Kitgum district justice actors

The Chief Justice, Alfonso Chigamoy Owiny-Dollo, made an impromptu visit to Kitgum Chief Magistrates Court where he engaged stakeholders in the justice system. The district leaders led by the LCV Chairperson, Mr Christopher Arwai, and Chief Administrative Officer, Mr Martin Jacan Gwokto, included representatives from frontline justice institutions.

The Chief Justice informed the stakeholders of the innovations that the Judiciary has put in place to improve the court experience for all its users which was appreciated by the stakeholders.

He called for popularising of mediation as a quick way of resolving disputes.

He urged Judicial Officers to embark on case backlog clearance and expedite trial and disposal of cases.

The district leaders and justice actors applauded the Chief Justice for the great administration and the strides taken to address staffing gaps in the Judiciary.

UGX26bn unclaimed bail refund cash

The Chief Registrar, HW Sarah Langa Siu, held a press conference at the Judiciary headquarters to sensitise the public on bail refund. She revealed that the Courts of Judicature had UGX26 billion unclaimed refundable bail fees by people who previously had cases in courts of law.

“As at June 30th, 2021, the balance carried forward in both unclaimed bail deposits and security deposits from the Judiciary was UGX26 billion,” said the Chief Registrar.

When a person is given a cash bail, they must deposit that amount of money in the bank as security to ensure

they don't jump bail and the money is supposed to be refunded after the conclusion of the case.

This means that even if one is convicted of a case, the money they deposited as security in order to be granted bail must be refunded to them.

She explained that for one to get a refund of the bail money, they must write to the court that granted them bail, attach the original bail bond form got from court, the receipt issued by court, original URA acknowledgment receipt (where applicable) and the court would then order for a refund.

The cashier of the court then prepares a requisition for the refund with documents addressed to the Permanent Secretary of the Judiciary, but the requisition is signed and submitted by the head of the station.

The Permanent Secretary then directs the refund to go directly to the account of the applicant.

She, however, explained that bail money refund is only for those whose cases have either been disposed of or the state has lost interest, but have not absconded or jumped bail.



Judiciary hailed for holding Health Camps in Eastern Uganda

In December 2021, the Judiciary conducted a week-long health awareness campaign in eastern Uganda for its staff working in courts under Mbale, Tororo and Soroti High Court Circuits. This was part of the Judiciary's efforts to fight HIV stigma at the workplace and encourage voluntary testing.

At the health camps, voluntary HIV/AIDS screening and counseling was done. Other activities carried out included testimonies on positive living, awareness on HIV/AIDS, checkups, COVID-19 vaccination, blood donation and radio talk shows.

In a press statement while flagging off the campaign, the Permanent Secretary/Secretary to Judiciary, Dr Pius Bigirimana, noted that: "Uganda has an ambitious plan for ending AIDS by 2030, and as such, we (Judiciary) need to create awareness among our staff and support all those who are living with HIV."

To support the Presidential Fast Track Initiative to Ending HIV and AIDS as a Public Threat by 2030, the Judiciary introduced an HIV/AIDS Workplace Policy according to the Chief Registrar, HW Sarah Langa Siu.

"In the year 2020, the Judiciary launched the HIV Workplace Policy which aims at protecting the staff and caring for people living with HIV/AIDS," she said.

The Judiciary has registered a number of achievements in the fight against HIV/AIDS and stigma, which include; provision of health insurance with HIV support and care, allocation of resources for implementation of HIV/AIDS activities, development of the HIV/AIDS Work Place Policy and increased sensitization of staff.

Others are provision of quarterly medical financial support to staff who declare their HIV status and effective referral of staff identified to be living with HIV to access antiretroviral treatment.

Speaking at the Health camp in Mbale,

Justice Godfrey Namundi, the Senior Resident Judge, stressed the importance of holding such campaigns and applauded the Judiciary administration for having an HIV Workplace Policy in place.

The Registrar Planning, Research and Development, HW Amos Kwizera who represented the Under Secretary who doubles as the Chairperson of the Judiciary HIV/AIDS Committee, said the campaign is part of the institution's efforts to fight HIV stigma at the workplace.

"We are preaching the gospel to our staff on how they should live to stay safe, how to relate with colleagues living with HIV and with the people in the host communities who are our clients."

The HIV Committee handed over kits with an assortment of materials that included condoms, dispensers and copies of sensitization materials to the Deputy Registrar Mbale High Court, HW James Ereemye, the Assistant Registrar Soroti High Court, Ms Jessica Chemeri and the Chief Magistrate of Tororo Ms Ajuna Doreen who in turn distributed the same to different judicial officers from the sub courts.

Ms Sarah Khanakwa, the head of Resources and Grants at the Uganda AIDS Commission, commended this initiative, "We intend to use the Judiciary as a case study so that other MDAs can emulate how you're mainstreaming HIV activities in the Judiciary," she said.

Similarly, Dr Stephen Watiti one of the facilitators urged "all MDAs to emulate the Judiciary to have workplace policies on HIV and operationalize them." Dr Elizabeth Kasirye Omangino from the Ministry



of Health implored the participants to embrace the opportunity to screen for HIV to know their status.

One of the staff of the Judiciary, Ms Eseeri Nandudu, shared her story of living positively for the last 16 years. She also highlighted the challenges of accessing medication in light of the onset of COVID-19 pandemic and its attendant problems such as lockdowns.

In attendance were members of the Judiciary HIV/AIDS Committee, Registrars; Festo Nsenga and Patricia Amoko. Others were Ms Apophia Namutamba Tumwine, the Commissioner Human Resource, Ms Suzan Akello, Principal Human Resource Officer who doubles as the HIV Focal Person in the Judiciary as well as Ms Sheila Wamboga, a Senior Communications Officer.

The health camps and sensitization drives were held in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Uganda AIDS Commission to sensitize staff as well as representatives of the host communities in Eastern Uganda on how to fight and prevent the spread of HIV. ●



Ben Kiwanuka's Legacy: Rule of Law Today in Uganda

There are several principles which define the rule of law. I will discuss the four most important ones and how they relate to former Chief Justice, Ben Kiwanuka's times.

Separation of powers

First is governance comprising of separation of power between the three arms of Government the executive which comprises the machinery of government, rule-making powers and powers to recommend to Parliament a state of emergency.

In our Constitution, the president appoints all constitutional office holders and finally law making powers, laws are proposed by the Executive and passed by Parliament prior to receiving presidential assent.

Ben Kiwanuka was unique having served in all three branches of Government, National Assembly 1961-1962, Prime Minister 1961-1962 and Chief Justice 1971-1972. Former Chief Justice, Bart M. Katureebe, is the second Ugandan to do this. He served under three distinct constitutional regimes, the colonial government which made orders in council that later became statutes, was leader of the Democratic Party during the tumultuous years which saw abrogation of the 1966 constitution and adoption of the 1967 Constitution.

In 1971, the proclamation in Legal Notice Number 1, retained the 1967 Constitution which suspended many provisions of the 1967 Constitution. As Chief Justice, Ben Kiwanuka did not hear or sit in constitutional petitions first provided for in the 1967 constitution before a three-judge bench in the High Court, but he heard petitions on human rights.

For years following British practice, the Chief Justice sat in the High Court rather than the Court of Appeal a development



Uganda lost Ben Kiwanuka at a very early age, just 50 years old. It's a pity that the legal fraternity could not at a minimum have evaluated a habeas corpus application as individuals could not.



that begun in 1988-1989 with the appointment of Samuel Wako Wambuzi and removal of the post of president. We can say at the High Court, the Chief Justice was close to the pioneer Ugandan Judges who had been appointed by President Apollo Milton Obote in 1969.

Another detail about the Chief Justice's office was to oversee the exercise of penal powers of the state, rights of prisoners to review how they are being treated. Ben Kiwanuka took a keen interest in

this as a former political prisoner (1969-1971). Shortly before being named Chief Justice, Ben Kiwanuka briefly served as Solicitor General who serves as the government's chief lawyer in many jurisdictions including the United States whose functions are separate from



those of the Attorney General who is the nation's chief law enforcement officer. An active litigator in his earlier years and after leaving government in 1962 before the legal profession was domesticated by the Advocates Act and creation of institutions like the Law Development Center, access to courts was limited.

Upholding the independence of the Judiciary

The second principle of separation of powers is upholding the independence of the Judiciary, a principle enshrined in Article 126 of the Constitution. Judicial officers are not personally liable for decisions made in the exercise of such powers. The 1995 Constitution further clarified several roles, making Registrars constitutional officers appointed by the President, creating a Judicial Service Commission to vet appointees to the higher courts. Ben Kiwanuka's demise is linked to his ruling on a habeas corpus application.

The horrendous manner in which he was evacuated from the High Court, tortured and killed informed the establishment of the Commission of Inquiry into violation of human rights in 1986 where victims' family members got a chance to confront their accusers, a role which has now been taken on by the Human Rights Commission. In recent years, the immediate former Chairperson the late Medi Ssozi Kaggwa used to visit persons in detention filling a gap that limits the current responsibilities of the Chief Justice. He still visits prisons to supervise the reformatory process.

Human rights

Third, the 1995 Constitution declares certain rights in Chapter 5 as fundamental and classifies in Article 44(1) the right to a fair trial, freedom from slavery or servitude, freedom from torture and the right to an order of habeas corpus. These rights cannot be derogated from. The state has been obliged to honor them removing the stain of the Public Order and Security Act of 1967 which allowed detention

without trial. This Chapter, fortunately, was passed nearly unanimously by the Constituent Assembly and has withstood the test of time. Under Article 50 of the Constitution, any person can petition court for violation of his or her human rights. This is one of the strongest provisions of the Constitution.

Respect of the law and enforcement of the laws

Lastly the rule of law requires respect of the law and enforcement of the laws by government. Government must satisfy court orders, carry out lawful instructions of the other branches and uphold the Constitution.

In Kenya, this has been an issue jolting the Law Society to meet the Attorney General, the chief law officer, to discuss government's failure to act on judgements passed by courts in Kenya. This principle also includes equality before the law where all persons don't have any special status before courts or tribunals.

The Ben Kiwanuka Day

Uganda lost Ben Kiwanuka at a very early age, just 50 years old. It's a pity that the legal fraternity could not at a minimum have evaluated a habeas corpus

application as individuals could not. The first celebration of the Ben Kiwanuka day in 2018 brought a mix of his colleagues, former Chief Justice Samuel Wambuzi and former Solicitor General Godfrey Lule to share their reminiscences of that difficult period in September 1972.

Mentees included Justice Augustine Nshimye Sebutulo and Remmy Kasule. Their testimonies were moving. We, in the audience, heard many things for the first time. I must thank the former Chief Justice for including in his legacy the proper remembrance of Ben Kiwanuka, first Ugandan Chief Justice. ●

About the author

Karoli Ssemogerere is an Advocate. He has been counsel in recent cases on violations of human rights the most recent being Andrew Lwanga v Attorney General (2020).





12 Judicial Officers retire in 2021

A total of 12 Judicial Officers at different ranks retired in the year 2021 after clocking the mandatory retirement age.

It all started in January when Registrar, HW Godfrey Anguandia Opifeni and HW Robbs Komakech retired. The others who hang their wigs included Supreme Court Justice Paul K. Mugamba and Justice Remmy Kasule from the Court of Appeal. From the High Court, Judges David Kutosi Wangutusi, Wilson Kwesiga Flavia Senoga Anglin, and Wilson Masalu Musene.

The other Judicial Officers on the list were Chief Magistrate HW Charles

Yeteise, and Magistrates Grade Two; HW Fred Luwaga, HW Berna Najjuko, and HW Seiko Kintu.

The retirement of five judges from the High Court will leave a total of 55 and yet the approved structure by Parliament is 82.

The departure of Justice Mugamba from the Supreme Court will leave the Court with nine justices including the Chief Justice, Alfonse Chigamoy Owiny - Dollo.

The approved structure is 11.

The Court of Appeal/Constitutional Court currently has 15 Justices.

In different engagements, the Chief Justice has stated, "in order to give meaningful justice to our people, we need 150 High Court Judges, a Chief Magistrate per district, a Magistrate Grade One per constituency and Regional Courts of Appeal in Gulu, Mbarara, Mbale and Masaka."



Justice Paul K. Mugamba



Justice Remmy Kasule



Justice David Kutosi Wangutusi



Justice Wilson Kwesiga



Lady Justice Flavia Senoga Anglin



Justice Wilson Masalu Musene



HW Charles Yeteise



HW Godfrey Anguandia Opifeni



List of Uganda Judicial Officers - December 31, 2021

JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT

1. Hon. Justice Alfonso Chigamoy Owiny - Dollo (Chief Justice)
2. Hon. Lady Justice Dr Esther Kisaakye
3. Hon. Lady Justice Stella Arach-Amoko
4. Hon. Justice Rubby Aweri Opio
5. Hon. Lady Justice Faith Essy Mwondha

6. Hon. Lady Justice Prof. Lillian Tibatemwa Ekirikubinza
7. Hon. Justice Ezekiel Muhanguzi
8. Hon. Lady Justice Percy Night Tuhaise
9. Hon. Justice Mike Chibita

JUSTICES OF THE COURT OF APPEAL

1. Hon. Justice Richard Buteera (Deputy Chief Justice)
2. Hon. Justice Kenneth Kakuru
3. Hon. Justice Geoffrey Kiryabwire
4. Hon. Justice Fredrick Martin Stephen Egonda-Ntende
5. Hon. Lady Justice Elizabeth Musoke
6. Hon. Justice Cheborion Barishaki
7. Hon. Lady Justice Hellen Abulu Obura
8. Hon. Lady Justice Dr Catherine K. Bamugemereire

9. Hon. Justice Stephen Musota
10. Hon. Justice Madrama Izama Christopher
11. Hon. Justice Kibeedi Muzamiru Mutangula
12. Hon. Lady Justice Irene Mulyagonja
13. Hon. Lady Justice Monica Kalyegira Mugenyi
14. Hon. Justice Christopher Gashirabake
15. Hon. Lady Justice Eva Luswata

JUDGES OF THE HIGH COURT

Name	Court
1. Hon. Dr. Justice Flavian Zeija - Principal Judge / Head of Court	
2. Hon. Justice Lawrence Gidudu	Head, Anti-Corruption Div.
3. Hon. Lady Justice Jane F.B. Kiggundu	Resident Judge, Mbarara
4. Hon. Dr. Justice Joseph Murangira	Judge, Family Division
5. Hon. Dr. Justice Andrew Bashaija	Head, Internat'l Crimes Div.
6. Hon. Justice Nyanzi Yasin	Judge, Land Division
7. Hon. Dr. Justice Henry Peter Adonyo	Senior Resident Judge, Soroti
8. Hon. Lady Justice Margaret Tibulya	D/Head, Anti-Corruption Div.
9. Hon. Lady Justice Elizabeth Jane Alividza	Judge, Internat'l Crimes Div.
10. Hon. Justice Godfrey Namundi	Head, Mbale Circuit
11. Hon. Lady Justice Henrietta Wolayo	Resident Judge, Mubende
12. Hon. Justice David Batema	Head, Mukono Circuit
13. Hon. Justice John Eudes Keitirima	Head, Land Division
14. Hon. Justice Henry Kawesa Isabirye	D/Head, Land Division
15. Hon. Lady Justice Elizabeth Kibula Kabanda	Judge, Internat'l Crimes Div.
16. Hon. Lady Justice Damalie Lwanga	ED, Judicial Training Institute
17. Hon. Lady Justice Lydia Mugambe Ssali	Leave
18. Hon. Justice Duncan Gaswaga	Resident Judge, Lira
19. Hon. Justice Vincent Okwanga	Judge, Internat'l Crimes Div.
20. Hon. Lady Justice Alexandra Nkonge Rugadya	Judge, Land Division
21. Hon. Dr. Lady Justice Winfred Nabisinde	Head, Jinja Circuit
22. Hon. Justice Michael Elubu	Head, Criminal Division
23. Hon. Lady Justice Margaret Mutonyi	Judge, Criminal Division
24. Hon. Justice David Matovu	Head, Family Division
25. Hon. Lady Justice Patricia Basaza Wasswa	Judge, Land Division
26. Hon. Lady Justice Ketrach Kitariisibwa Katunguka	D/Head, Family Division
27. Hon. Justice Moses Kawumi Kazibwe	Resident Judge, Kabale
28. Hon. Justice Mubiru Stephen	Head, Commercial Division
29. Hon. Lady Justice Anne Mugenyi Bitature	D/Head, Commercial Division

Name	Court
30. Hon. Lady Justice Susan Okalany	Judge, Internat'l Crimes Div.
31. Hon. Justice Oyuko Anthony Ojok	Resident Judge, Mpigi
32. Hon. Justice Gadenya Paul Wolimbwa	Judge, Criminal Division
33. Hon. Justice Ajiji Alex Mackay	Resident Judge, Gulu
34. Hon. Lady Justice Cornelia Kakooza Sabiiti	Judge, Commercial Court
35. Hon. Justice Asiimwe Tadeo	D/Head, Criminal Division
36. Hon. Lady Justice Kazaarwe Olive Mukwaya	Judge, Land Division
37. Hon. Justice Sekaana Musa	Head, Civil Division
38. Hon. Lady Justice Joyce Kavuma	Head, Mbarara Circuit
39. Hon. Justice Emmanuel Baguma	D/Head, Civil Division
40. Hon. Justice Richard Wejuli Wabwire	Judge, Commercial Division
41. Hon. Lady Justice Esta Nambayo	Judge, Civil Division
42. Hon. Justice Isaac Muwata	Judge, Criminal Division
43. Hon. Justice Isah Serunkuma	Resident Judge, Arua
44. Hon. Justice Vincent Emmy Mugabo	Head, Fort Portal Circuit
45. Hon. Justice Phillip Odoki	Judge, Civil Division
46. Hon. Lady Justice Immaculate Busingye	Judge, Land Division
47. Hon. Lady Justice Susan Abinyo	Judge, Commercial Division
48. Hon. Justice Byaruhanga Jesse Rugyema	Resident Judge, Masindi
49. Hon. Justice Boniface Wamala	Judge, Civil Division
50. Hon. Lady Justice Jane Okuo	Judge, Anti-Corruption Div.
51. Hon. Lady Justice Jeanne Rwakakooko	Judge, Commercial Division
52. Hon. Lady Justice Katamba Victoria Nakintu Nkwanga	Head, Masaka Circuit
53. Hon. Lady Justice Margaret Apiny	Resident Judge, Mbale
54. Hon. Lady Justice Florence Nakachwa	Resident Judge, Mukono
55. Hon. Justice Tom Chemutai	Resident Judge, Jinja
56. Hon. Justice Vincent Wagona	Resident Judge, Fort Portal
57. Hon. Lady Justice Alice Komuhangi	Judge Family Division/ ICD
58. Hon. Justice Lawrence Tweyanze	Resident Judge, Masaka



CHIEF REGISTRAR, REGISTRARS, & ASSISTANT REGISTRARS

Name	Court
Chief Registrar	
1. HW Langa Sarah Siu	Chief Registrar
Registrars	
1. HW Kisawuzi Eliasa Omar	Mediation
2. HW Emokor Samuel	Registrar High Court
3. HW Ssali Harriet Nalukwago	Supreme Court
4. HW Kwizera Amos	Planning & Development
5. HW Kanyange Susan	Court of Appeal
6. HW Nassuna Flavia Matovu	Inspector of Courts
7. HW Bareebe Rosemary Ngabirano	Magistrates Affairs & Data Mng't
8. HW Nabakooza Flavia	Commercial Division
9. HW Kisakye Mary Lukwago Kaitesi	Research and Training, JTI
Deputy Registrars	
1. HW Dr. Nakibuule Gladys Kisekka	JTI, Research
2. HW Waninda Fred K.B	Jinja
3. HW Dr. Nkonge Agnes	Mediation
4. HW Ikit Mary	Mukono
5. HW Khainza Eleanor Mary	Magistrates Affairs
6. HW Festo Nsenga	Criminal Division
7. HW Angualia Moses Gabriel	Judicial Training Institute
8. HW Kaweesa Godfrey	Mubende High Court
9. HW Nabaggala Sylvia Mbuga	Industrial Court
10. HW Atingu Beatrice Stella	International Crimes Division
11. HW Ayebare Thadius Tumwebaze	Private Legal Secretary to the Chief Justice
12. HW Karemani Jamson Karemera	Civil Division/Pro
13. HW Ajo Hellen	Family Division (In-Charge)
14. HW Babirye Mary	Supreme Court
15. HW Lamunu Pamela Ocaya	Anti-Corruption Court
16. HW Natukunda Janeva	Land Division (In-Charge)

Name	Court
17. HW Hatanga Juliet Harty	Commercial Division
18. HW Katushabe Prossy	Family Division
19. HW Dr. Mushabe Alex Karocho	Private Legal Sec. to DCJ / Appellate Mediation
20. HW Ntalo Nasulu Hussein	Gulu High Court
21. HW Edoku John Paul	Registry of Planning & Development
22. HW Bucyana Lillian	Court of Appeal
23. HW Agwero Catherine	Arua
24. HW Ayo Miriam Eddy Okello	Land Division
25. HW Ereemye Jumire James Mawanda	Mbale High Court
26. HW Mponye Kolya Sarah	Mediation
27. HW Borore Julius Kyaka	Masaka
Other Deputy Registrars	
1. HW Nizeyimana Deo	
2. HW Kawuma Cissy Mudhasi	Interdiction
Assistant Registrars	
1. HW Twinomuhwezi Henry	Court of Appeal
2. HW Didas Muhumuza	Criminal Division
3. HW Atukwasa Justine	Mpigi High Court
4. HW Ssalaam Godfrey Ngobi	Lira High Court
5. HW Sempala Dorothy Lwanga	Inspectorate of Courts
6. HW Kintu Simon Zirintusa	Land Division
7. HW Sayuni David	Masindi High Court
8. HW Amoko Patricia	Private Legal Secretary to the Chief Registrar
9. HW Chemeri Jessica	Soroti High Court
10. HW Dr. Lubowa Daniel	Mediation
11. HW Matenga Dawa Francis	Fort Portal High Court
12. HW Alum Agnes	Civil Division
13. HW Mulondo Mastulah	Small Claims

CHIEF MAGISTRATES

Name	Court
On Assignment	
1. HW Twakire Samuel	Mbarara (HC/CM) Caretaking Isingiro
2. HW Muhimbise Gibson	Kabale (HC/CM)
In Magisterial Areas	
3. HW Kaggwa John Francis	Mubende
4. HW Ssejamba Deogratus	Masindi
5. HW Amono Monica	Apac/Oyam
6. HW Nabaasa Ruth	Mpigi
7. HW Kakooza Elias	Nakasongola
8. HW Nasambu Esther Rebecca	Mengo
9. HW Nakadama Esther Lydia Mubiru	Wakiso
10. HW Sayekwo Emmy G.	Moroto
11. HW Munobe Samuel	Luwero
12. Dr. Singiza Douglas Karekona	Buganda Road
13. HW Kule Moses Lubangula	Fort Portal / Kyenjojo
14. HW Akullo Elizabeth Ogwal	Nakawa
15. HW Mugala Jane	Nabweru/Kasangati
16. HW Obong George	Arua
17. HW Kagoda Moses S. Ntende	Mbale/Pallisa/Sironko
18. HW Nakitende Juliet	Entebbe
19. HW Nanteza Zulaika	Iganga
20. HW Kamasanyu Gladys Musenze	Standards And Utilities Court

Name	Court
21. HW Tusiime Sarah Bashaia	Mukono/Kayunga
22. HW Talisuna Patrick	Busia
23. HW Ajuna Doreen	Tororo
24. HW Basemera Sarah Anne	Makindye
25. HW Barigye Said	Gulu/Nwoya
26. HW Abiti Samson Loum	Lira
27. HW Opio James	Kasese
28. HW Baligeya Moses Mufumbiro	Kiboga/Hoima
29. HW Mbabazi Edith Mary	Rukungiri
30. HW Aanyu Margaret	Soroti/Kaberamaido/Katakwi
31. HW Amabilis Stella Maris	Lugazi
32. HW Kayizzi Ronald	Moyo
33. HW Nambozo Joy	Kitgum
34. HW Bamuhiga Patric	Isingiro
35. HW Semondo Benson	Kira
36. HW Kainza Beatrice	Ibanda/Kiruhura
37. HW Nalungi Esther	Bushulu
38. HW Toloko Simon	Bushenyi/Buhweju/Mitooma
39. HW Awacnedi Freddie	Kotido
40. HW Mukanza Robert	Nebbi
41. HW Okumu Jude Muwone	Jinja
42. HW Nvanungi Sylvia	Masaka



Name	Court
43. HW Aciro Joan	Anti-Corruption Division
44. HW Okeny Susanne Abwoch	Mengo (2nd Chief Magistrate)
Other Chief Magistrates	
45. Dr. Omalla Felix	Interdiction

MAGISTRATES GRADE I

Name	Court
On Assignment	
1. HW Lochomin Peter Fred	Personal Assistant to CJ
2. HW Mwesigye Julius	Personal Assistant to PJ
3. HW Gakyaro Mpirwe Allan	Personal Assistant to CR
4. HW Karamagi Pamela May	Research, JTI
5. HW Naigaga Winfred Kyobiika	Law Reporting Officer II, JTI
6. HW Bwambale Daniel Busathiro	Law Reporting Officer I, JTI
Chambers Of Justices/Judges	
7. HW Atim Sheilla Gloria	Head of Research, CJ's Chambers
8. HW Atono Willy	Chief Registrar's Chambers
9. Wemesa Caroline	Court of Appeal (Attached to Chambers of Lady Justice Catherine Bamugemereire)
10. HW Nalubowa Mary Goretti	Civil Division (Attached to Chambers of Justice Emmanuel Baguma)
11. HW Akello Rebecca	Supreme Court (Attached to Chambers of Lady Justice Percy Tuhaise)
12. HW Amongine Eva Oteu	Commercial Court (Attached to Chambers of Lady Justice Susan Abinyo)
13. HW Kemigisha Millicent	Family Division (Attached to Chambers of Lady Justice Alice Komuhangi)
14. HW Basajja Steven	Fort Portal High Court Circuit (Attached to Chambers of Justice Vincent Emmy Mugabo)
15. HW Kyegombe Enock	Masaka High Court Circuit (Attached to Chambers of Lady Justice Victoria Katamba)
16. HW Muwonge William	Mbale High Court Circuit (Attached to Chambers of Lady Justice Margaret Apiny)
17. HW Namayanja Victoria	Arua High Court Circuit (Attached to Chambers of Justice Isahserunkuma)
Anti-Corruption Court	
18. HW Namusoby Sarah	Anti-Corruption Court
19. HW Asimwe Abert	Anti-Corruption Court
20. HW Mushebebe Moses Nabende (Principal Magistrate)	Anti-Corruption Court
Alebtong Magisterial Area	
21. HW Aber Irene	Alebtong
22. HW Wamimbi Jonathan William	Apala
23. HW Martha Taremwa	Otuke
Apac Magisterial Area	
24. HW Koluo Catherine Elayu	Apac
25. HW Adong Molly Alice	Aduku
Arua Magisterial Area	
26. HW Kedi Paul	Arua
27. HW Ayola Angela	Arua
28. HW Kamuganga Jude	Arua City
Bubulo Magisterial Area	
29. HW Atunga Marion Lyndah	Bududa
30. HW Afoyorwoth Winny Epiphany	Bubulo
Budaka Magisterial Area	
31. HW Namisi Hope	Budaka
32. HW Matanda Abubaker Hassan	Kibuku
Buganda Road Magisterial Area	
33. HW Tuhimbise Valerian (Snr Mag.)	City Hall (In-Charge)
34. HW Nabirye Fatumah	City Hall
35. HW Muhumuza Asuman	Buganda Road

Name	Court
46. HW Teko Lokeris Godfrey	High Court
Acting Chief Magistrates	
47. HW Muggaga John Kavuma	Kamuli
48. HW Watyekere George W.	Kumi /Kapchorwa

Name	Court
36. HW Owomugisha Sienna	Buganda Road
37. HW Otwaio Fidelis	Buganda Road
38. HW Alule Augustine Koma	Ldc Court
39. HW Ninsiima Marion	Ldc Court
Bugiri Magisterial Area	
40. HW Achok Abrahams Moding	Bugiri
41. HW Mazimwe Lillian	Bugiri
Buhweju Magisterial Area	
42. HW Kavuma Dennis	Buhweju
Buliisa Magisterial Area	
43. HW Komakech Kenneth	Buliisa/Biiso
Bundibugyo Magisterial Area	
44. HW Arinaitwe Elisha	Bundibugyo
Bushenyi Magisterial Area	
45. HW Tindyebwa Kingi C. Adyeeri	Rubirizi
46. HW Mwali Stella	Bushenyi
47. HW Tusasirwe Jonard	Bushenyi
48. HW Mayanja Phillip Mukasa	Bushenyi
Busia Magisterial Area	
49. HW Adelo Susan	Busia
50. HW Avako Specioza	Busia
Dokolo Magisterial Area	
51. HW Kaibei Cherotich	Dokolo
52. HW Butoto Hassan Masaba	Amolatar
Entebbe Magisterial Area	
53. HW Kabugho Elizabeth	Entebbe
54. HW Sikhoya Naume	Entebbe
55. HW Okwong Stella Paculal	Entebbe
Fort Portal Magisterial Area	
56. HW Ayebare Daphine	Fort Portal
57. HW Mwesiga Dan	Fort Portal
58. HW Namankati Annet	Fort Portal
Gulu Magisterial Area	
59. HW Kwizera Vian	Gulu
60. HW Turibamwe Christine	Gulu
Hoima Magisterial Area	
61. HW Nankya Winnie	Hoima
62. HW Esther Asimwe	Hoima
Ibanda Magisterial Area	
63. HW Murungi Esther	Ibanda
Iganga Magisterial Area	
64. HW Nakato Josephine Ddembe	Iganga
65. HW Ndiwalana Yunusu	Iganga
66. HW Busulwa Ivan	Iganga
67. HW Nsaire Proscovia	Busembatia
68. HW Longoli Matthew	Namutumba
69. HW Namayanja Nazifah	Kaliro
Isingiro Magisterial Area	
70. HW Muhangi Saverino G. Bugingo	Isingiro
Jinja Magisterial Area	
71. HW Kintu Christine C.	Jinja
72. HW Nsoby Ronald Kanya	Jinja
73. HW Wegoye Joel	Jinja
74. HW Ochieng Yafesi	Jinja
75. HW Musiime Agnes	Jinja
76. HW Kambedha Lydia	Bugembe
Kabale Magisterial Area	
77. HW Olupot Pascal	Kabale
78. HW Tabaruka Racheal	Kabale



LIST OF UGANDA JUDICIAL OFFICERS

Name	Court
Kaberamaido Magisterial Area	
79. HW Kayuki Edward	Kaberamaido
Kajjansi Magisterial Area	
80. HW GimuguKabiri Kenneth	Kajjansi
81. HW BirungiPhionah	Kajjansi
Kalangala Magisterial Area	
82. HW Epobu Daniel	Kalangala
Kamuli Magisterial Area	
83. HW Kebirungi Natukunda Joy	Kamuli
84. HW Sumaya Kasule	Buyende
Kamwenge Magisterial Area	
85. HW Kirya Martins	Kamwenge
Kanungu Magisterial Area	
86. HW Mukobi Asanasio	Kanungu
Kapchorwa Magisterial Area	
87. HW Magara Robert	Kapchorwa
88. HW Wiiwo Fatuma Rashid	Kapchorwa
89. HW Kibuuka Christian	Bukwo
90. HW Mugweri Ambrose	Bukwo
Kasangati Magisterial Area	
91. HW NsengeRoseline	Kasangati
92. HW NangobiMiria Jackie	Kasangati
Kasese Magisterial Area	
93. HW Nyakana Allan	Kasese
94. HW Karakire Edgar	Bwera/Lake Katwe
Katakwi Magisterial Area	
95. HW Owino Paul Abdonson	Katakwi
96. HW Nakoko Isaac	Amuria
Kayunga Magisterial Area	
97. HW Agwango Julian	Kayunga
98. HW Kyoshabire Caroline	Kayunga
99. HW Acao Rophine	Kagulumira
Kibaale Magisterial Area	
100. HW Niyokwizera Emmanuel	Kibaale
101. HW Lwanga Benedict Nsibambi	Kagadi
102. HW Kaiza Elias Abdallah	Kakumiro
Kiboga Magisterial Area	
103. HW Bbosa Michael	Kiboga
104. HW Bamukunda Caroline Clinah	Kiboga
105. H/W Asingwire Faith	Busunju
Kira Magisterial Area	
106. HW AnguraFionah Sheila	Kira
Kiruhura Magisterial Area	
107. HW Wakooli Grace	Kiruhura
108. HW Ndhazano Joshua	Kazo
109. HW Obizu Mallen	Sanga
Kiryandongo Magisterial Area	
110. HW Byamugisha Derick	Kiryandongo
111. H/W Amweno Hellen	Kiryandongo
Kisoro Magisterial Area	
112. HW Vueni Raphael	Kisoro
113. HW MucheluleDismas	Kyanika/Kisoro
Kitgum Magisterial Area	
114. HW Akera Derick Otim	Kitgum
115. HW Opio Francis	Lamwo
116. HW Irumba Atwooki B	Atanga
Koboko Magisterial Area	
117. HW Muyunga Ashraf	Koboko
Kotido Magisterial Area	
118. HW Katende Rashid	Kotido
119. HW Aisu Nicholas	Abim
120. HW Owachgiu Richard	Kaabong
Kumi Magisterial Area	
121. HW Tibagonzeka Jane	Ngora
122. HW Maloba Ivan	Kumi
123. HW Sabakaki Pauline	Kumi
124. HW Kimono Juliana	Bukedea
Kyenjojo Magisterial Area	

Name	Court
125. HW BabuWaiswa	Kyenjojo
126. HW Wandera Wilson	Kyegegwa
Lira Magisterial Area	
127. HW Ariokot Esther Joyce	Lira
128. HW Murangira Tanazio Hillary	Lira
129. HW Nyanzi Pamela Persis Mary	Lira
130. HW Kampire Sylvie	Lira
131. HW Nyakairu Edger	Kole/Aboke
Lugazi Magisterial Area	
132. HW Wagana Margaret Ihorere	Lugazi
133. HW Egessa Wilberforce Masaaka	Njeru
134. HW Acidri Bridget	Njeru
135. HW Kyomugisha Evelyne Setrina	Buikwe
Luwero Magisterial Area	
136. HW John Paul Obuya	Luwero
137. HW Rukundo Isaac	Luwero
138. HW Acaa Ketty Joan	Nakaseke
139. HW Bagyenda Hope	Wobulenzi
140. HW Kayaga Salima	Bombo
Makindye Magisterial Area	
141. HW Nambatya Irene	Makindye
142. HW Tukundane Patience Lorna	Makindye
143. HW Osauro John Pauls	Makindye
144. HW Igga Adiru	Makindye
Masaka Magisterial Area	
145. HW Nantege Christine (Snr Mag.)	Masaka
146. HW Nyakato Maureen	Masaka
147. HW Twongeyirwe Joshua	Masaka
148. HW Nasasira Bridget	Masaka
149. HW Nzwebe Philip	Masaka
150. HW Ahumuza Peter Mugisha	Masaka Municipal
151. HW Basajjabalaba Jalia	Kalungu
152. HW Namudiba Sandra Agnes	Kalungu
153. HW Asiku Swaleh	Mbirizi
154. HW Subira Pheona	Kyazanga
155. HW Natembo Aisha	Bukomansimbi/Butenga
Masindi Magisterial Area	
156. HW BiwagaSelsa	Masindi
157. HW Naluyima Victoria	Masindi
Mayuge Magisterial Area	
158. HW Nabukeera Aisha	Mayuge
Mbale Magisterial Area	
159. HW Katurubuki Andrew	Mbale
160. HW Nakazzi Mary Goretti	Mbale
161. HW Najjuko Evelyn	Mbale
162. HW Mudega Hope	Mbale Municipal
Mbarara Magisterial Area	
163. HW Ainembabazi Doreen	Mbarara
164. HW Seruwo Benjamin Martin	Mbarara
165. HW Okiror Edmund Okwi	Mbarara
166. HW Nyevu Aziiza	Rubindi
167. HW Tiyo Jonathan	Bwizibwera
Mengo Magisterial Area	
168. HW Matovu Hood	Mengo
169. HW Nassozi Rehema Ssebowa	Mengo
170. HW Zako Dorcas	Mengo
171. HW Lumunye Timothy	Rubaga/Nateete
172. HW Mugezi Amon	Rubaga/Nateete
Mitooma Magisterial Area	
173. HW Mujuni Paul	Mitooma
Mityana Magisterial Area	
174. HW Lamunu Peace Elizabeth	Mityana
175. HW Agumaasiimwe Damalie	Mityana
Moroto Magisterial Area	
176. HW SsenogaJuma	Moroto
Moyo Magisterial Area	
177. HW Padoko Gerald	Moyo
178. HW Nantaawo Agnes Shelagh	Adjumani
Mpigi Magisterial Area	

Name	Court
179. HW Mukoya Maureen	Mpigi
180. HW Semwanga Nalugya Mariam	Mpigi
181. HW Byarugaba Adam	Mpigi
182. HW Awidi Suzan	Buwama (In-Charge)
183. HW Kabugho Byakutaga Caroline	Nsangi (In-Charge)
184. HW Bomukama Pamela Muhwezi	Nsangi
185. HW Karungi Doreen Olga	Bujuuko
Mubende Magisterial Area	
186. HW Kiwanuka Hillary	Mubende
187. HW Atim Harriet Okello	Mubende
Mukono Magisterial Area	
188. HW Kagoya Jackline	Mukono
189. HW Muinda Tadeo	Mukono
190. HW Koburunga Patience	Mukono
191. HW Gukiina Peter	Nakifuma
192. HW Nakibuuka Fiona	Nakisunga
193. HW Adong Suzan	Goma
Nabweru Magisterial Area	
194. HW Mukasa Sanyu	Nabweru
195. HW Nakyazze Rachael	Nabweru
196. HW Agelun Winifred	Nabweru
197. HW Ziraba Arthur	Nabweru
198. HW Nakibinge Latif Abubakar	Matugga
199. HW Ahurira Faith	Matugga
Nakapiripirit Magisterial Area	
200. HW Oyirwoth Jerry	Nakapiripirit
Nakasangola Magisterial Area	
201. HW Tibayeita Edgar	Nakasangola
Nakawa Magisterial Area	
202. HW Akello Irene	Nakawa
203. HW Immaculate Nyamwenge	Nakawa
204. HW Odwori Ponsiano Romans	Nakawa
205. HW Nahirya Esther	Nakawa
206. HW Niwaha Shallon	Luzira
207. HW Namwanje Rehmur	Luzira
Nebbi Magisterial Area	
208. HW Kintu Imoran Isaac	Nebbi
209. HW Obol Oroya Conrad	Paidha
210. HW Wananda Richard	Pakwach
Ntoroko Magisterial Area	
211. HW Byekitinisa Franklin	Ntoroko
Ntungamo Magisterial Area	
212. HW Namubiru Mariam	Ntungamo
213. HW Sharon Nassuna	Ntungamo
214. HW Kakuru Edgar	Rubaare
Nwoya Magisterial Area	
215. HW Anyeko Susan	Nwoya
216. HW Nyero Patrick Reagan	Amuru
Oyam Magisterial Area	

Name	Court
217. HW Matyama Paul	Oyam
Pader Magisterial Area	
218. HW Akankwasa Edward Kabayo	Pader
219. HW Alioni Emmanuel Drajole	Patongo
220. HW Abilu Isaac	Kalongo/ Patongo
Pallisa Magisterial Area	
221. HW Nantongo Sarah	Pallisa
Rakai Magisterial Area	
222. HW Mfitindinda George	Kalisizo
223. HW Kitiyo Patrick	Rakai
224. HW Otim Moses	Lyantonde
225. HW Ategeka Ignatius	Kyotera
Rukungiri Magisterial Area	
226. HW NamukasaHamidah	Rukungiri
227. HW Wakayemba Martin	Rukungiri
228. HW OkelloWelbourne	Nyarushanje
Sembabule Magisterial Area	
229. HW Oburu Morris Ezra	Sembabule
Sironko Magisterial Area	
230. HW Mutala Peter	Sironko
231. HW Akoko Patrick Synclair	Bulambuli
Soroti Magisterial Area	
232. HW TumuhimbiseNause	Soroti
233. HW Pirimba Emmanuel	Soroti
234. HW Nyipir Fortunate	Serere
Standards, Utilities & Wildlife Court	
235. HW Mangeni Marion	Standards, Utilities & Wildlife
236. HW Nambozo Sanula	Standards, Utilities & Wildlife
Tororo Magisterial Area	
237. HW Kyomuhangi Happy Anne (Snr. Mag)	Butaleja
238. HW Opit Christopher	Tororo
239. HW Wanda David Grace	Tororo Municipal
240. HW Nabafu Agnes (Snr. Mag)	Malaba
Wakiso Magisterial Area	
241. HW Ssajjabi Noah Norbert	Wakiso
242. HW Nyadoi Esther	Wakiso
243. HW Natwijuka Aloysius Baryeza	Nansana
244. HW Oji Phillip	Kakiri
Yumbe Magisterial Area	
245. HW Tibenkana Ali	Yumbe
Other Magistrates Grade One	
246. HW Seguya Ivan	Study Leave
247. HW Namae Irene	Study Leave
248. HW OpioBelmosOgwang	Interdiction
249. HW MagomuNasuru	Interdiction
250. HW Akena Geoffrey	Interdiction
251. HW Bagenyi Dorothy	Interdiction
252. HW NgamijeMbaleFaishal	Interdiction

MAGISTRATES GRADE II

Name	Court
1. HW Wabuze Lydia	Mukono
2. HW Waidhuba Steven Johnson	Mukono
3. HW Onyang Jolly Rose	Mukono
4. HW Opio Charles Kangira	Mpigi
5. HW Kamba Richard	Mpigi
6. HW Okipi John Robert	Makindye
7. HW Baguma Catherine	Kiboga
8. HW Odoi Moses Tabu	Kiboga
9. HW Tusiime Anania	Mbarara
10. HW Nkurunziza Francis	Mbarara
11. HW Muhanguzi Copan	Mbarara
12. HW Gidudu Fred	Kisoro/Ikumba
13. HW Mulindwa Nathan	Fort Portal

14. HW Nuwagira Richard	Ibanda
15. HW Abahwere Fortunate	Ibanda
16. HW Saabu Steven K.	Kasese
17. HW Chemonges Satya	Mbale
18. HW Napiyo Agnes	Soroti
19. HW Muwonge Noah Muhammad	Mubende
20. HW Atukwase Kamara Jovile	Mubende
21. HW Bbosa Charles Lutalo	Masaka
22. HW RutajengwaEdphonse	Masaka
23. HW LotyangPaolins A.	Kotido
24. HW Kamukama Fortunate	Kiruhura/Kazo
25. HW Ojikan Francis	Iganga
Other Magistrates Grade II	
26. HW Keran Peter Prosper	Interdiction





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