



THE JUDICIARY

INSIDER

Chief Justice Owiny — Dollo: Five Years of Transforming Uganda's Judiciary

Justice by the Numbers (2020–2025)

BUDGET

Increased from
Shs 199B to

**Shs
435B**

CASES

DISPOSED

From 156,875 in
2020/21 to

239,431
in 2023/24

TECHNOLOGY

31 courts
digitised under ECCMIS

eccmis
ELECTRONIC COURT CASE MANAGEMENT
INFORMATION SYSTEM



SPECIAL SECTION : HON. CHIEF JUSTICE BENEDICTO KIWANUKA 8th MEMORIAL LECTURE

- » How Ben Kiwanuka executed the judicial oath and paid the ultimate price
- » Benedicto Kiwanuka: From Martyrdom to Digital Dawn
- » Articles from the Family



PICTORIAL



Performance Enhancement Training for select Judges of the High Court and Registrars at the Supreme Court Building Conference Hall on 1st April, 2025.



Officials from the Inspectorate of Government during a benchmarking visit at the Judiciary Call Centre at the Judiciary Headquarters, Kampala, on 4th August, 2025.



The Acting Principal Judge, Lady Justice Okuo Jane Kajuga presided over the launch of Kumi High Court Circuit on 13th May, 2025.



Rukungiri High Court building was commissioned by the Deputy Chief Justice on 30th May, 2025.



The Chief Justice, Justice Alfonse Chigamoy Owiny — Dollo, joined by other stakeholders at the commissioning of Patongo Chief Magistrates Court building. On the same day, he launched Patongo High Court Circuit. This was on 12th May, 2025.



Honoring a Legacy of Courage and Justice

Every September, as a Judiciary, we recall a painful but uplifting part of our history: the life and death of Justice Benedicto Kiwanuka. His name will always be remembered as the first Prime Minister and first Ugandan Chief Justice. He was also a man of strong beliefs, unbreakable honesty, and unbounded love for his country.

The features in this issue, through the perspectives of his children, family, and the Judiciary, show that Justice Benedicto Kiwanuka was a brilliant public servant but a kind person in private life. They remind us that real leadership isn't only about the positions you hold or the policies you make; it's also about the values you inculcate, the fun you have at home, and the sacrifices you make for what you believe in.

Justice Kiwanuka's bravery in upholding the rule of law, even when it put his life in danger, is still a guiding light for the Judiciary and for everyone who believes in justice. His love of learning, his sense of humour and humility around the family table, and his dream of a better Uganda continue to inspire people long after he died.

As we remember him with this tribute, let's not only look back in sadness at what we lost, but also forward with determination to continue on his legacy. His example should make us more determined to preserve justice without fear or favour, serve with honesty, and make sure that the values he lived and died for stay alive in our country's institutions.

This issue is both a homage and a charge: even though his life was cut short, his spirit lives on in the family he raised, the Judiciary of Uganda and in the Country he loved so much.

HW Lamunu Pamella Ocaya

Ag. Chief Registrar

INSIDE..

- 2** Chief Justice Owiny — Dollo: Five Years of Transforming Uganda's Judiciary
- 7** Public Opinion and Judicial Integrity: Chief Justice Owiny — Dollo weighs in
- 8** How Ben Kiwanuka Executed the Judicial Oath and Paid the Ultimate Price
- 14** Benedicto Kiwanuka: From Martyrdom to Digital Dawn
- 16** In Memory of Our Patriarch – Benedicto Kiwanuka
- 24** CJ Takes Lead on Uganda-Namibia Efforts to Reimagine African Legal Systems Through ADR
- 26** Justice Decentralised: Breaking Ground for Regional Courts of Appeal in Gulu and Mbarara
- 29** Honouring a Judicial Giant: Deputy Chief Justice Emeritus Richard Buteera
- 31** Family Division Rolls Out Special Court Sessions to Tackle Surge in Letters of Administration Extensions
- 32** Driving Judicial Excellence: JTI Leads with Training, Mentorship, and Innovation
- 36** From Moot to ICD, Supreme Court: East Africa's Budding Lawyers Step into History
- 38** What Does Justice Feel Like to the People it Serves?
- 40** Uganda's Landmark Case Against Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Shapes Regional Gender-Sensitive Jurisprudence
- 43** The Unapologetic Legacy of Justice Prof. George W. Kanyeihamba

EDITORIAL TEAM

Chief Registrar/Editor-in-Chief	HW Lamunu Pamella Ocaya
Public Relations Officer	HW James Ereemye Jumire Mawanda
Principal Communications Officer/Editor	Sheila Wamboga
Copy Editors	Halimah Kaggwa (Senior Client Service Officer) Ruth Ashaba (Senior Communications Officer)
Special Contributors	Justice Karoli Ssemogerere, Amb. Maurice Peter Kagimu Kiwanuka, Josephine Kiwanuka, Maxencia Kiwanuka, Regina Kiwanuka and Roseline Nsenge
Contributors	Danielle Nalukenge, Evas Kobusingye, Joel Wegoye, Ritah Mukundane, Patience Nahurira Kengoro, Rose Ampurira and Ruth Ashaba
Photography	Danielle Nalukenge (Multimedia Officer)
Design & Print	Slick Republic Limited



President Museveni commissioned the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal buildings on 18th April, 2024.

Chief Justice Owinj — Dollo: Five Years of Transforming Uganda's Judiciary

When Hon. Justice Alfonse Chigamoy Owinj — Dollo was appointed Chief Justice of Uganda in August 2020, he identified that the Judiciary was grappling with deep-rooted challenges, crippling case backlog, underfunding, and limited access to justice for millions of people. Five years later, his tenure is being remembered as a period of bold reform, marked by both structural transformation and a renewed human face for Uganda's justice system.

From Advocate to Chief Justice

Owinj — Dollo's journey to the apex of Uganda's Judiciary is as remarkable as it is inspiring. A practicing lawyer for 23 years before joining the bench in 2008, he had already left his mark as a delegate to the Constituent Assembly that framed the 1995 Constitution, a Government Minister, and later Deputy Chief Justice. He is also remembered for presiding over the 2010 Kampala bombings case, delivering

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“Justice is not just a service—it is a right.”
CJ Owinj — Dollo

a landmark judgment that cemented his reputation for firmness and fairness.

His personal story is equally striking: a law degree from Makerere University, a Masters in Conflict Resolution from the University of Bradford and, most recently, a Masters in Dispute Resolution from Pepperdine University in the United States. His life's work reflects a balance between the need for peace and the demand for justice, a theme that has defined his leadership.

The Transformation Agenda

Upon being appointed Chief Justice



of Uganda on 20th August 2020, Hon. Alfonse Chigamoy Owiny – Dollo studied the challenges affecting justice service delivery in Uganda – chief of them being case backlog and inaccessible justice services. He set his foot down to ameliorate them, through the Judiciary Transformation Agenda, 2020-2025. His Transformation Plan was a realistic dream of what he could humanly achieve as a Chief Justice in the short five-year span that he would be in office.

Together with the Judiciary Top Management team comprising Hon. Justice Richard Buteera, DCJ, Hon. Justice Dr. Flavian Zeija, PJ, HW Sarah Langa Siu, CR and Dr. Pius Bigirimana, PS/SJ, the team agreed on a number of interventions and synergies that were necessary to realise the Judiciary Vision in the short run.

Facilitated by the Judicial Service Commission, the Judiciary Council, the various heads of Departments and the Judiciary Committees; and working hand in hand with the Judicial Training Institute and the Inspectorate of Courts, the Chief Justice promised to substantially achieve these dreams in the five years.

Under the Judiciary Transformation Agenda, 2020/21-2025/26, the Judiciary has mobilized tools and resources and redirected its fight against delays



A total of 15 additional High Court Circuits have been operationalized under the Chief Justice Owiny – Dollo's reign. Wakiso High Court Circuit was launched on 5th June, 2025.

and case backlog and has focused on enhancing access to justice services across Uganda by concentrating energies on a few pivotal areas.

These are:

- Consolidating and harnessing the efforts commenced by the previous Judiciary administration and enhancing the works and programs initiated by them.
- Enhancing the Judiciary Staff Structure and recruitment and deployment of more judicial and non-judicial officers and providing them with modern and adequate tools of work.

- Establishing more Courts across the country in order to eliminate case backlog and to bring justice services nearest to the people.
- Strengthening the Judicial Training Institute to offer up-to-date capacity building and refresher training to the judicial and non-judicial staff.
- Reinforcing the Inspectorate of Courts, to effectively supervise court operations, promote judicial accountability and fight corruption.
- Promoting innovations, simplifying court processes and enhancing the use of ICT in case management and delivery of justice services.

Milestones Achieved

Budget Growth: Perhaps his most visible triumph was securing a dramatic budget increase. Judiciary funding rose from Shs 199 billion in 2020/21 to Shs 435 billion by 2025/26, enabling new infrastructure, staff recruitment, and technological innovation.

Improved Court Performance: Case disposal grew significantly—from 156,875

cases in 2020/21 to 239,431 in 2023/24. Even as caseloads rose, backlog dropped from 32% to 26.3%, a rare success in Africa's congested justice systems.

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR): Owiny — Dollo became a continental voice for ADR, launching Uganda's **Alternative Justice Systems Strategy** in 2023 and spearheading the **African**

Chief Justices Forum on ADR, where he now serves as pioneer chair.

Digitisation: Under his leadership, the **Electronic Court Case Management Information System (ECCMIS)** was rolled out in 31 courts, improving efficiency, and making court files accessible anytime, anywhere.



Infrastructure Revolution: For the first time in history, the Judiciary secured permanent homes for the **Supreme Court and Court of Appeal**, saving billions of shillings paid previously in rent. Several new High Court circuits

and magistrates' courts were opened, bringing justice closer to underserved communities.

Human Capital Expansion: Judicial staff expanded dramatically—Appeal justices

grew from 14 to 21, High Court judges from 56 to 88, Registrars from 44 to 74, Chief Magistrates from 54 to 100 and Magistrates Grade I from 165 to 397. Enhanced salaries and retirement benefits improved morale across the board.



Twenty one newly appointed Judges of the High Court at the swearing-in ceremony on 4th March, 2025.

Trials Along the Way

The journey was not without obstacles. Despite budget increases, resources remained inadequate for the Judiciary's vast mandate. Infrastructure gaps persisted, with some courts still operating from rented premises. Administrative staff salaries lagged behind judicial officers, dampening morale. In regions such as Karamoja, insecurity and poor roads hampered justice delivery.

Legacy and Future

As Justice Owiny - Dollo's five-year transformation plan concludes, his legacy stands tall. The Supreme Court and Court of Appeal now operate from modern premises, has a stronger

workforce, reduced backlog, and is globally recognized for pioneering ADR. More importantly, he has restored public



Chief Justice, Alfonse Chigamoy Owiny — Dollo during his swearing-in ceremony at State House on 20th August, 2020.

confidence by reminding Ugandans that justice is not just a service, it is a right.

For a man who once sat face-to-face with warlord Joseph Kony in the jungles of Garamba, Owiny — Dollo's career has been defined by a singular vision: reconciling peace and justice. In steering Uganda's Judiciary through one of its most transformative eras, he has shown that leadership, anchored in both humanity and reform, can move even the slowest wheels of justice forward.

"Long live Chief Justice Owiny — Dollo, long live the Judiciary," many now say, not as a farewell, but as a salute to a legacy of transformation and hope. ●



Justice by the Numbers (2020–2025)

- **Shs 199B → Shs 435B** — Judiciary budget more than doubled.
- **239,431 cases disposed** in 2023/24 (up from 156,875 in 2020/21).
- **Case backlog reduced** by 5.7%.
- **31 courts digitised** under ECCMIS.
- **New staff recruited:**



Justices of
Appeal
14 → 21



High Court
Judges
56 → 89



Registrars
44 → 74



Chief
Magistrates
54 → 100



Magistrates
Grade
165 → 397

Uganda on the Global Judicial Stage

- Hosted the **17th International Association of Women Judges Conference (2022)**.
- Convened the **African Chief Justices ADR Summit (2024)**.
- Led Uganda's participation in **ADR conferences in Zambia, Namibia, and Zanzibar**.
- Chief Justice Owiny — Dollo elected **pioneer Chair of the African Chief Justices Forum on ADR**.

Key Reforms at a Glance

- **Permanent homes** built for the **Supreme Court and Court of Appeal**, ending costly rent.
- **Alternative Justice Systems (AJS) Strategy** launched in 2023 to integrate African dispute resolution methods.
- **Judiciary Council inaugurated** (2021) to strengthen governance under the Administration of the Judiciary Act.
- **Expanded court access** with new High Court Circuits in Moroto, Tororo, Iganga, Hoima, Rukungiri, Kitgum, Bushenyi, Kiboga, Kasese, Patongo, Kumi, Lugazi, Entebbe and Wakiso

Human Touch in Leadership

- Owiny — Dollo is remembered not only for reforms, but also for moments of humanity: from meeting **Joseph Kony** in the Garamba jungles during peace talks, to championing **community-rooted justice systems** that prioritise reconciliation as much as punishment.



“Mediation is not just innovation—it is a return to our African roots of justice.”

CJ Owiny — Dollo



Increased Stakeholder Engagements

- The Judiciary has deliberately engaged court users to make services more accessible and user-friendly.
- Court Open Days have been organised in various High Court Circuits and Magisterial Areas across the country.
- The National Court Open Day at Kololo Independence Grounds brought together: The Hon. Chief Justice, Heads and staff of the Supreme Court, Court of Appeal, and High Court Divisions

Key partners: Uganda Police, Uganda Prisons, ODPP, Ministry of Justice, and the Industrial Court

- These engagements allowed the public to interact directly with justice institutions, raise concerns, and learn about court services.
- Sensitisation campaigns on television, radio, and social media have bridged information gaps, making justice services more understandable.
- Complaints are received and addressed promptly, while the public is educated on how to access court services and where to lodge grievances.

Implementation of the Administration of the Judiciary Act (AJA)

- The Chief Justice inaugurated the Judiciary Council on 30th March 2021, mandated by the AJA to advise on the administration of the Judiciary.
- To operationalise the Act and strengthen administration, several Statutory Instruments were enacted:
- Administration of the Judiciary (Judiciary Council) (Procedure) Rules, S.I. No. 43 of 2021
- Administration of the Judiciary (Inspectorate of Courts) Regulations, S.I. No. 92 of 2023
- Administration of the Judiciary (Establishment of Committees) Regulations, S.I. No. 93 of 2023
- Judicature (Designation of High Court Circuits) Instrument, S.I. No. 94 of 2023
- Magistrates Courts (Magisterial Areas and Magistrates Courts) Instrument, 2023

These instruments have:

- Strengthened administrative structures within the Judiciary
- Enhanced inspection and oversight of courts
- Established new courts, circuits, and magisterial areas across the country
- Expanded court services, making justice more accessible to the public

Key International Engagements by the Uganda Judiciary

- **2nd Annual East African Judicial Conference** – 25th–28th Oct 2022, Kampala
- The **2nd Annual East African Judicial Conference** (25th–28th October 2022)
- The **17th International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ) Conference** (26th–29th October 2022)
- The **20th East African Magistrates and Judges Conference (EAMJA)** (4th–8th December 2023)
- The **First High-Level National Summit on Alternative Justice Systems** (26th–27th June 2023)
- The **African Chief Justices ADR Summit** (March 2024)
- The **Southern and Eastern Africa Chief Justices' Forum Conference** (30th September–2nd October 2024, Kampala)



- The **African Continent ADR Commercial Courts Summit**, under the auspices of SIFoCC (23rd–24th May 2025)
- The **Southern and Eastern Africa Chief Justices' Forum Conference** in Zanzibar (28th–29th April 2025)
- The **National Conference on ADR** in Namibia (2nd–7th June 2025)
- The **Opening of the New Law Year and Launch of Mediation** in Lusaka, Zambia (6th January 2025)
- The **High-Level Meeting of Chief Justices and Heads of Constitutional Courts** in Cairo, Egypt (June 2021)



Public Opinion and Judicial Integrity: Chief Justice Owiny — Dollo weighs in

The 8th Edition of the Courts & Society Webinar Series (CSWS), presented online on 25th April, 2024, provided a profound perspective on the fragile convergence of law, democracy, and public perception. Hon. Chief Justice Alfonse Chigamoy Owiny — Dollo delivered the keynote address, which focused on theme: “The Impact of Public Opinion on Judicial Integrity and Democratic Development.”

The Chief Justice underscored the centrality of *public confidence* in sustaining the legitimacy of democratic institutions.

“The authority of government institutions, including the courts, rests on the confidence and trust the public places in them,” he noted.

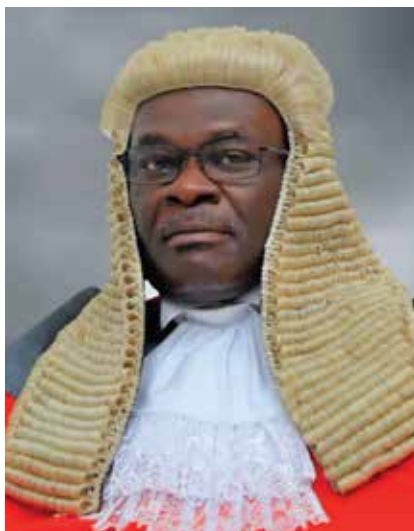
Why Public Confidence Matters

Justice Owiny — Dollo observed that declining trust in political leaders and government institutions is a global phenomenon, and courts are not immune. He explained that public confidence can be measured empirically through opinion polls, focus groups, and surveys, but is also invoked as a self-evident principle when assessing judicial credibility.

At the heart of the debate lies the question: **Who exactly is “the public”?** The Chief Justice described this as a complex and often problematic notion. While researchers may attempt to define “the public,” “the community,” or even “the media,” such definitions are rarely addressed in judicial commentary, leaving ambiguities that complicate discourse on legitimacy.

The Judiciary in a Democratic Space

Unlike the executive and legislature, which are inherently political and accountable to the electorate, the judiciary operates differently. Its role is to decide cases



“Judges are expected to uphold legal principles above all else, yet public opinion often shapes the broader policy environment in which courts operate.”

impartially and dispassionately, applying law to fact without succumbing to popular sentiment.

This position, he said, makes the judiciary uniquely vulnerable to public criticism, yet less equipped to respond. Judicial officers cannot openly engage in political debate

or defend themselves against media narratives. This often creates tension between the courts and the public, which may perceive silence as aloofness.

The Double-Edged Sword of Public Opinion

Public opinion, the Chief Justice explained, can both strengthen and challenge the judiciary:

- **Positive perception** enhances credibility and reinforces the rule of law.
- **Negative perception** erodes legitimacy, especially when the judiciary is seen as corrupt or biased.

Public scrutiny, he added, can deter judicial misconduct by holding officers accountable. Conversely, it can also pressure judges to align decisions with popular sentiment, particularly in politically sensitive cases.

“Judges are expected to uphold legal principles above all else,” Owiny — Dollo emphasised, *“yet public opinion often shapes the broader policy environment in which courts operate.”*

Responding to Criticism

The Chief Justice acknowledged longstanding accusations that the courts appear *“snobbish, fearful, cloistered, and uncooperative with the press.”* Common criticisms include:

- Limited access to Justices for clarifying judgments.
- Failure to provide timely case



information aligned with news cycles.

- Lack of same-day transcripts or video coverage of proceedings.

He admitted that while some tensions with the media are inevitable, **bridges can and should be built**. The judiciary must embrace proactive communication, while the press must commit to fairer, more accurate reporting.

Building a Better Relationship with the Media

Justice Owiny — Dollo called for mutual effort:

- **The Judiciary:** provide timely updates,

“Some tensions with the media are inevitable, but greater tolerance and understanding can move both sides in a democracy-serving direction.”

improve accessibility, and embrace transparency.

- **The Media:** employ legal specialists, avoid sensational “bench bashing,” and balance education with entertainment.

Such collaboration, he said, would not only enhance public understanding of judicial processes but also strengthen democratic governance.

“Public engagement with judicial matters promotes civic education and reinforces the separation of powers, the rule of law, and the protection of rights,” he concluded.

The Chief Justice concluded with a sobering reflection: courts are not intended to reflect popular will, but to restrain political power. While public opinion should shape responsiveness, it must never jeopardise judicial independence. “Responsiveness builds confidence,” he concluded, “but direct response to populist pressures can be dangerous.” Courts must be anchors of democracy, not echoes of public emotion.” ●

Quick Facts: Public Confidence

- **Public trust in courts is as vital as trust in Parliament or the Presidency.**
- **Declining trust undermines legitimacy of the justice system.**
- **Positive opinion strengthens authority and promotes respect for the rule of law.**

PUBLIC CONFIDENCE: THE BEDROCK OF JUDICIAL INTEGRITY



“The authority of government institutions, including courts, rests on the confidence and trust the public places in them.”

- CJ Owiny — Dollo

“Courts must be anchors of democracy, not echoes of public emotion.”

- CJ Owiny — Dollo



The Permanent Secretary/Secretary to the Judiciary, Dr. Pius Bigirimana during the meetings with the teams from IDLO (L) and UNODC (R).

PS Bigirimana discusses support to the Judiciary with IDLO, UNODC

In August, the Permanent Secretary/Secretary to the Judiciary (PS/SJ), Dr. Pius Bigirimana, held high-level meetings with the Heads of the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Uganda. The discussions were aimed at aligning development partner support with Judiciary priorities and enhancing accountability in programme delivery.

BY ROSE
NAMANYA

Communications Officer,
The Judiciary



Deepening Ties with IDLO

During the meeting with IDLO, led by Ms. Barbra Kilei, Country Manager, and Mr. Samson Asiimwe, Programme Manager, Dr. Bigirimana expressed gratitude for IDLO's longstanding collaboration with the Judiciary. He underscored the importance of consistent engagement to avoid uncertainty in planning and funding, noting that harmonised facilitation during trainings, workshops, and conferences was key to easing operational pressures.

Dr. Bigirimana reiterated that all partner-funded initiatives must align strictly with approved Judiciary work plans to prevent additional financial burdens.

In response, Ms. Kilei commended the Judiciary for fostering a strong working relationship. She acknowledged that many challenges stem from funder rules. The IDLO team received the Judiciary's proposed work plan for review and input ahead of formal endorsement.

Strategic Engagement with UNODC

In a separate engagement, Dr. Bigirimana met with the UNODC team led by Ms. Sharon Lesa Nyambe, Head of Office, alongside Ms. Alejandra Euceda, Programme Coordinator, and Ms. Angella Tusiime, Communications Officer.

Welcoming the partnership, Dr. Bigirimana emphasised the need for early and integrated planning, stressing that all partner activities should be captured in the Judiciary's annual workplan for smoother implementation. He urged UNODC to provide for attendant costs when designing activities, warning that ad hoc requests

during the financial year would not be prioritised.

Ms. Nyambe explained that UNODC operates under a project-based funding model tied to specific capacity-building outputs and participant groups, which often limits broader coverage. Both sides agreed to review donor policies and explore mechanisms for "full-package" support that adequately caters to Judiciary operational requirements.

A Coordinated Way Forward

The meetings were also attended by senior Judiciary officials, including Ms. Maureen Kasande (Under Secretary), HW John Paul Edoku (Registrar, Planning, Research and Development), Ms. Nuruh Ntabadde (Statistician), and Mr. Ronald Mumbere (Statistician).

The engagements marked a significant step toward ensuring that development partner support translates into impactful and sustainable contributions to justice delivery in Uganda. ●



When PS/SJ Bigirimana visited Law Development Centre

In September 2025, the Permanent Secretary/Secretary to the Judiciary, Dr. Pius Bigirimana, paid a courtesy call to the Law Development Centre (LDC), a place that holds a special place in his professional journey. As an alumnus who studied there in 1986, Dr. Bigirimana used the occasion to both commend and encourage the institution's leadership for the remarkable work it continues to do in shaping Uganda's legal landscape.

A Homecoming and a Call to Excellence

During his visit, Dr. Bigirimana pledged his support to both the institution and the **LDC Court**, assuring the leadership of his commitment to strengthening collaboration between the Judiciary and the Centre. He toured the LDC's library, encouraging management to keep improving its digital infrastructure in order to expand access to knowledge and preserve legal resources for future generations.

In his remarks, Dr. Bigirimana urged the institution to remain steadfast in offering quality legal education, underscoring that a strong justice system contributes not only to Uganda's development but also to the broader global community.

Guided Tour by LDC Leadership

The tour was led by the Director, Dr. Pamela Tibihikirra-Kalyegira, who was joined by other Heads of Department, including Mr. Hamis Ddunga Lukyamuzi (Secretary/Head HR and Administration), Mr. Joseph Semugabi (Head, Library), Mr. Precious Ngabirano (Head, Department of Law and Continuing Legal Education), Mr. Paul Mukiibi (Head, Law Reporting, Research and Law Reform), Ms. Lydia Namuli (Manager, Legal Aid Clinic), and Mr. Joel Senabulya (Manager, Publishers).



Dr. Bigirimana thanked the LDC leadership for the commendable work.

Their presence highlighted the collective effort that drives the LDC's continued relevance as a pillar of Uganda's justice system.

Building the Future Together

Dr. Bigirimana's visit was more than a nostalgic return to his alma mater—it was a reaffirmation of the Judiciary's commitment to supporting institutions that nurture the next generation of legal professionals. His call for innovation, accountability, and quality training resonated as a timely reminder that the future of justice in Uganda is closely tied



Dr. Bigirimana was presented with a gift of a clock by the Director LDC.

to the continued excellence of the Law Development Centre. ●



Ag. CR Holds First Engagement with Magistrates in Charge of Stations

The Acting Chief Registrar, Her Worship Lamunu Pamella Ocaya, has held her first official meeting with Magistrates Grade I in charge of court stations since assuming office. The engagement, convened at the Supreme Court Conference Hall, provided a critical platform for magistrates to review statistical data from their courts, assess performance, exchange best practices, and reflect on emerging trends in case management.

BY **DANIELLE NALUKENGE**
Multimedia Officer,
The Judiciary



In her opening remarks, HW Lamunu applauded all the magistrates for their resilience and dedication. She described the progress made in reducing case backlog at their rank as a remarkable achievement, commending them for “holding the fort on behalf of the Chief Justice and dispensing justice to the people.”

Highlighting institutional milestones, the Acting Chief Registrar pointed to the operationalisation of five additional High Court Circuits, Wakiso, Entebbe, Patongo, Lugazi, and Kumi, which increased the number of functional circuits to 29 out of 38. She also noted the successful rollout of video conferencing facilities in five courts and 18 prisons with support from UNDP, expressing optimism that further funding would expand this innovation.

HW Lamunu emphasized the importance of judicial officers familiarising themselves with the new Judiciary Service Regulations, which replaced the Public Service Standing Orders, as well as the recently gazetted Judicature (Electronic Filing, Service & Virtual Proceedings) Rules, 2025. She also underscored the significance of the draft Judicial Training Institute Regulations,

recently approved by the Judiciary Council, in advancing professional development. While acknowledging challenges such as late and reduced operational funding, she encouraged magistrates to remain hopeful and committed. She stressed the need to address lengthy remand periods, strengthen service delivery, and maintain high standards of professional conduct, including dress code and communication.

Her Worship Agnes Alum, Registrar in charge of Magistrates Affairs and Data Management, presented a management report that outlined the responsibilities of judicial officers in the administration of their stations. She emphasized diligence, accountability, accurate statistical reporting, timely financial accountabilities, proper management of archives and exhibits, and effective staff supervision. Consistent compliance with these measures, she noted, would not only enhance efficiency but also strengthen performance monitoring and build public confidence in the Judiciary.

The plenary session gave magistrates the chance to raise concerns over utility bills, transport challenges to island courts, lack of signage and furniture, shortage of secretaries to type proceedings, overstaying of staff at certain stations, and inadequate vehicles. These concerns were addressed by senior officials, including Hajji Sulaiman Hirome, Principal Assistant Secretary; Ms. Apophia N. Tumwine, Commissioner Human Resource; HW



The Ag. Chief Registrar, HW Lamunu Pamella Ocaya, shares a light moment with some of the Magistrates Grade I.

Prossy Katushabe, Registrar High Court; and the Acting Chief Registrar herself. It was noted that staffing gaps were being managed through rationalisation, vehicles would be allocated when available, funds to clear utilities had already been secured, and signage would be addressed as resources permitted.

The meeting, moderated by the Judiciary's Public Relations Officer, HW James Ereemye Mawanda, concluded with commendations to the magistrates for their continued efforts. HW Lamunu reminded them that clear and timely communication in their submissions remains essential for the effective functioning of the Judiciary. ●



How Ben Kiwanuka Executed the Judicial Oath and Paid the Ultimate Price

Ben Kiwanuka's last 10 years on earth were marked by a series of ups and downs. As a lawyer, he assisted the ousted first President of Uganda, Sir Edward Muteesa II in disposal of some of his land to meet his upkeep in exile. The Uganda government refused to repatriate the funds for his upkeep bringing relations between Uganda and United Kingdom to unprecedented tension.

Then in 1969, he was arrested with many others under **the Public Order and Security Act of 1967.**

Under this Act, detainees had a right to inquire into why they were detained before a Judge, but not a right to bail or be heard in open court on a bail application. Ben Kiwanuka was detained after an assassination attempt on former President Apollo Milton Obote. The detention orders were signed by the Minister of Internal Affairs.

In 1971 after the fall of Milton Obote, he was released among many other political prisoners. Later he was named Solicitor General, and shortly after in July 1971, he was named Chief Justice. He paid the ultimate price of judicial martyrdom when he was abducted from his chambers at the High Court before his life ended in cold blood shortly after being abducted from his chambers at the High Court on 21st September, 1972. He was just 50 years old. Ben Kiwanuka, had heard and granted a habeas corpus application filed by a British national, businessman, Dan Stewart after his colleagues declined to hear it. Kiwanuka's judicial courage is recorded by a May 1974 study published by the International Commission of Jurists ("ICJ"), "Violations of Human Rights and the Rule of Law in Uganda, at page 46."

"Kiwanuka had made several rulings against the government in the weeks before he was abducted. On 28th August, 1972, one month before he was arrested, he granted bail to a man, warning "As



By Justice Karoli Ssemogerere

Ag. Judge of the High Court (Uganda)

In 1971, after the fall of Milton Obote, Ben Kiwanuka was released among many other political prisoners. Later he was named Solicitor General, and shortly after, in July 1971, he was named Chief Justice.

I have said in many cases, the police should wake up and start to realise the importance of a citizen's freedom. Men should not be held in custody longer than is absolutely necessary". On 8th September, Chief Justice Kiwanuka granted an application for a writ of habeas corpus for a detained British businessman, Mr Donald Stewart. In issuing the order requiring the Attorney-General and the officer in charge of Makindye Military Prison to appear, the Chief Justice stated:" There was a prima facie case of





wrongful detention that is required in a case of this kind". He added: "The military forces of this arrest of any kind whatsoever". (As noted earlier, President Amin subsequently signed a Decree on 4th October, 1972, which retroactively granted broad powers of arrest to the military forces).

In this extract, it is easy to see that Kiwanuka was ahead of his time with key judicial pronouncements on the right to apply for bail under Article 23(6)(a), the prohibition on the state not to detain an accused person without charge under Article 23(4), and the right to an order of habeas corpus under Article 23(9) of the Constitution.

More than 50 years have elapsed after this unfortunate event that marked the beginning of a reign of terror that troubled Uganda for a long time. The discourse on his disappearance remains in our jurisprudence.

The right to an order of habeas corpus is one of the non-derogable rights in our constitution in **Article 44(d)**; so is the right to a fair hearing in **Article 44(c)** of the Constitution. In prisons and courts all over the country, Uganda Prisons are responsible for a little noticed statistic, while reporting the prison population. Number of convicts, number of persons on remand, number of civil debtors, and number of lodgers. Persons born after 1980 may not recognise this statistic' "lodgers". Lodgers once outnumbered convicts and persons

on remand, and were associated with the scourge of detention without trial. Lodgers today are uncommitted prisoners. Common categories today are children, juveniles and undocumented aliens. In the past, political prisoners dominated this category. **Section 57 of The Prisons Act, Cap 325** curtails the authority of the Prisons Service to receive persons without lawful orders from courts. Judicial officers all over the country at the end of the day, sign warrants of production, warrants of committals, sentencing orders to conclude a busy day at the court little aware of the connection they have to Uganda's political history.

In the colonial era and the period immediately after independence, "unwanted persons" could be exiled. The fate that befell Kabaka Mwanga and Omukama Kabalega after they were arrested by the British in 1899, exiled to the Seychelles, a British colony in the Indian ocean. Mwanga II died in British custody in 1903, age 34 as a result of torture or starvation. Kabalega II lived longer and continued to resist British occupation by writing letters and appeals to foreign leaders. In 1923, he died on his way home in "Mpumudde" in present day Jinja City after 24 years in forced exile. It is not clear, whether "Mpumudde" translated into English, as I have rested, describes, the act of Kabalega resting or simply a tree where he sat down and breathed his last.

In these leaders, is the national history against another non-derogable right, the freedom from torture and cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment. Legislation against torture is part of our laws, the **Human Rights Enforcement Act, Cap 12**, a private member's bill to give effect to **Article 50 of the Constitution** allows citizens to petition courts for redress, completes

the legislative scheme whose seeds were sown by the brutal abduction and murder of Ben Kiwanuka.

These rights are not new. They did exist in the Kiwanuka era, but lacked further elaboration and detailed schemes of redress. A notice of motion details urgency, limited proof where uncontroverted facts are pleaded compared to an ordinary action and its cumbersome methods of proof.

These rights don't exist in a vacuum and testing these rights in the courts test the independence of the courts. This situation is not unique to Uganda alone. Managing the competing interest, in safeguarding and protecting individual rights and those of society as a whole. It is a debate that continues to confound jurists all over the world. In the United States, the judicial system is yet to recover from the policy of rendition, holding persons arrested in combat areas in Guantanamo Bay with very limited rights of judicial review of their detention. Today, the courts are still grappling with this policy of rendition, deporting alleged illegal immigrants without a right to recourse to domestic courts. In Europe, Britain found itself in potential violation of orders of the European Court of Human Rights to which it still belongs after leaving the European Union.

So, the storied career of Ben Kiwanuka, legislative leader, Chief Minister, Prime Minister and Chief Justice still has a lot of lessons for us. For Judicial officers, it calls for deep thought each time we are called upon to adjudicate on the rights of the persons before us. Fortunately, history has the lessons of comprehending its lessons. History also has all the warning of failing to apprehend these lessons. Such is the call for judicial courage in the memory of the late Ben Kiwanuka. ●



Benedicto Kiwanuka: From Martyrdom to Digital Dawn

In Uganda's history, Benedicto Kagimu Mugumba Kiwanuka remains a shining monument. As the first Chief Minister, the first Ugandan Chief Justice, and a symbol of judicial bravery, his life was short and his death brutal. Nonetheless, his vision of a fair, independent, and accessible Judiciary endured beyond him.

He walked into the storm knowing that truth is costly, and that justice may demand the ultimate sacrifice. And when he fell, he planted within the soul of the nation a seed, a seed of independence, of resilience, of a Judiciary that would not bow to tyranny.

From dust to digital light

When Kiwanuka's gavel last struck, law reports were guarded treasures: thick volumes gathering dust on shelves, whispers of judgments trapped within walls of libraries. Ordinary Ugandans could not touch them; the law was a language hidden behind curtains.

Today, his legacy blossoms in ways he might never have imagined. The Uganda Legal Information Institute (ULII) has become the beating heart of open justice, where dusty judgments rise again as digital memory, where the law sings not just for lawyers but for farmers in Kasese, teachers in Gulu, traders in Owino, and students across the land. Alongside these judgments and laws, Parliamentary Hansards now echo the debates that shaped our laws, while Government Gazettes chronicle the proclamations that continue to guide the nation, together weaving a Ugandan legal story.

And ULII goes further still, it embraces decisions from specialised tribunals from the Centre for Arbitration and Dispute Resolution to the Electricity Disputes Tribunal, the Equal Opportunities



By Joel Wegoye,

Senior Magistrate I and the head of Law Reporting

Kiwanuka lit the torch. The Judiciary carries it forward. And with Tanzanite's brilliance, that flame will burn brighter than ever, lighting Uganda, lighting Africa, lighting the world.

Commission, the Insurance Appeals Tribunal, the Leadership Code Tribunal, the PPDA Appeals Tribunal, the Tax Appeals Tribunal, the Uganda Human Rights Commission, and the Uganda Registration Services Bureau, adding every voice to the Kiwanuka legacy. It also opens its doors to the rulings of regional and international courts, such as the East African Court of Justice and the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, inviting citizens and scholars alike into a broader legal pilgrimage

In this living library, we find not only cases but courage; not only statutes but stories; not only the law as it was, but justice as it should be.



Benedicto Kiwanuka during his swearing-in as Prime Minister in 1961. Courtesy Photo.



Benedicto Kiwanuka, Uganda's then Chief Minister, has a chat with J. F. Kennedy on 17th October, 1961. Courtesy Photo.

The tanzanite promise: a jewel of transformation

Now, in commemoration of Kiwanuka's vision, the Judiciary has taken a bold step into tomorrow by embracing the Tanzanite Package under Open Law Africa.

Why Tanzanite? Because it is rare, radiant, and enduring. Like justice, it is not easily mined; it is forged through sacrifice, investment and vision. This package is no ordinary membership; it is a covenant with the future, a promise that Uganda will not merely digitise but lead Africa into a new era of legal enlightenment.

At the heart of this transformation lies a constellation of innovations that together tell the story of a Judiciary reborn. Indigo Legislation Studio rises as our scribe in the sky, etching laws with clarity, always updated, always secure, always alive. Pocket Law stretches its arms further, turning every phone into a courthouse and every village into a law library, placing justice gently into the palms of citizens, whether offline in Karamoja or online in Kampala. From there, Analytics Dashboards gather

the pulse of the courts, transforming raw judgments into rivers of insight, showing not just what was decided but how justice itself breathes, tracking timelines, appeals, subject trends, and even the rhythm with which cases find resolution. And when the pace of modern life threatens to overwhelm, AI Summaries lean in like trusted companions, whispering to the busy magistrate, the hurried advocate, and the curious student alike: "Here is the heart of the judgment, clear, precise, ready to guide you." To ensure that this digital temple of justice does not stand empty, capacity building and training nurture a generation of skilled custodians who will sustain and expand the dream long after its foundation has been laid.

So vibrant has ULII become that it has blossomed into a form of judicial tourism, drawing more than two million users annually from over 40 countries, each logging on to witness the spirit of Uganda's jurisprudence in motion. From judges in regional courts to scholars in foreign universities, from diasporans seeking legal truth to local communities demanding accountability,

all find themselves journeying through Uganda's digital corridors of justice. It is a pilgrimage not of stone and mortar, but of law and light, where Kiwanuka's legacy greets every visitor and where the Tanzanite transformation glimmers as a beacon of what the Judiciary dares to become.

And yet, this is only the beginning. At ULII, innovations emerge as surely as night follows day, quiet revolutions in how law is accessed, shared and understood. To attempt to capture them all in this article would be to diminish their breadth. Some stories must be told another day, and others must be lived, because ULII is not just an archive to be read, it is an experience to be felt.

A legacy renewed

Benedicto Kiwanuka once stood as the conscience of a young Uganda. Today, his memory is reborn each time a citizen downloads a judgment, each time a magistrate accesses precedent without delay, each time a student cites ULII in a classroom.

By embracing Tanzanite, the Judiciary does more than upgrade software; it upgrades justice itself. It declares that Uganda will not walk timidly into the digital age, but stride with courage, as Kiwanuka once strode into history.

The light continues

We commemorate Benedicto Kiwanuka not with silence, but with innovation. Not with mourning, but with transformation. His voice, once silenced by tyranny, now echoes in the hum of servers, the glow of screens, the clarity of open law.

The Tanzanite Package is our way of saying: Justice will not be *hidden*, *justice will not be delayed*, *justice will not be denied*. ●



President Museveni during a meeting with part of the Kiwanuka family led by Ambassador Maurice Kagimu.

In Memory of Our Patriarch – Benedicto Kiwanuka

By Amb. Maurice Peter Kagimu Kiwanuka

This being our first contribution, as a family, to this wonderful magazine, allow me to first thank God, His Excellency the President, His Lordship the Chief Justice, the Judiciary and the government in general for having allowed the hosting of this auspicious annual function which was inaugurated eight years ago in 2018 though it had already been long overdue. However, as the saying goes, better late than never.

I'll begin with two stories which I feel depict very well the purpose of this day: remembering the great man who relentlessly fought for human rights when the majority shied away. Very few people talk against injustices in society until the injustice is at their doorstep and usually too late to fight it!

A rat became a nuisance in the household for quite some time. Having had enough of it, the old house head decided to set a trap for the same. On seeing the ground nut on the trap, the rat approached the cock in the compound. Mr. Cock, he began, kindly help me by hitting the trap with your hard mouth so that it lets my ground nut go. In case you don't do it,

“

Let's emulate and join the Kiwanukas who do not wait for the ugly monster to come at their doorstep to fight it when it's too late! Thank you very much.

there will be trouble! Failing to connect the ground nut with tragedy, Mr. Cock dismissed the threat as empty. 'Am sorry

Mr. Rat, the g-nut has nothing to do with me'.

Having failed to convince Mr. Cock, Mr. Rat proceeded to Mr. Cow with a similar request: Mr. Cow, he began, 'kindly use your big and hard foot to release the trap so that I can eat my nut, otherwise in case you refuse, there will be trouble'. Mr. Cow gave the very answer Mr. Cock had earlier given!

As Mr. Rat sat frustrated contemplating his next move, a snake came wriggling. As it passed over the trap, the latter cut it into two pieces! Wriggling ferociously, writhing in a lot of pain, the snake made a lot of noise which awakened the house



owner. He came excitedly with his lamp. As he approached, he was bitten by the snake. He died almost instantly!

There was a lot of wailing which attracted a lot of people. On seeing the many guests, the family decided to prepare the chicken for the visitors' breakfast! As they led Mr. Cock to the slaughter house, Mr. Rat ran over the roof several times reminding Mr. Cock how he had warned him of the impending catastrophe that awaited him in case of his lack of cooperation!

At the burial, the clan head announced that the last funeral rites would also be held after the burial. The family had no alternative but to request the cooperation of Mr. Cow who while crying on his way to the guillotine was reminded by Mr. Rat, on the roof, of his prophecy!

Another story was of a Law Professor who entered a lecture room and ordered one of his students out of the room. Baffled by the unexpected expulsion, the student hesitated to go. "I said get out" roared the Professor! After the exit of the poor student, the Professor carried on with his lecture. When the lecture was half way, the Professor told the class:



Ambassador Maurice Peter Kagimu Kiwanuka with his eldest son Benedicto Kiwanuka Ssaabakaaki at St Mary's College Kisubi.

"You see students, no one questioned why the poor student was being expelled out of class! No one raised a finger in defence of the poor student! He called the poor student back to class and said: 'You see, this is exactly what happens in society. Very few people will come out in defence of others when their human rights are being violated. It's only when the injustice comes to their doorstep that they'll try to fight it.'"

I will end my stories with the famous quote of the great German Pastor Martin Niemöller during the Holocaust where the German intellectuals and church leaders kept mum in spite of Hitler's massacre of the Jews: 'They came first for the communists and I didn't speak up because I was not a communist. Then they came for the Jews and I did not speak up because I was not a Jew. Then they came for the Trade Unionists and I didn't speak up because I was not a trade unionist. Then they came for the Catholics and I did not speak up because I was a Protestant. Then they came for me and by that time no one was left to speak up.'

Recently there was a situation where my above explained scenario came into play. Some people who had kept quiet for decades came to cry bitterly when what they considered as an injustice reared its ugly head on their doorsteps. As usually is the situation, once the ugly monster comes to your door step it's very hard to fight. It usually devours you.

Let's emulate and join the Kiwanukas who do not wait for the ugly monster to come at their doorstep to fight it when it's too late! Thank you very much. ●



President Museveni, the Judiciary leadership and the Kiwanuka family during one of the Hon. Chief Justice Benedicto Kiwanuka Memorial Lecture.



A Glimpse into the Life of Benedicto Kiwanuka, as shared by his daughter

By Regina Kiwanuka. Daughter (Seventh child)

Born into hardship in the 1920s, Benedicto Kagimu Mugumba Kiwanuka's childhood was marked by poverty, instability, and the absence of his father after his mother, Eulalia, chose to raise him and his two siblings alone. These humble beginnings, however, did not dim his determination. Through perseverance, education, and sheer grit, he rose to become one of Uganda's most distinguished leaders, Chief Minister and later Chief Justice.

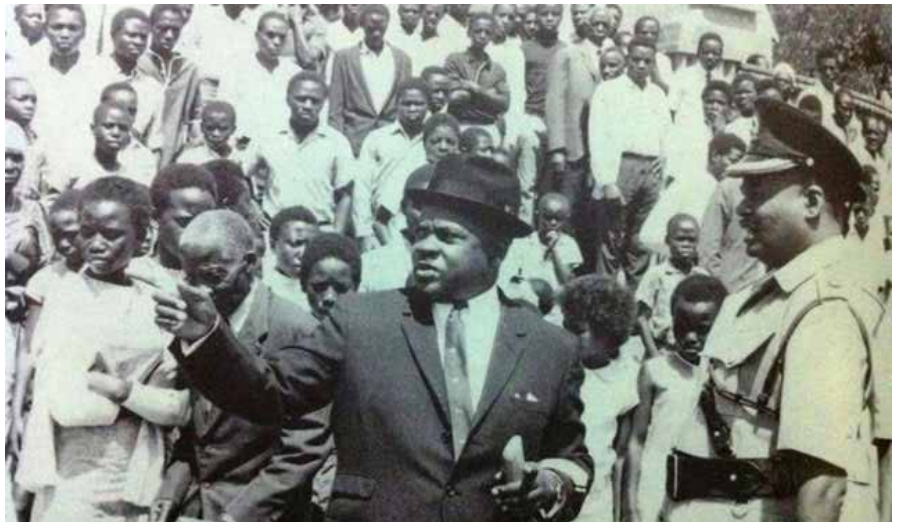
In 1947, he married Maxencia Zalwango (our mum), the love of his life and his steadfast partner in all things. Together they raised 10 children, weaving a family life that balanced the demands of national leadership with the warmth of a close household. When he completed his studies in 1958, he juggled life to success transforming into a politician.

His time at home grew increasingly limited as he devoted himself to advancing education in the nation. And as Chief Minister, raising the value of coffee beans, improving the livelihood of Ugandan farmers. (Alongside other matters).

His love for his country and its people was unquestionable. At home, Kiwanuka's affection for his family never waned. His wife, Maxencia, was not only his confidante but also his shield, steady and calm even when political storms raged, including his many arrests in the 1960s. Her resilience and counsel anchored him, ensuring that the home remained stable while he carried the burdens of leadership.

At times, his temper would flare in such ordeals, yet she remained calm, guiding him through such confrontations.

From his tenure as Chief Minister to his



Ben Kiwanuka at a political rally in the 1960s.



Benedicto Kiwanuka's story is not just a personal family memory but also a national legacy: one of resilience, integrity, and unshakable love for country and family.

service as Chief Justice, she shouldered the responsibilities of home, ensuring stability for the family while he was often consumed by national duty.

Beyond the Courtroom and Parliament

Despite his towering public role, Kiwanuka was also a man of simple joys. Hunting was a cherished pastime, one he shared with his older sons. He would normally call out his first two sons (Musoke and Emmanuel) in a very deep and loud voice. *"Abalenzii"* (boys).

With that, they (the boys) would prepare their gear and hunting, off they would go. Back then where we lived, Nalukolongo, Nateete, or Kampala in general still held its bushes and trees, the natural reserve that they would disappear into, only to return after a long day's hunt with five to six guinea fowls. Their return with guinea fowl



after a day's hunt became a treasured family ritual, with laughter and feasting around the dinner table.

Prison, Loneliness, and Resilience

His 13-month detention between 1969 and 1971 was a painful chapter. Though he was given relative comfort, books, food, and a private room, he often joked about the monotony of beef, longing instead for fruits and vegetables. He said in prison he was always isolated. "I was a big fish", he once told us at dinner table, adding that his prison room was fine with a normal bed.

He told us that no matter the privileges in prison, longing for his family reunion was unbearable. The feeling was mutual, mother was left to bear the heavy weight of more responsibilities. And only permitted to visit him once every three months, a cruelty that deepened her loneliness and sorrow.

To her, the impact was tremendous.

Another person that was greatly impacted by father's disappearance more than even his wife, was his beloved mother Eulalia Nalubowa, his absence pierced her heart in a way no words could fully describe.

For us, the five younger children, life at boarding school softened the ache of missing Father, but the absence was always felt. We visited him in prison only once. I was 10 years old. He received us with immense joy, touching each of us gently on the forehead, whispering softly, his face lit with that beautiful smile of his, assuring us, in the most tender voice, that he would soon be free. We left the prison in tears, bewildered and heartbroken. We did not understand why father was in prison.

Later, after imprisonment, hunting gave way to weightlifting and evenings of



Regina Kiwanuka with her daughter Maxencia Kasozi and grandchildren Zadia, Nkinzi and Ssanga.



Regina Kiwanuka's son, Brendon Kasozi and granddaughter Kenya Kasozi.

chess with his son Stephen. These quieter pursuits reflected a man who valued both strength and strategy, whether in personal life or in matters of state.

Chief Justice and a Public Icon

In 1971, upon becoming Chief Justice, he sought to give his wife respite, sending her to England for a break and visit their older children. Left with the children, he took

on uncharacteristic tasks like shopping for clothes, a venture that quickly turned into a public spectacle. Crowds would surround him, refusing to let him pay, insisting instead that "it was on the house." His presence evoked admiration, respect, and sometimes awe from ordinary Ugandans.

I was mesmerised, people could not let him pick clothes for us, they would not let him pay for the goods either. They insisted that it was on the house. Very good items were packed for me and my elder brother Stephen Mukasa.

Back at home, Dad would play chess with then 15-year-old Stephen till late in the night. That was a game he enjoyed immensely. In the absence of his regular visitors who he normally played with, late Pius Kawere, Dr. Kawanga Ssemogerere, his son would suffice. I remember envying my brother many times, wondering how it felt sitting with father so many hours each day. Stephen was a lucky guy.

The Final Goodbye

September 1972 brought a farewell that none of his children realised would be the last. As we returned to school, he bade us farewell, none of us knew that it would be the last time we would ever see him. His disappearance left a gaping wound in the family.

A Legacy That Burns Bright

Today, the Judiciary of Uganda continues to honour his memory, ensuring that his dedication to truth, justice, and the rule of law, principles for which he ultimately paid the highest price remains alive. *"For truth and justice, the rule of law that cost him his life."* Thank you

Benedicto Kiwanuka's story is not just a personal family memory but also a national legacy: one of resilience, integrity, and unshakable love for country and family. ●



A Father's Legacy: Memories of Hon. Benedicto Kiwanuka

My name is Josephine Kiwanuka, the fourth child of Hon. Benedicto Kiwanuka. We were 10 children, but today only four of us remain.

By Josephine Kiwanuka

Our father rose from humble beginnings, slowly building his career to the top. He pursued part of his education in England, where I was born along with my late younger brother, Benedicto Musajjakawa, in the early 1950s.

When he returned to Uganda in 1954, we soon moved from Masaka, Kisabwa to Nalukolongo, Kampala, in 1956.

A Man of Many Passions

Our father loved hunting. Often, he would take my older brothers Musoke and Emmanuel, while our mother packed them snacks for their outings. They would return with fresh fowls, which Emmanuel was especially good at preparing for the family meals.



As we mark his memory, I sincerely thank H.E. President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni for allowing these commemorations to take place. I am equally grateful to the Judiciary of Uganda for making these memorials so special year after year.

But beyond hunting, reading was his greatest passion. He kept a well-arranged library in his home office, recording in each book when he started and finished reading

it. His love for education extended to others: he offered countless scholarships to bright young Ugandans to study abroad.

A Devoted Husband and Father

Our father was a family man who deeply adored our mother. I vividly remember one evening at dinner when she told him he had beautiful hands. Smiling, he replied, *"Kasita zakundetera"* — *"They brought you to me."*

Moments like these showed us how much they loved and respected each other. He had the best smile, and the most beautiful hands—traits I am grateful we, his children, inherited.

Discipline with Humour

Though serious in many ways, he had a



David Bean (R) receiving the picture of Ben Kiwanuka's picture. On the right is the portrait on the chair.





Josephine Kiwanuka with her daughter Yolanda in 2002.



Yolanda on her graduation day at Oxford University.

sense of humour and understood children. Our mother was gentle, and sometimes we took advantage of her softness after Dad left the table.

I remember one evening when, after finishing his meal, he pretended to leave but stayed behind quietly. As soon as he was out of sight, we began arguing noisily with Mum. Suddenly, the door opened, and there he was, looking at us in disbelief.

“Woooo, is this what you do when I leave the table?” he asked. Shocked, we fell silent. He smiled and left, and we got the message.

Remembered Beyond Borders

In 2002, David Bean QC, then Chairman of the Bar of England and Wales, paid tribute to our father during an Africa Reception at Gray’s Inn, London. Called to the English Bar in 1952, our father had left an enduring impression.

Mr. Bean recalled reading of his murder while still a law student, remembering it always as an example of heroism. On that occasion, I presented him with a photograph of our father, which he placed on a chair for a time in his honor.



Mr and Mrs Ben Kiwanuka in one of their last pictures taken in 1972. The baby being held by Mrs Kiwanuka was visiting the family.

Continuing the Legacy

Today, I have one daughter, Yolanda, who earned a Master’s Degree from the University of Oxford and now works at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. She carries forward the values of education and service that our father so cherished.

Gratitude

As we mark his memory, I sincerely thank **H.E. President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni** for allowing these commemorations to take place. I am equally grateful to the Judiciary of Uganda for making these memorials so special year after year. ●



Memories of My Father

By Maxencia Kiwanuka, His Last Child

I never truly had the chance to know my father. Being the last born, I arrived much later in his life, and this denied me the gift of interacting with him in any meaningful way. Yet, there are a few precious moments I carry in my heart.

“Dad, goodbye, we love you, DP!” Those were my words in December 1969. I was only two years old when officers came to arrest him. In my innocence, I cried out as they pushed him away. The cry of a child, they later told me, stirred every heart that heard it.

The Darkest September

Another day engraved forever in my memory is **21st September, 1972**, the day he was abducted. That morning should have marked the beginning of my kindergarten journey. Instead, it became the darkest day for our family, a fateful date that altered the course of my life.

At the Family Table

Despite my young age, my father had a way of making me feel included. He allowed me to sit at the main dining table before I turned six, when I would otherwise have been placed with the younger children.

What I remember most vividly are the evenings when he would tell his jokes. My mother and older siblings would erupt in laughter, and though I barely understood, I laughed along. Seeing me join in, he would laugh even harder, delighted that his youngest child shared in the moment.

A Father's Thoughtful Gift

When I was four, he sent me with my mother to London to visit my elder siblings. That trip remains one of the few clear gifts I remember receiving



Maxencia Kiwanuka with her two children, Marvin (L) and Gloria Nambi (R).



Though my memories of him are scattered and brief, they are deeply precious. They form part of a larger story, of Hon. Benedicto Kiwanuka, my father: A man of vision, A man of humour, A man of love, for his family and for his country.

from him. It was a sign of his care, even amidst the turbulence of his public life.

Fragments of a Larger Story

Though my memories of him are scattered and brief, they are deeply precious. They form part of a larger story, of **Hon. Benedicto Kiwanuka**, my father:

- A man of **vision**
- A man of **humour**
- A man of **love**, for his family and for his country.

The Unfinished Chapter

May the Lord one day guide us to where his remains lie, so that we may give him a dignified and befitting burial. Until then, my gratitude goes to the Judiciary of Uganda, that continue to honour his memory each year and keep his legacy alive. ●



Pictorial: Hon. Chief Justice Benedicto Kiwanuka 7th Memorial Lecture

The Judiciary hosted the 7th Chief Justice Benedicto Kiwanuka Memorial Lecture at its Kampala headquarters under the theme 'A People-Centered Approach to Justice.' Guest of Honour, Rt. Hon. Anita Annet Among, Speaker of Parliament, who represented President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, paid tribute to Uganda's first Chief Justice for his courage and sacrifice. The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Zahara Nampewo, Deputy Principal of Makerere University School of Law. The commemoration featured a grand procession in honour of Kiwanuka's legacy and the conferment of the Chief Justice Benedicto Kiwanuka Life Achievement Award, presented to Deputy Chief Justice Emeritus Seith Manyindo and Principal Judge Emeritus James Ogoola.





CJ Takes Lead on Uganda-Namibia Efforts to Reimagine African Legal Systems Through ADR

In the heart of Windhoek, under the clear southern skies of Namibia, something quietly transformative unfolded. Judges in black robes, scholars with notepads brimming with theories, and policy architects of modern justice gathered not to debate law in its colonial casing, but to explore justice through an African lens.

At the centre of it all stood Uganda's Chief Justice, Hon. Alfonse Chigamoy Owiny — Dollo, a man whose legal journey spans courts, constitutions, and the cultural soul of justice itself. As keynote speaker at Namibia's inaugural *National Conference on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)*, Justice Owiny — Dollo wasn't just representing Uganda. He was carrying a message for Africa.

"Plea bargaining," he declared with

conviction, "is not just an innovation. It is a return to our African roots of justice, roots that prioritise reconciliation, not revenge; restoration, not retribution."

The audience, drawn from every corner of the continent, leaned in. Here was not just a legal doctrine being pitched, but a reawakening. A reminder that before colonial courtrooms, Africa had long settled disputes around fires, through dialogue, mediation, and communal healing.

Uganda's Plea Bargaining Journey

Over the last decade, Uganda has quietly pioneered one of Africa's most robust plea bargaining frameworks. With over **50,000 criminal cases resolved** and millions saved in judicial resources, Uganda's model is not just efficient—it's transformational.

Owiny — Dollo painted a picture of a system unshackled from endless adjournments and hardened trial theatrics. Instead, he described a courtroom where a dialogue



The Chief Justice after a meeting with President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah and his counterpart Chief Justice Peter Shivute. The Ugandan Chief Justice was accompanied by the Ag. Principal Judge, Lady Justice Okuo Jane Kajuga, Supreme Court's Justice Mike Chibita who is also the Chairperson Governing Council, Judicial Training Institute, Justice Prof. Andrew Khaukha, the Executive Director Judicial Training Institute, and Personal Assistant to the Chief Justice, HW Peter Lochomin



replaces confrontation, where a defendant finds space for reflection and responsibility, and where victims have a say, not just a seat.

“This is African justice,” he said, “and it works.”

His message was clear: Africa doesn’t need to import justice, it needs to reclaim it, modernise it, and scale it.

Uganda and Namibia Sign Judicial MoU

But the Chief Justice’s visit to Namibia wasn’t just ceremonial, it was strategic. On 3rd June, 2025, a landmark **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** was signed between the judiciaries of Uganda and Namibia, laying the groundwork for unprecedented bilateral cooperation. From enhancing ICT systems like Uganda’s *Electronic Court Case Management Information System (ECCMIS)* to strengthening ADR mechanisms and judicial training, the agreement is a blueprint for how African judiciaries can grow stronger by walking together.



Signing the Memorandum of Understanding

Namibia’s Chief Justice Peter Shivute, hosting his Ugandan counterpart, called the MoU “a symbol of judicial maturity and mutual respect.”

“The MoU reflects a shared vision,” Shivute said. “A vision of judiciaries that learn from one another, innovate together, and strive to improve justice for our people.”

Already, Namibia has sent delegations to Uganda to study ECCMIS and observe

ADR sessions firsthand. Uganda, in turn, hosted Namibian officials during the Africa Commercial Courts Summit in Kampala. The relationship isn’t just warm, it’s working.

A Call for Continental Collaboration

Before closing his address, Chief Justice Owiny — Dollo issued a passionate appeal to his fellow African leaders: create a **continental faculty of ADR experts**.

Such a Pan-African knowledge base, he argued, would enable homegrown training, policy experimentation, and a shared toolkit of solutions tailored to African contexts.

“The courtroom must evolve,” he said. “Not into something Western, but into something *ours*, faster, fairer, and more culturally resonant.”

It was a stirring note to end on. A rallying cry, not just for Namibia or Uganda, but for every African state seeking to shape a justice system that heals, includes, and endures.

Africa is Listening

For all the lawyers and legislators who attended the conference, the takeaway was unmistakable: Justice Owiny — Dollo wasn’t just advocating for plea bargaining, he was advocating for pride. Pride in Africa’s capacity to legislate its own destiny. Pride in ADR as more than an administrative fix but a cultural fit.

As the sun dipped behind Windhoek’s glassy skyline, one could sense that the conference had done more than discuss reform, it had begun a conversation that could reshape how justice is done across the continent.

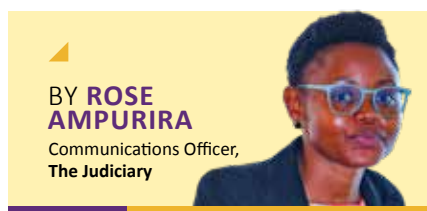
And in that courtroom of ideas, Uganda had once again taken the lead. ●



The Chief Justice presided over the ground-breaking ceremonies of the two courts.

Justice Decentralised: Breaking Ground for Regional Courts of Appeal in Gulu and Mbarara

When the Chief Justice of Uganda, Hon. Justice Alfonse Chigamoy Owiny — Dollo, stood before hundreds of people in Gulu City in July, the air was thick with anticipation. The occasion was no ordinary civic function—it was the groundbreaking of Uganda’s first Regional Court of Appeal. For a region long accustomed to sending litigants on costly and exhausting journeys to Kampala, the ceremony marked both a turning point and a promise fulfilled.



BY ROSE AMPURIRA
Communications Officer,
The Judiciary

Gulu: History in the Making

The groundbreaking in Gulu was imbued with symbolism. Judicial officers, local leaders, civil society, and ordinary citizens thronged the site to witness the historic event. For the

first time in Uganda’s legal history, a permanent appellate court would rise outside of Kampala.

Justice Owiny — Dollo reminded his colleagues that while the new structure would stand as a monument, it was the integrity and professionalism of judicial officers that would breathe life into its walls.

Deputy Chief Justice, Hon. Dr. Flavian Zeija, hailed the ceremony as a victory

for the Acholi and Lango sub-regions. He praised Gulu’s leaders for donating land and noted that the presence of justices and staff would create a ripple effect on the local economy—from housing to trade.

Acting Chief Registrar, HW Lamunu Pamella Ocaya, who grew up in Gulu, offered a personal perspective. *“This is more than a building. It is a construction of hope, equity, and justice,”* she reflected.



Why Gulu Matters

- **First Regional Court of Appeal in Uganda**
- **Serves the greater North including Arua, Gulu, Apac, Dokolo, Kitgum, Lira, Patongo and neighbouring areas**
- **Land donated freely by Gulu leaders**
- **Expected to spur economic growth in housing, trade, and services**

For Lady Justice Jane Frances Abodo, the Director of Public Prosecutions, the new court symbolised not just access but delivery of justice. Gulu Woman Member of Parliament, Hon. Betty Aol Ocan, emphasised that local labour and materials must be prioritised so that the community benefits directly.

Mbarara: Justice goes to the West

Days later, the momentum carried westward to Mbarara City, where another groundbreaking was held. The Chief Justice again presided, stressing that decentralisation was central to the Judiciary's transformation.

Deputy Chief Justice Zeija called the ceremony historic, highlighting its strategic location near a prison for easier detainee transfers. Acting Principal Judge, Lady Justice Jane Okuo Kajuga, described the event as the transition of

a dream into reality. Lady Justice Abodo pledged to strengthen prosecutorial staffing for the new circuit.

Local leaders echoed this enthusiasm. MP Robert Mwesigwa Rukaari recalled the late Justice Kenneth Kakuru's early support, while Mayor Robert Kakyebi urged swift project completion. City leaders pledged to safeguard public land



"This is more than a building. It is a symbol of justice coming closer to the people."

— Chief Justice Owiny — Dollo

and maximise community benefits.

Behind the Blueprints

According to the Under Secretary Ms. Maureen Kasande, who represented the Permanent Secretary/Secretary to the Judiciary, the projects were carefully planned, from land acquisition to contracting. The work has been awarded to Seyani Brothers & Co. and Siyani Parbat Construction, the same team behind Kampala's Supreme Court and Court of Appeal Twin Towers.

The six-storey complexes will include spacious courtrooms, chambers, conference halls, wellness and childcare facilities, and cafeterias. Fully funded by the Government of Uganda, the projects are expected to be completed within 18 months.

A Justice System Transformed

These regional courts are part of a larger decentralisation drive that includes planned circuits in Mbale, Masaka, Fort Portal, Arua, Jinja, and Mubende.

For the Chief Justice, they stand as a legacy project. For the Deputy Chief Justice, they are a practical solution to backlog and congestion. And for citizens in the north and west, they are an end to costly journeys to Kampala and the dawn of timelier justice.

Voices from the ground

Under the shade of a jacaranda tree at the Gulu site, 62-year-old farmer and community elder, Michael Okot, reflected on what the court would mean for families like his. "I once had to travel to Kampala for my late brother's land case," he recalled. "It cost me almost everything I had, and it took two days just to get there. If we had this Court then, I would have been home by evening."



The Chief Justice unveils the foundation stone. R: Breaking ground for construction in Gulu City for the first Regional Court of Appeal.

“

“This is a construction of hope, equity, and justice.”
— HW Lamunu Pamella Ocaya, Acting Chief Registrar

Gulu’s Resident City Commissioner, Mr. Ambrose Onoria, captured the moment succinctly, calling the court a beacon of accountability and justice. He applauded the Judiciary’s community-focused engagement and called the development a victory not just for Gulu, but for the entire NRM government.

In similar spirit, Ms. Vicky Atim, Vice Chairperson of Gulu District, voiced the local government’s joy and enthusiasm for the project. She expressed hope that Gulu’s triumph would set the stage for similar investments in other regions of the country.

Three days after Gulu’s celebrations, the scene repeated itself in Mbarara,



Mbarara at a Glance

- **Second Regional Court of Appeal after Gulu**
- **Strategically located near a prison**
- **Supported by local MPs, mayors, and community leaders**
- **Seen as an economic driver for Western Uganda**

this time under the golden glow of a western Uganda afternoon. The site sits strategically near the prison, a detail the Deputy Chief Justice, Hon. Justice Dr. Flavian Zeija, highlighted as a key to faster handling of remand cases.

For local resident and small business owner, Grace Atwine, it’s a welcome change. “My cousin’s appeal dragged on because everything had to go to Kampala. With the court here, I know cases will move faster, and it will help our families heal.” ●

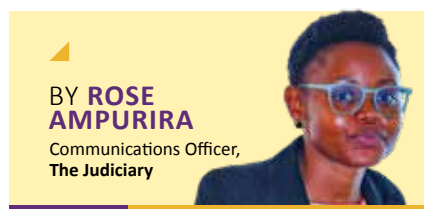


The special court sitting in recognition of the legacy of Deputy Chief Justice Emeritus Richard Buteera.

Honouring a Judicial Giant

When Court of Appeal held its first-ever Special Sitting in honour Deputy Chief Justice Emeritus, Justice Richard Buteera

The grandeur of the Court of Appeal chamber carried a different rhythm on this day. It was not a day of arguments, rulings, or submissions—it was a day of tribute. For the first time in its history, the Court of Appeal/Constitutional Court convened a Special Sitting to honour a retiring Justice: Deputy Chief Justice Richard Buteera.



BY ROSE
AMPURIRA
Communications Officer,
The Judiciary

The session, held in hybrid format at the Judiciary Headquarters in Kampala, drew judicial officers, advocates, state attorneys, senior administrators, law enforcement agencies, and members of the public who followed online. Family and friends of Justice Buteera filled the chamber, lending warmth to the solemn yet celebratory proceedings.

Motion of Honour

Attorney General Kiryowa Kiwanuka moved the motion for the sitting,



“This recognition is not just for me, but for the entire Judiciary team that has walked this journey with me.”
— Justice Richard Buteera

supported by an affidavit from the Solicitor General. The document recounted Justice Buteera’s distinguished service: 18 years as Uganda’s longest-serving Director of Public Prosecutions, tenure as Chief Registrar, Justice of the Court of Appeal, Justice of the Supreme Court, and finally, Deputy Chief Justice since 2020.

Senior Counsel Prof. Fredrick Ssempebwa supported the motion on behalf of the Bar, and the Court issued formal orders recognising Justice Buteera’s service and making the speeches of gratitude part of its permanent record.

Buteera’s Reflections

When he rose to speak, Justice Buteera’s



humility was evident. He thanked his colleagues for bestowing on him the honour of being the first Justice to benefit from this tradition. He traced his journey as DCJ, highlighting teamwork among Justices, weekly case review meetings, regional sittings, and the strengthening

of the Court Users Committee.

He proudly noted milestones in backlog reduction: all 84 election petition appeals from the 2021 cycle resolved within six months, a dramatic decline in constitutional petition backlog, and

success in appellate mediation, with 166 cases handled in 2024—100 of them settled amicably. He credited ECCMIS for enhancing efficiency and praised the induction of Justices and the adoption of annual work plans as innovations that strengthened performance.

What was said

Justice Fredrick Egonda-Ntende, speaking for the male Justices, recalled knowing Buteera since 1975 at Makerere University. He described him as a “true brother” to colleagues and a relentless advocate for Alternative Dispute Resolution.

Lady Justice Hellen Obura, representing female Justices, painted him as a mentor, father figure, and leader whose kindness and humility left a lasting mark.

Lady Justice Jane Frances Abodo, Director of Public Prosecutions, went further back—detailing how Buteera professionalised and decentralised the DPP’s office, created specialised departments, championed prosecutorial ethics, and even contributed to the founding of the International Association of Prosecutors. She remembered him as a mentor whose values shaped generations of lawyers.

Senior Counsel Ruth Ssebatindira reflected on his humour, resilience, and encouragement during her early days on the Bench Book Committee.

Senior Counsel Peter Kabatsi called him an organised, patient, and detail-oriented judge whose humility endeared him to many.

The **Attorney General Kiryowa Kiwanuka** summed it up: *“If ever there was an embodiment of the phrase ‘as sober as a judge,’ it would be Justice Buteera.”*

A Legacy Enshrined

The Special Sitting concluded with heartfelt applause, not for a judgment delivered, but for a career that has shaped Uganda’s justice system. At a luncheon later that day, Judiciary

Permanent Secretary Dr. Pius Bigirimana announced that such sessions will become a tradition—enshrining the legacies of outstanding retiring Justices.

Justice Richard Buteera leaves the Bench

with his head high, remembered not only for his rulings but for his humanity, mentorship, and reforms. His story now becomes part of the Judiciary’s institutional memory—and a beacon for those who follow. ●



Special Court Sitting for Deputy Chief Justice Emeritus, Justice Richard Buteera ahead of his retirement on 4th April, 2025.



Family Division Rolls Out Special Court Sessions to Tackle Surge in Letters of Administration Extensions

In the wake of sweeping amendments to the Succession Act, Uganda's Family Division of the High Court is bracing for what its Head, Justice John Eudes Keitirima, calls an "avalanche" of applications for extensions and renewals of letters of administration.

BY **PATIENCE KENGORO**

Communications Officer,
The Judiciary



The legislative changes, which introduced a time limit on all grants, two years for newly issued ones and three years for those issued before the amendment, have set off a rush among estate administrators. Many of the older grants expired on 30th May, 2025, leaving over 3,000 administrators seeking urgent extensions to complete pending estate matters.

"Without timely sessions, the expiry of grants will stall the management of estates, lock out access to funds in estate accounts, and halt crucial transactions," Justice Keitirima cautioned.

To avert a standstill, the Family Division successfully sought administrative approval for special court sessions. The sessions running through the month of September are being manned by five Judges assigned specifically to clear the backlog. Justice Keitirima urged administrators with unfinished estate work to lodge their applications promptly to avoid further delays.

A call for training and planning

Justice Keitirima believes that the challenge is more than procedural, it's also a question of capacity. He underscored the need for structured training for administrators and executors before they are granted letters of administration or probate.

"Too many administrators fail to file inventories or final accounts, which prolongs estate management indefinitely and fuels disputes among beneficiaries," he noted. He proposed that the Family Division or the Office of the Administrator General take the lead in educating appointees on their legal obligations and the principles of sound estate management.

The Judge also issued a passionate appeal for Ugandans to embrace will-writing as a vital tool for preventing inheritance disputes. He criticised the persistent belief that drafting a will invites death, calling it a dangerous misconception.

The art of will writing

According to Justice Keitirima, a valid will must follow specific formalities: it must be witnessed by at least two people, and each page must be signed and dated by both the testator and the witnesses. Equally important is the selection of executors, individuals who



Justice John Eudes Keitirima, the Head of the Family Division

are competent, willing, and consulted in advance. Appointing someone without their knowledge can trigger complications if they refuse the role, effectively resetting the estate process as though the deceased had died intestate.

He stressed that public sensitisation on proper will-writing and estate planning is not only a legal safeguard but also a social necessity: "If we can get this right, we will greatly reduce disputes in the Family Division and make estate management far smoother."

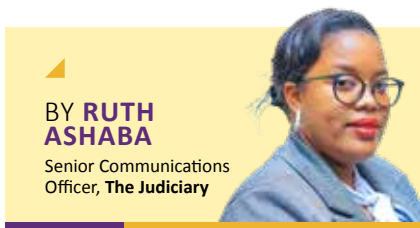
The sessions which are being handled this month, is not just racing to clear a mountain of applications, it is also pushing to reshape Uganda's approach to succession, turning legal compliance into a culture of preparedness and responsibility. ●



The opening of the The First Africa Continent Commercial Summit which was held at the Speke Resort Munyonyo in May 2025

Driving Judicial Excellence: JTI Leads with Training, Mentorship, and Innovation

The Chief Justice, through the Judicial Training Institute (JTI), has unveiled a bold recasting of the Institute's vision, positioning it as the true engine of transformation within the Judiciary. This renewed direction is anchored in a broadened mandate that integrates mentorship, research, Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), and digital legal innovation at the heart of justice delivery.



BY **RUTH
ASHABA**

Senior Communications
Officer, The Judiciary

The revitalisation effort is being spearheaded by JTI's newly constituted Governing Council, chaired by Justice Mike Chibita, and the recently appointed Executive Director, Justice Prof. Andrew Khaukha. Their leadership comes at a defining moment for the Institute as it strengthens its role in shaping the future of judicial capacity



Lady Justice Jane Frances Abodo, the Director of Public Prosecutions speaking at the Regional Training on ADR and Judgment Writing in Mbarara. Looking on is the Ag. Principal Judge, Lady Justice Okuo Jane Kajuga.

building and institutional growth.

Supporting this leadership is a dynamic

management team whose composition reflects the Institute's expanded vision..



Judicial Training Institute (JTI) staff with the Institute's faculty during the Western Region Judicial Officers' Training on ADR and Judgment Writing in Mbarara City.



Launch of the Judiciary Mentorship Programme in Mbarara.



Justice Prof. Andrew Khaukha, Executive Director, Judicial Training Institute (JTI).



Justice Ngugi delivering the Keynote Address at the AJS Summit.

Even as JTI embraces this fresh direction, the new management pays tribute to their predecessors who contributed to the laying of its foundation. These include

Justice David Kutosi Wangutusi, Justice Lawrence Gidudu, Lady Justice Jabe Kiggundu, Justice Dr. Adonyo and most recently, Lady Justice Damalie N Lwanga,

and their teams, are remembered with appreciation for their dedication and vision. Their stewardship positioned JTI as a cornerstone of judicial professional



The ADR/AJS Summit held at Speke Resort Munyonyo was closed by the Deputy Chief Justice, Justice Dr. Flavian Zeija (M). Present was the Director of Public Prosecutions Lady Justice Jane Frances Abodo (R) and Deputy Chief Justice Emeritus Justice Richard Buteera (L).



JTI also conducted extensive regional trainings in Gulu, Mbarara, and Mbale, covering case management, judgment writing, and ADR. These sessions were structured as peer-learning platforms, encouraging officers to share experiences and develop solutions collectively.

development, a foundation upon which the current team is building with renewed energy.

A Legacy of Service and Integrity

The values guiding JTI's new programmes resonate with the example set by Justice Benedicto Kiwanuka, Uganda's first Ugandan Chief Justice, who stood firmly for judicial independence, integrity, and timely justice. His vision of a Judiciary that serves the people with courage and discipline continues to inspire the Institute's approach to training and

mentorship.

Mentorship as a Cornerstone of Transformation

One of the defining innovations of the quarter was the launch of the JTI Mentorship Programme. Chief Justice Hon. Justice Alfonse Chigamoy Owiny-Dollo personally inaugurated the programme in Gulu and Mbarara, while in Mbale, it was launched by the Acting Principal Judge, Hon. Lady Justice Okuo Jane Kajuga.

The programme, which will eventually cover all regions, pairs experienced judges with younger judicial officers, guiding them in judgment writing, courtroom management, ethics, and leadership. The Chief Justice stressed that mentorship is central to building a Judiciary grounded not only in skills but also in values of integrity and service values Justice Kiwanuka embodied in his leadership.

Regional Trainings for Practical Impact

JTI also conducted extensive regional trainings in Gulu, Mbarara, and Mbale, covering case management, judgment writing, and ADR. These sessions were

structured as peer-learning platforms, encouraging officers to share experiences and develop solutions collectively. Importantly, JTI has embraced a "training for results" approach. Officers trained in mediation are accredited and immediately deployed to settlement fortnights, ensuring that training translates into measurable case disposal and improved service delivery.

Championing ADR and Indigenous Justice Systems

In June 2025, JTI convened a two day first ever National ADR/AJS Summit at Speke Resort Munyonyo, which championed indigenous justice systems as complementary pathways for resolving disputes. The Summit featured contributions from the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Justices, Judges, and other high profile participants.

The summit was honoured by Justice Prof. Joel Ngugi of the Court of Appeal of Kenya as the keynote address speaker who provided lessons from Kenya's implementation of AJS. He emphasised the need for fairness, neutrality, and trust in community-based justice systems. Prof. Ngugi cautioned against politicization and elite capture of AJS, and instead encouraged processes



that reflect community values and respect fundamental human rights and highlighted ADR's role in expanding access to justice.

May 2025 saw Uganda host the first-ever Africa Commercial Courts Summit, also at Munyonyo, attracting judicial leaders and practitioners from 31 countries under the theme "Effective Commercial Dispute Resolution for Economic Transformation." The Summit positioned Uganda as a continental leader in promoting ADR for trade and investment.

Measurable Outcomes: ADR and Plea Bargaining

The outcomes of JTI's interventions are evident. Between April and July, 2025; virtual trainings in plea bargaining and mediation supported settlement weeks and plea bargain camps, contributing to the disposal of 562 criminal cases, the settlement of 319 civil matters, and the partial resolution of 31 disputes. These achievements highlight ADR's capacity to deliver timely and cost-effective justice.

Strategic Consultations and Institutional Strengthening

The Institute also strengthened its institutional linkages during the quarter. A consultative meeting with the

Permanent Secretary/Secretary to the Judiciary, Dr. Pius Bigirimana, allowed the JTI leadership to express appreciation for his support and to align training to the Judiciary's reform agenda.

Additionally, JTI held a high-level engagement with the Industrial Court, led by Lady Justice Linda Lillian Tumusiime Mugisha, to identify specialised training needs in labour adjudication. These consultations ensure that JTI's work remains responsive to the Judiciary's evolving demands.

New Governing Council

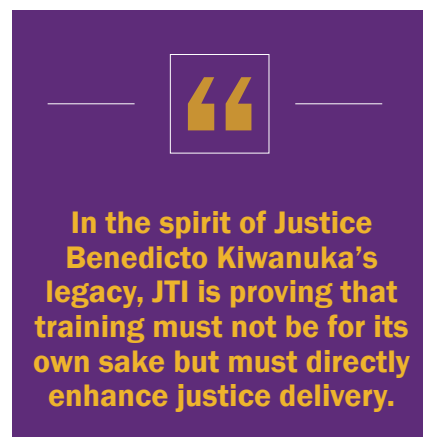
A crowning milestone was the inauguration of the new JTI Governing Council, the Institute's apex policy and

oversight body. The Council, composed of 15 eminent members with Justice Mike Chibita as the Chairperson of the Council. The members were drawn from the Judiciary's leadership, academia, and professional associations, provides strategic direction to ensure that training is aligned to the Judiciary's transformation objectives.

The Road Ahead

From mentorship rollouts to continental summits, regional trainings to the establishment of governance structures, JTI's work this quarter reflects renewal, innovation, and measurable impact. With its expanded management team, an empowered Governing Council, and a results-driven approach, JTI continues to lead from the front in building a Judiciary that delivers timely, effective, and people-centred justice.

In the spirit of Justice Benedicto Kiwanuka's legacy, JTI is proving that training must not be for its own sake but must directly enhance justice delivery. The previous quarter has shown that JTI is not just training judicial officers, but nurturing a Judiciary anchored in integrity, independence, and service to all Ugandans. ●



Inauguration of the Judicial Training Institute Governing Council.



From Moot to ICD, Supreme Court: East Africa's Budding Lawyers Step into History

The grandeur of the Supreme Court is enough to unsettle even the most seasoned of advocates. Yet in June 2025, it was university students, not career lawyers, who stood at its lecterns, fielding sharp questions from a bench of justices and legal professionals.

BY **BITAH MUKUNDANE**

Communications Officer,
The Judiciary



For four teams from across East Africa, this was no ordinary competition. The 4th Firdaus Initiative for Academic Excellence (FIAE) International Humanitarian Law Moot Court was not just a test of skill. It was a rite of passage, a bridge between classrooms and the continent's highest courts.

A stage fit for War Crimes

The contest opened at Kampala's International Crimes Division (ICD), a venue that usually hears cases of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. It was a fitting stage for the moot's fictional dispute, a complex case before a simulated African Court of Justice and Human Rights involving allegations of war crimes, banned weapons, and the responsibility of states and armed groups.

Deputy Registrar HW Juliet Harty Hatanga reminded the students that International Humanitarian Law is not about abstract treaties: "It's not just about mastering the law, it's about upholding humanity in the hardest of circumstances."

The message was clear: their task was more than advocacy. It was about defending human dignity through law.



Supreme Court's Justice Mike Chibita handing over the trophy to the moot competition winners, Moi University.

Minds on trial

Moot courts demand more than eloquence. They test legal research, precision, and composure under relentless judicial questioning. Judges from the bench, NGOs, academia, and the legal profession grilled the semi-finalists on jurisdiction, treaty interpretation, and precedent.

By the end of the day, two Kenyan teams, Moi University and African Nazarene University, emerged as finalists, securing their place in legal history: the first students to argue inside Uganda's Supreme Court.

"This is more than a contest," said FIAE Director Abdulkareem Azeez. "It's a training ground for the region's future defenders of justice."

Into the Supreme Court

20th June, 2025, dawned bright as students ascended the steps of the Supreme Court. Inside, history was being made. For the first time, its august bench hosted a moot court final.

Presiding over the session, Justice Mike Chibita called it a milestone: "Moot court puts you on your feet and prepares you for the realities



of practise. Composure is your greatest weapon—never let the heat of questioning shake your clarity of thought.”

The grand finale

The final round was nothing short of legal fireworks. Moi University, representing the applicant, leaned on treaty law, international tribunal precedents, and the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights. African Nazarene University, for the respondent, anchored its defence in sovereignty, jurisdictional limits, and complementarity.

The panel; Justice Chibita, FIAE’s Swaleh H. Wengo, the ICRC’s Jane Bako Patricia, and Tracy Nabbaale of the Women’s ProBono Initiative, kept the pressure on with interruptions and probing questions.

In the end, Moi University clinched victory, praised for their poise and sharp citations. African Nazarene University won commendation for creativity and bold challenges to conventional interpretations.

More than trophies

For the organisers, the competition’s true value went beyond awards. It built networks across Uganda, Kenya,

and South Sudan, forged resilience under pressure, and proved that young advocates already belong in spaces of power.

“Competitions like this are about shaping the lawyers Africa will need,” said Abdulkareem. “Armed conflicts, refugee crises, and human rights challenges aren’t abstract—they’re the realities this generation must confront.”

Beyond the Courtroom

The FIAE team also met with ICD Deputy Registrar Hatanga, presenting her a commemorative plaque for the Division’s support. Justice Andrew Bashaija, Head of the ICD, hailed the collaboration as vital for nurturing Africa’s next legal minds and deepening the practise of humanitarian law.

The symbolism of hosting a moot in real courtrooms was not lost on anyone. It sent a message: the next generation doesn’t have to wait for its turn—it’s already here.

A lasting impression

As the audience filed out of the Supreme Court, one truth lingered: while the cases argued were fictional, the discipline, advocacy, and ethical grounding on display were very real.

Between the chambers of the ICD and the courthalls of the Supreme Court, East Africa’s future defenders of justice took a decisive step. The law may be centuries old, but its future now rests in the hands of young advocates bold enough to test themselves against its highest standards. ●



Some of the participants of the Moot Competition with Lady Justice Susan Okalany



What Does Justice Feel Like to the People it Serves?

When most people picture the justice system, they imagine something rigid and impersonal, a machine of laws, procedures, and rulings. But behind the robes, files, and courtroom formalities are real human beings: Judges, magistrates, lawyers, staff, and litigants, each carrying their own stories.



In May, the Judiciary's Public Relations and Communications Registry, led by Registrar **HW James Ereemye Mawanda**, set out to measure just how human the system feels. Through a countrywide Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) exercise, the team sought to answer a simple but powerful question: *What Does Justice Feel Like to the People it Serves?*

Beyond case files

The M&E exercise was designed to look at service delivery from multiple angles: case management, backlog, communication, facilities, and staff conduct. Courts from Makindye to Buganda Road, Nakawa to Nabweru, and beyond opened their doors for inspection.

But in the midst of audits, checklists, and formal reviews, the team stumbled upon something that no performance indicator could capture—a small but powerful act of compassion at the **Standards, Utilities and Wildlife Court in Makindye**.

Bread, Porridge, and a Different Kind of Justice

Here, the visiting team was welcomed by Chief Magistrate HW Kamasanyu



The Judiciary Public Relations Officer, His Worship Ereemye James Jumire Mawanda (2nd L) during his interaction with the leadership of the Standards, Utilities and Wildlife Court. On his left is Her Worship Gladys Kamasanyu, Her Worship Adong Molly Alice (2nd R) His Worship Akena Geoffrey (R).

Gladys Musenze, a judicial officer known for balancing firmness with quiet compassion. As the inspection unfolded, something unexpected caught their attention: an elderly woman stirring a large saucepan of porridge, arranging loaves of bread nearby.

It wasn't a catering service. It wasn't budgeted. It wasn't in any policy manual.

Every day, without fail, HW Kamasanyu ensures porridge and bread are served—not just to staff or advocates, but especially to the prisoners brought in for hearings.

"It hit me one day," she explained, "that sometimes suspects come to court,

and by the time they are taken back to prison, they've missed a meal. I decided to make sure they don't go hungry."

A cup of porridge may seem small. But for someone who has been up since dawn, transported in a crowded prison van, and sat through hours in court, it's a reminder: *you are still human, you still matter*.

Humanity in the Halls of Justice

In the cold machinery of justice, defendants are often reduced to case numbers. But to HW Kamasanyu, they are people first—people with bodies that need food and dignity that must be preserved.



Registrar HW Ereemye, visibly moved, called it “a leaf to pick,” urging other courts to adopt similar practises. “This is the kind of initiative that speaks to the heart of customer care,” he noted. “It’s not just about faster service, it’s about how people are treated while in our care.”

Why It Matters

Food in court may sound like a side issue, but it touches on profound dimensions of justice:

- **Human Rights:** Prisoners are entitled to food regardless of their charges. Missing meals due to court schedules strips them of basic dignity.
- **Wellbeing:** Hunger affects mood, focus, and mental stability, critical for defendants following proceedings.
- **Perceptions of Fairness:** Acts of kindness shape how the public sees justice. Compassion builds trust.
- **Institutional Culture:** Simple gestures can spark a culture of empathy across the judiciary.

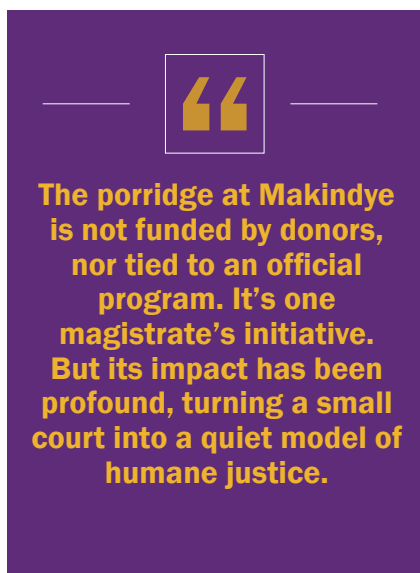
Customer Care with a Conscience

HW Ereemye noted that in the corporate world, “customer care” is about retention and brand loyalty. In the Judiciary, it’s about legitimacy and trust. Good customer care means clear communication, respectful treatment, efficient service, and inclusivity for people with special needs.

But as the Standards Court shows, it also means something more elemental: making sure no one in the court’s care goes hungry.

A Model for Humane Justice

The porridge at the Court is not funded



by donors, nor tied to an official program. It’s one magistrate’s initiative. But its impact has been profound, turning a small court into a quiet model of humane justice.

For sustainability, such efforts need institutional backing, whether through budgets, partnerships, or volunteer support. Other countries have built models where NGOs provide meals or welfare services in courts. Uganda could adapt these, building on the spark lit by



HW Kamasanyu’s personal compassion.

The Bigger Picture

The M&E exercise will continue with its surveys, reports, and ratings. But its most enduring lesson may not be in the spreadsheets. It lies in a simple truth: justice is not just about the law. It is about humanity.

And sometimes, humanity looks like a cup of porridge and a slice of bread in a Makindye courtroom. ●



Uganda's Landmark Case Against Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Shapes Regional Gender-Sensitive Jurisprudence

At the recently concluded Judicial Colloquium on Gender-Sensitive Approaches to Article 14 of the Maputo Protocol, held in Kigali, Rwanda from 8th to 9th September, Her Worship Roseline Nsenge reflected on the landmark case of *Law and Advocacy for Women in Uganda v Attorney General (2010)*. She emphasised the need for judges across the region to apply an intersectional lens when interpreting constitutional and international norms so that rights protections for women and girls move from being theoretical aspirations to lived realities

The Judiciary of Uganda has long been at the forefront of shaping gender-sensitive jurisprudence. A defining moment came with the 2010 Constitutional Court decision in the *LAWU v AG* case which declared the practise of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) unconstitutional. That ruling, combined with subsequent legislative action, continues to underscore the central role of courts in safeguarding women's dignity and advancing sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR). H/W Nsenge's reflections at the colloquium reaffirmed that the judiciary is not only an interpreter of law but also a guardian of fundamental rights, particularly in contexts where harmful traditional practises continue to thrive.

The Enduring Challenge of FGM

FGM remains one of the most persistent and damaging forms of women rights violations with grave health, psychological and social consequences. Although Uganda's national prevalence is relatively low just 0.3% among women aged 15–49 according to the 2016 Uganda Demographic and Health Survey, these figures conceal revealing regional disparities. In certain communities in Sebei and Karamoja, prevalence exceeds 50% with practises reinforced by poverty, marginalization and strong cultural pressures.



By Roseline Nsenge

**Chief Magistrate, Kawempe
Chief Magistrates Court and
General Secretary, International
Association of Women Judges –
Uganda Chapter
General Secretary, UJO-SACCO**



The challenge is even more acute in neighboring countries. Ethiopia reports prevalence of 65%, while Somalia records among the highest global rates at nearly 99%. In Tanzania, prevalence has dropped to about 10% and in Kenya it stands at 16%, yet the practise persists among particular ethnic groups. These figures reveal the limits of legal prohibition. Laws may signal state

disapproval but without enforcement, education and cultural change, the practise endures.

Legal and Regional Context

Internationally, FGM has been condemned as a violation of human rights under instruments such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The African Union's Maputo Protocol of 2003 goes further by expressly prohibiting FGM under Article 5 and guaranteeing reproductive autonomy under Article 14. These obligations compel states to protect women and girls from harmful practises and affirm their rights to dignity, health and equality.

Uganda's judiciary has played a critical role in domesticating these principles. The *LAWU v AG* case remains a touchstone in demonstrating how courts can translate international obligations into enforceable domestic jurisprudence.

The LAWU v AG Decision

In the case, *Law and Advocacy for Women in Uganda* petitioned the Constitutional Court to declare FGM unconstitutional. They argued that the practise, common among the Sabin, Pokot, and Tepeth communities, violated the rights to life, dignity, privacy and



freedom from torture guaranteed under the 1995 Constitution. The Attorney General initially opposed the petition but later withdrew, leaving the Court to assess the evidence.

Drawing on testimonies from survivors, medical experts and community leaders, the Court ruled that FGM violated Articles 21, 22, 24, 27, 32, and 33 of the Constitution as well as Uganda's binding regional and international obligations. It underscored that cultural rights under Article 37 could never be invoked to justify practises that degrade human dignity. While the Court did not explicitly reference the Maputo Protocol, its reasoning was substantively aligned with Uganda's commitments under the treaty. Importantly, the decision was reinforced by the Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act, 2010, which criminalized the practise and gave legislative weight to the Court's pronouncement.

Lessons from the Case

H/W Nsenge noted that the decision illustrates how courts must balance respect for cultural diversity with the need to firmly reject practises that undermine women's health and dignity. By interpreting constitutional provisions progressively and in harmony with international law, the Court demonstrated that harmful traditions cannot stand when weighed against fundamental rights. The judgment also revealed the Judiciary's catalytic role, sparking legislative reform and inspiring broader conversations about the protection of women's rights.

Equally significant was the Court's attention to the lived experiences of women and girls. By considering both the immediate and long-term consequences of FGM ranging from severe health and life-threatening complications to the denial of autonomy, the Court adopted

a gender-sensitive approach that placed women at the centre of constitutional adjudication. This method of reasoning not only strengthens jurisprudence but also ensures that judgments reflect the realities of those most affected.

The case's impact has resonated beyond Uganda's borders. In 2021, the High Court of Kenya in *Dr. Tatu Kamau v Attorney General & Anti-FGM Board* upheld the constitutionality of Kenya's anti-FGM law, rejecting arguments that adult consent could legitimize the practise. Though not directly citing Uganda's precedent, the Kenyan court's reasoning echoed similar principles, affirming a regional movement towards stronger gender-sensitive jurisprudence.

Comparative Regional Perspectives

While Uganda and Kenya have criminalized FGM and developed jurisprudence to reinforce the prohibition, some Countries have been slower to act. Tanzania's law prohibits FGM only for minors while Ethiopia, South Sudan and Somalia lack comprehensive legislation or enforcement mechanisms. Moreover, access to regional courts such as the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights is limited, as many states have not accepted jurisdiction allowing individuals and civil society organizations to bring cases directly. This leaves national courts as the primary and often only enforcers of SRHR protections.

H/W Nsenge observed that Uganda's situation is further complicated by hosting migrant and refugee communities that continue the practise. In such cases, she reminded the participants that the law is unequivocal- FGM is prohibited in Uganda and consent and culture cannot be raised as valid defences. She also emphasised the need for courts to consider remedies such as structural interdicts which are

judicial orders that require states to report back on compliance as a way of ensuring enforcement of court decisions beyond mere declarations.

A Way Forward: Reproductive Justice

Looking ahead, H/W Nsenge urged judiciaries to adopt a Reproductive Justice approach which recognizes that women's reproductive choices and vulnerabilities are shaped by intersecting factors, including poverty, age, education and political marginalization. It provides a holistic lens that moves beyond narrow debates about consent and cultural rights, situating harmful practises within broader systemic and structural contexts.

Applied to FGM, reproductive justice demands that courts appreciate how women and girls are often coerced into undergoing the practise through economic dependence, community pressure or the threat of social exclusion. By adopting this lens, judicial officers can interpret constitutional and international obligations in ways that address not only the legal but also the social realities of those they are meant to protect.

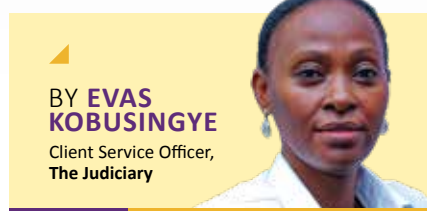
Conclusion

As some countries continue to grapple with FGM, the responsibility of the judiciary of each of those countries is clear: to interpret laws through a gender-sensitive and intersectional lens, to harmonize domestic jurisprudence with international commitments and to ensure that rights are not merely promises on paper but lived realities. "Judicial officers are guardians of dignity," H/W Nsenge said. "The true promise of Article 14 of the Maputo Protocol will only be realised when courts embrace their role with courage and consistency to ensure that no cultural justification is permitted to erode the fundamental rights of women and girls." ●



Fostering Wellness: Thriving in the Modern Workplace

In today's fast-moving professional world, many of us are caught in the endless chase of deadlines, meetings, and targets. But here's the truth: success isn't just about ticking boxes or climbing the career ladder.



BY EVÁS
KOBUSINGYE
Client Service Officer,
The Judiciary

It's also about how you feel along the way. Wellness, your physical, mental, and social health, isn't a luxury. It's the secret to staying productive, creative, and fulfilled. So how do you not just survive, but thrive, at work?

Mind & Body: The Power Duo

Stress is part of the job, but if you let it pile up, it can drag you down. The trick? Small, intentional habits that keep both your body and mind in sync.

Pause with purpose. Step away from your screen every so often. A five-minute stroll, some stretching, or even a few deep breaths can reset your brain and ease tension.

Move more, think better. Forget the gym excuse. Take the stairs, walk while you brainstorm, or stretch between tasks. Movement sparks energy and clears mental fog.

Be here now. Mindfulness isn't complicated. Focus on one thing at a time, whether it's writing that report or listening in a meeting. It sharpens concentration and quiets anxiety.

When you treat your body and mind like your greatest tools, they'll carry you through challenges with more energy,

Wellness facts

Did You Know?

- Taking just a **five-minute break every hour** can improve focus and reduce fatigue more effectively than working straight through the day.
- A brisk **10-minute walk** can boost your mood as much as a small dose of caffeine, and the effects last longer.
- Regular movement throughout the day doesn't just reduce stress—it can **increase creativity** by up to 60%.

clarity, and resilience.

The Human Connection

Work isn't just about tasks, it's about people. Strong workplace relationships build trust, spark collaboration, and make even tough days lighter.

Talk—and listen. Real communication isn't just about speaking up. It's about putting your phone down, looking someone in the eye, and really hearing them out.

Empathy goes far. Understanding what your colleagues are going through builds a culture of support. Sometimes, simply acknowledging someone's effort can mean the world.

Shift from blame to solutions. Problems happen. Instead of pointing fingers, ask:

"How can we fix this together?" That one shift turns conflict into teamwork.

A workplace with harmony and human connection doesn't just feel good—it fuels creativity and success.

The Burnout Battle

Burnout lurks quietly, then suddenly takes over. It's the exhaustion that coffee can't fix, the cynicism that sneaks into your attitude, and the fog that clouds your focus.

The first step? Spot it. If you're constantly drained, overwhelmed, or dreading your workday, take it seriously.

The second? Speak up. Share your struggles with your manager. A supportive leader will help you prioritise, delegate, or step back where necessary.

And sometimes, the only cure is rest. Take that holiday. Switch off the mails. Rediscover what recharges you, whether it's time with family, a favourite hobby, or simply sleep. You'll return stronger, sharper, and happier.

Thriving, Not Just Surviving

Work is a big part of life, but it shouldn't cost you your health or joy. By weaving wellness into your daily routine, through mindful breaks, movement, connection, and rest, you give yourself the best chance to shine.

Because thriving at work isn't about doing more. It's about doing better, while feeling your best. ●



The Unapologetic Legacy of Justice Prof. George W. Kanyeihamba

In the upscale quiet of Buziga, Kampala's leafy suburb, a signpost stands, weighed down by titles, Prof. Dr. Justice G.W. Kanyeihamba LLB., B.A.L., L.L.M., Ph.D., L.L.D., S.C. . It's not an affectation. It's a biography. And in many ways, it's a declaration: here lived a man who earned every syllable of his honorifics, and never once flinched from reminding the world.

You didn't just meet Prof. Kanyeihamba, you encountered him. A man of irrepressible intellect and exacting standards, he could be intimidating and endearing in the same breath. One moment, he'd scold you for inefficiency; the next, he'd make you laugh with a story dipped in the dry humour he claimed from his father, Zakaliya Bafwokworor, an elder from Muzirante village who turned storytelling into an art of wit and wisdom.

To say he was complex would be cliché. But how else do you describe a man born in the thick of the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, alone with only



President Museveni at a meeting with the Late Justice George Wilson Kanyeihamba

his mother and the trees, who would go on to shape constitutions, argue with presidents, and teach generations of lawyers how to wrestle with both the law and the times?

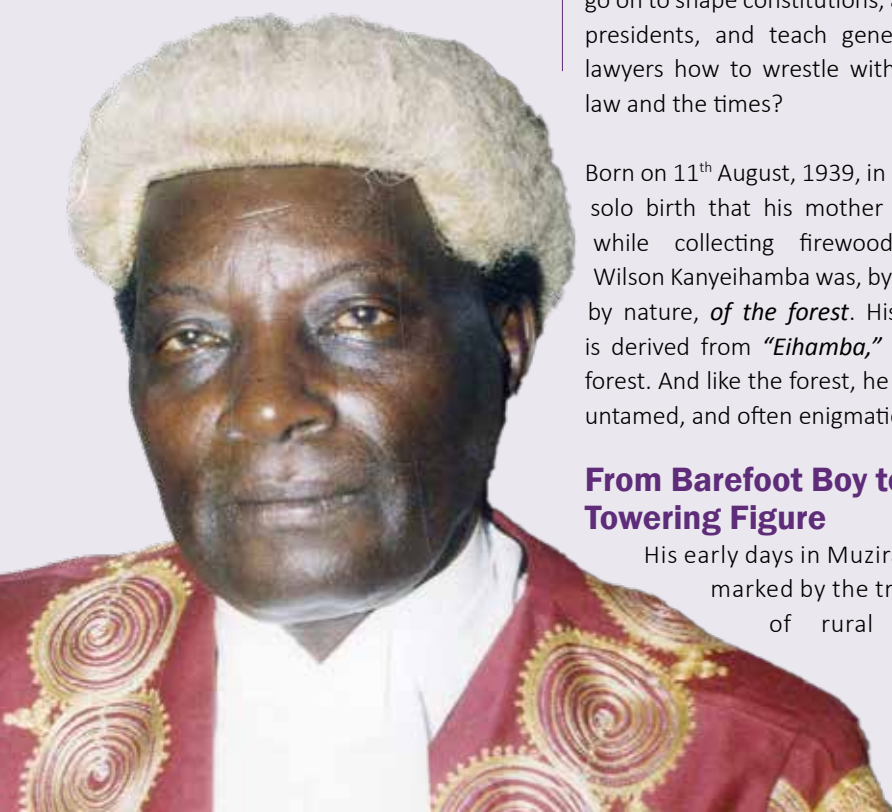
Born on 11th August, 1939, in a dramatic solo birth that his mother pulled off while collecting firewood, George Wilson Kanyeihamba was, by name and by nature, *of the forest*. His surname is derived from "*Eihamba*," Rukiga for forest. And like the forest, he was deep, untamed, and often enigmatic.

From Barefoot Boy to Law's Towering Figure

His early days in Muzirante were marked by the trademarks of rural Ugandan

life: long treks to school, bare feet, and a family scraping together hope through hard soil. His mother, Malyamu Kyenda Kyakundwa, a deeply spiritual Anglican woman, believed he was not meant for the village. She sold a piece of family land to send him to Kigezi High School, convinced he was a "messenger to the outside world".

The bet paid off. Scholarships, first from the government, then from the Madhvani Foundation, paved his way to Mwiri, and eventually to London. There, he met kindred spirits like Joseph Mulenga, with whom he would share not only a lifelong friendship but the distinction of serving on Uganda's Supreme Court.





At Norwich College and later the University of London, Kanyeihamba devoured the law like a man starved. He went on to teach at the University of Portsmouth before being wooed back home by the post-independence government. By then, his reputation was that of a legal purist with no appetite for mediocrity—and little patience for those who did.

Professor, Provocateur, and Pioneer

He helped found the law department at Makerere University. He authored one of Uganda's seminal legal texts: *Constitutional Law and Government in Uganda*. And in it, he made his worldview plain—law could not be divorced from politics, and lawyers should not pretend they are immune to the currents of history.

Even as he climbed the ladder, Attorney General under Yusuf Lule's brief government, Minister of Justice, Supreme Court Justice, he never stopped being the academic. Nor did he stop being controversial.

A man of many contradictions

He was tough on his staff, many couldn't last more than a few weeks under his scrutiny. Receptionists came and went. Security guards turned over like pages in his legal briefs. He demanded excellence, and brooked no excuses. Some found it difficult. Others saw the lesson: rigor is the price of brilliance.

Yet behind the stern façade was a man capable of great tenderness. He used humour to soften arguments and stories to stitch together friendships. He once remarked that his use of humour was not a performance, it was survival.

He could quote scripture with the



Justice Kanyeihamba had an opportunity to meet the Kabaka of Buganda.

passion of a preacher and the precision of a professor. And though born in the hills of Kanungu, he chose to be buried in Buziga. "I'm now the Kabaka's subject," he once said. "Why should I leave this place in death when I've lived here for so long?"

The forest still whispers

Now, in his passing, we are left to make sense of his legacy. Was he difficult? Yes. Demanding? Absolutely. But also indispensable.

He was, in every sense, *of the forest*, uncompromising, unpredictable, and impossible to ignore. He walked

barefoot from the hills of Kigezi into courtrooms and classrooms, cabinet meetings and constitutional conventions, always with the same message: that justice must not only be done but be understood, defended, and, when necessary, defied.

Prof. Dr. Justice George Wilson Kanyeihamba did not just practise the law. He *lived* it. And in doing so, he carved a path through the legal wilderness for others to follow.

If ever there were a man who belonged not just to Uganda but to the world, it was he. ●

PICTORIAL



The Deputy Chief Justice of Uganda, Hon. Justice Dr. Flavian Zeija, presents a Posthumous Certificate of Appreciation from UCLF to the family of the late Hon. Justice Kenneth Kakuru during the Inaugural Justice Kenneth Kakuru Memorial Lecture held at the Law Development Centre, Kampala, on 10th July, 2025.



The Arua Health Camp for Staff of the Judiciary was held on 11th June, 2025.



The Judicial Training Institute in partnership with United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in May took part in a benchmarking visit to the South African Judicial Education Institute and Law Reporting.



The Ag. Chief Registrar, Her Worship Lamunu Pamella Ocaya presided over the enrolment of 115 new advocates on 21st August, 2025.



The Chief Justice opened the Alternative Justice Strategy (AJS) training for Inter-Religious Council of Uganda (IRCU) at the Judicial Training Institute on 27th August, 2025.



Deputy Chief Justice Emeritus closed the Alternative Justice Strategy (AJS) training for the Inter-Religious Council of Uganda (IRCU) at the Judicial Training Institute on 27th August, 2025.



THE JUDICIARY

JUSTICE IS NOT FOR SALE!

SAY NO TO

CORRUPTION!

