



THE JUDICIARY INSIDER

Issue 05 | January-April 2016

Fast-tracking election petitions

High Court to clear election petitions in 180 days

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List of proposed
Magisterial Areas

Highlights from the Annual
Judges Conference

Chief Justice's five point
programme for the Judiciary





Judges at the opening of the 18th Annual Judges Conference at Commonwealth Resort Munyonyo. The conference was opened by the Prime Minister Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda on January 19.



Chief Justice Bart M. Katureebe (C) with top Judiciary officials during a training on management of election petitions in Kampala in February.



Eng. Christopher Ebal (R), the Estate Manager and Mrs Josephine Muwonge, the Commissioner Human Resource for the Judiciary at the opening of the New Law Year 2016.



The Chief Justice shares a light moment with UHRC boss Medi Kagwa after a swearing-in of new UHRC commissioners, Feb. 2016.



Personnel from ICT department entering data captured during the National Court Case Census, January 2016.



All the best to team Judiciary

Even as the Opening of the New Law Year ceremony went down, the calendar for Judiciary's priorities had already been drawn. Priorities show the focus for any individual and institution.

As we celebrate a year in office of the Hon. Chief Justice Bart M. Katureebe and the deputy Chief Justice, Hon. Stephen B.K. Kavuma, we have the pleasure to present to you their five key priorities on the transformation of the Judiciary agenda for 2016 with clear timelines. This pioneering scheme will ensure accountability for all personnel.

This does not come as a surprise considering that the theme of the January 2006 18th Annual Judges Conference was: *"Promoting the Rule of Law in Uganda through Judicial Accountability and Excellence"*. The highlights of the three day Conference that took place at the Speke/ Commonwealth Resort in Munyonyo, Kampala, are carried in this edition.

Flip through the pages of our Insider Issue 5 for scenes from the different Judiciary events. Some of the other key features in this Issue include: fast-tracking electoral petitions, the 2016 Presidential Election highlights, the Judiciary-Parliament interface and Justice Adonyo's plans for the Judicial Studies Institute. We have also carried a full list of the proposed Magisterial Areas, which we hope will be approved to start functioning by the close of 2016.

Our magazine combines a graphic intensive layout with high quality articles to provide an exceptional experience for readers.

Each issue of the Judiciary Insider contains articles chosen by the Judiciary Editorial Board.

Solomon Muyita,
Editor/Senior Communications Officer,
Judiciary

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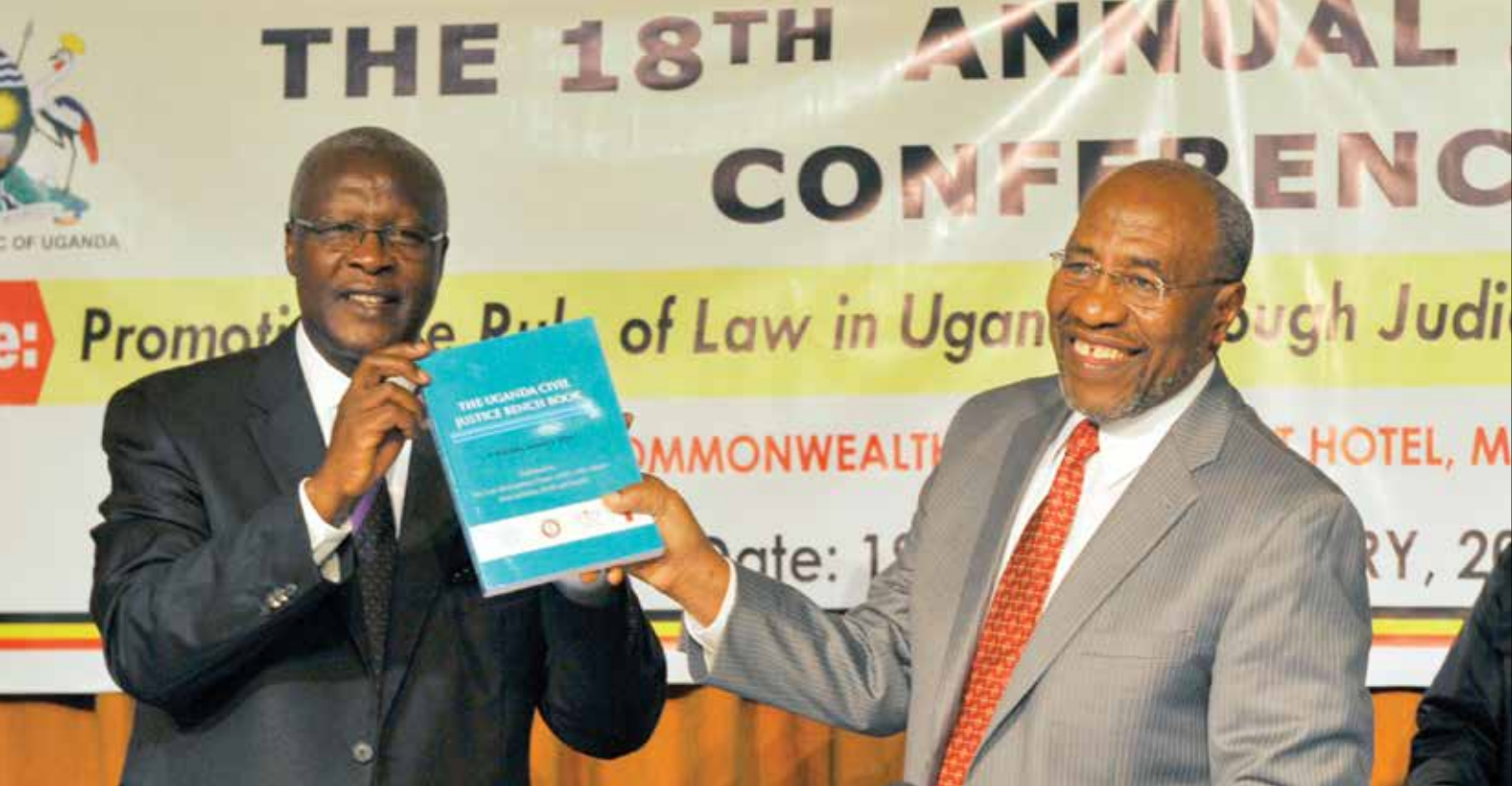
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Chief Justice Bart Katureebe and Prime Minister Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda launch the Uganda Civil Justice Bench Book during the January 2016 Annual Judges Conference.

Highlights of the 18th Annual Judges Conference

More than 150 judicial officers converged at the Commonwealth Speke Resort Hotel Munyonyo in Kampala for the three-day 18th Annual Judges Conference between January 19 and 21, 2016. The theme of the Conference was: “Promoting the Rule of Law in Uganda through Judicial Accountability and Excellence”.

Its objectives included showing the extent to which judicial practice in Uganda is accountable; examining the new ways the Judiciary can apply to entrench the rule of law in Uganda; providing practical solutions on enhancing performance of excellence in the judiciary; and stimulating debate among judges on contemporary affairs affecting the administration of justice in Uganda.

In his maiden address to all Judges, since his appointment as Chief Justice in March 2015, Justice Bart Magunda Katureebe, stressed the importance

of the administration of justice as a cornerstone of good governance, which is a pre-requisite for development.

He appealed to government to raise salaries and allowances of judicial officers, especially magistrates, adding that part of his plan this year is to ensure that judicial officers meet their set targets in order to improve efficiency in case disposal.

“The target for the Supreme Court is 80 appeals; Court of Appeal (600 appeals); each High Court judge (300 cases); a registrar (400); a chief magistrate (600);

magistrates Grade I (400); a magistrate Grade I under two years (300); and magistrate Grade Two (300).”

The Chief Justice also stopped frequent travels abroad by judicial officers, saying: “We lose a lot of judicial time on travels abroad and attending workshops/seminars that are not essential or do not add value to the courts. Consequently, judicial officers, will be allowed to travel abroad if the judicial calendar permits. Priority must be given to adjudication of cases”.



Justice Katureebe also urged the Judicial Studies Institute to publish a training timetable for the year to avoid incessant movements by judicial officers from courts to training venues.

President Yoweri Museveni, who was a presidential candidate at the time, delegated his guest of honour duties to the Prime Minister, Hon. Ruhakana Rugunda. He called upon the courts to “remain impartial and to handle election disputes fairly and expeditiously”.

The President commended Justice Katureebe for his new strategies to fight corruption in the third arm of the state, which included provision of SMS hotlines to the public to report unprofessional tendencies by court staff, as well as his upcountry tours for court inspection and stakeholder engagements.

“Let your internal disciplinary mechanisms be beyond reproach to avoid suspicions of bias, favouritism or selective prosecution. We need to place more emphasis on cleaning up the courts by fighting corruption inherent therein,” the president’s speech read in part.

Key concerns raised

1. It was not possible to train all the targeted judicial officers and other staff due to resource constraint.
2. The relationship with the Executive and the Legislature has been excellent despite the occasional tensions.
3. The administration of justice is a cornerstone of good governance, which in turn is a requisite for development and should be appreciated by all stakeholders;
4. There is still limited access to justice and the vulnerable remain the single most challenge undermining the rule of law in Uganda despite tremendous strides in the administration of justice.



Chief Justice Bart M. Katureebe chats with Deputy Chief Justice Steven Kavuma at the Conference.



A cross-section of participants at the Conference.

The timelines for case disposal, though improving, sadly remain below the international best practice of resolving disputes under one year.

President Yoweri Museveni’s speech during the opening of the conference emphasised that in order to realise accountability, justice should not only be done but should be seen to be done.

There is need for both Legal and administrative reforms for the judiciary to enhance judiciary accountability and excellence.

The Resolutions

Following elaborate discussions and remarks by the judicial and administration leaders, the guest of honour, technical presentations on topical issues and presentations of judicial leaders of Kenya, Tanzania and the US on their experiences, the following recommendations and resolutions for enhancement of judicial accountability, excellence and effectiveness in Uganda were adopted. 🗳️



Conference Resolutions

Judicial Accountability	
Recommendations	Resolutions
■ Filling of vacant positions of Judges and Justices in the Supreme Court, Court of Appeal and High Court. ■ Engagement of Acting Judges	■ Judgments should be written immediately when the facts are still fresh in the mind. ■ More funds should be availed to courts commensurate with its work load. ■ The Inspectorate of Courts should be strengthened. ■ Courts should hold Open Days at least twice a year. ■ Regular and timely sessions should be organised and facilitated. ■ The AJC should be managed by Judiciary Administration ■ Financial Reports of Judiciary be presented during every AJC. ■ Performance Accounts be opened for all judicial officers/staff and the Inspectorate to ensure individual accountability. ■ A pool of Sign Language Experts should be established to ease communication in courts.
Enhancing Judicial Excellence	
Recommendations	Resolutions
■ The remuneration of Judicial Officers should be enhanced to make it competitive. ■ Recruitment to fill the vacant positions of judicial and non-judicial staff.	■ The Uganda judiciary administration should further study the Reform Initiatives implemented by the Judiciary of Kenya, Tanzania and USA (6th Federal Circuit). ■ The judiciary continues to cooperate with sister judiciaries to adopt best practices for enhancing excellence. ■ Performance Management be rolled out. ■ Innovative approaches should be applied in the hearing of interlocutory applications. ■ Judicial time should be used in a manner that reflects value for money. ■ Targets for Judicial Officers should be institutionalised. ■ The Architecture and Format for writing judgments be standardised. ■ Lower Courts be allocated more resources. ■ Capacity Building Plan for Judiciary be developed. ■ Interventions to clear case backlog should be multi-pronged. ■ The management of Appeals should be streamlined. ■ More resources should be provided for training ■ Training calendar should be developed ■ The judiciary should ensure Cost effective delivery of training ■ All training should be in line with judiciary priorities
Enhancing the Administration of Justice in Uganda	
Recommendations	Resolutions
■ Constitutional Amendments be effected to separate Judiciary staff from Public Service. ■ Government should expedite the passing of The Judicial Administration Bill. ■ The presentation and passing of a Resolution in Parliament to increase the number of High Court Judges from current 51 to 82. ■ The Government provide the Judiciary with adequate transport means, office space and equipment to enhance performance.	■ Planning and Development Committee be revived ■ A mechanism for cooperation with NPA should be established. ■ A staff should be immediately assigned to coordinate with NPA over FY 2017/18 priorities. ■ The Judiciary to strengthen her lobby/advocating capacity for more support and cooperation. ■ Timely implementation of the newly gazetted circuits. ■ A comprehensive study be undertaken on the current committal system. ■ The Monitoring and Evaluation/Inspectorate Units should regularly report on the implementation of these AJC resolutions and recommendations



The new magistrates pose with Judiciary management shortly after swearing-in at the High Court in Kampala, February 26.

Chief Justice swears in 57 new magistrates

On February 26, the Chief Justice Bart M. Katureebe swore in 56 new magistrates at the rank of Grade I and one Senior Magistrate. During the swearing-in ceremony, which took place at the High Court, Justice Katureebe urged the frontline judicial officers to resist corruption.

He said, “I urge you to resist the cancer of corruption for your own good and that of the profession and the country.”

He said the meagre pay should not be used as an excuse to engage in corrupt tendencies.

“As we engage Government and Development Partners to raise resources to finance the proposed interventions, we should not lose sight of achieving targets that we have set for all Judicial Officers to promote accountability and value for money in the Judiciary.”

Justice Katureebe, who referred to the 57 as “foot soldiers,” said they will be faced with very high expectations from the public amidst temptations of getting rich quickly. “These threats and temptations will come from people who are close to you, court staff, bailiffs, advocates and politicians, who will tempt you with bribes and other inducements to tilt the scales of justice.”



The Registrar, Magistrates Affairs, Festo Nsenga (left), helps new Busia District Magistrate Grade 1, Mariam Namubiru, take oath on February 26.

Justice Katureebe said the new judicial officers were joining the institution at a time when the Judiciary is in the process of transforming the institution from process-driven to a result-oriented and accountable institution.

The Chief Registrar, Paul Gadenya, who supervises the lower bench, said targets for new Magistrates Grade I is 300 cases annually. He urged the judicial officers to ensure that they submit two judgements

to his office every month.

What they do

Magistrate Grade I officers handle civil cases where the subject matter is not more than Shs20m. They also handle criminal cases except those that attract life imprisonment and death penalties as a sentence.

The new judicial officers were appointed by the Judicial Service Commission. 



Fast-tracking election petitions

High Court to clear election petitions in 180 days

In the past, election petitions have taken long periods – like four years – for final verdicts to be made, which made many victims to lose confidence in the country's judicial system. However, this time round, everything is going to be handled in limited time frame.

The plan

According to the Principal Judge Dr. Yorokamu Bamwine, the Judiciary has allocated the first six months to handle elections petitions arising from the February polls. As part of this intervention aimed at ensuring that justice is not delayed, judicial officers held different training sessions and generated ideas on how best the objective will be achieved.

Justice Bamwine said High Court judges will put aside any criminal or civil matters to listen to election petitions in the allocated time. "There are some judges who are fast and might take only three months. Therefore, when a judge is done with the petitions, he can start listening to other cases.

E-evidence

In his presentation, Justice Remmy Kasule of the Court of Appeal urged judicial officers who will be handling election petitions to accept videos, audios and photographic evidence during the hearing of election petitions.

"In this era of technology, electronic evidence should be accepted by the courts. If you do not understand why the gadgets function the way they do, call an expert," he said.

The electronic evidence will include secretly recorded videos and audios of the illegalities being committed by



Some of the chief magistrates (standing) after training on how to manage election petitions at the Judicial Studies Institute, Nakawa in Kampala.

a party member, the electorate or any other persons.

Who can file?

According to Justice Kasule, evidence can be filed by anyone, including voters, agents to party candidates.

Justice Bamwine says the petitioner must pay the required Shs150,000. He said, "where some money is required to be paid as a condition of filing petitions, the laws are clear and we should abide by them.

Resolving disputes

The Chief Justice advised judicial officers to employ Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) while handling the petitions since

it saves costs and time, helps parties involved to heal quickly and gives parties control over the outcomes of the settlement terms. "...Thus, the role of the courts in rebuilding social cohesion during and after elections through effective application of ADR is critical. I therefore urge you to encourage possible settlement of electoral disputes using ADR."

Remaining impartial

Speaking during a two-day capacity building session for High Court judges at Royal Suites in Bugolobi, the Chief Justice Bart Katureebe cautioned judicial officers against being dragged into the woes of an emotionally charged party, saying this will have disastrous effects on their decisions.



The Chief Justice leads other judges after a two-day training for High Court Judges in election petition management in Kampala, February 2016.



The Chief Justice during a meeting with election observers in February.

Dr. Bamwine advised judicial officers against *ex-parte* interim orders without according both parties a hearing.

“Try as much as possible to avoid *ex-parte* orders. Election issues are highly emotive. Expect a backlash on any decision taken *ex-parte*,” he said. An *ex-parte* decision is one decided by a Judge without requiring all parties to the case to be present.

The chief justice also cautioned the officers against succumbing to intimidation.

“Stand firm and take charge of your court. Do not allow to be intimidated by parties who have their own selfish interests and do not be swayed by anybody except the need for justice,” he said.

He said this calls for the application of

leadership skills. “You should be able to guide the lawyers and the litigants to reach just conclusion of the cases in a timely manner.” Justice Katureebe said the judicial officers will need to employ effective case management techniques such as effective ways of dealing with affidavit evidence, managing adjournments, effective management of judicial time and sticking to timelines, elimination of unnecessary cross examination among others.

The deal

The Judicial Studies Institute organised capacity building workshops for judicial officers at different levels on handling election petitions.

The workshops were organised to give judicial officers the necessary capacity to curb the backdrop of the previous challenges and complaints arising from the election vote recount process.

According to Hon. Justice Dr. Bamwine, the workshops were designed to equip the judicial officers the necessary skills and competencies in electoral dispute management.

What the law says

Under Articles 140 and 104 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, the Judiciary is mandated to hear and determine electoral petitions and these are required to be heard and determined expeditiously. The court is directed to suspend any other matters pending before it so that an election petition is completed in a timely manner. An example of such constitutional requirement is the case of presidential petitions where the Supreme Court is required to hear and determine a petition within 30 days from the date of filing it. 



The Presidential Election Petition 2016

On March 31, 2016, the Supreme Court led by Chief Justice Bart Katureebe dismissed a Presidential election petition that had been filed by former presidential candidate John Patrick Amama Mbabazi who had sought nullification of President Museveni's February 18 re-election.

The court in its summary ruling, ruled on each of the six issues that were framed at the beginning of the trial.

Issue 01: Whether there was Non-compliance with the provisions of the Presidential Elections Act (PEA) and Electoral Commission Act (ECA), in the conduct of the 2016 Presidential Election.

Under issue one, a number of subject matters were raised that court dealt with in deciding the petition.

a) Illegal nomination of candidate Museveni

In his petition, Mr. Mbabazi alleged that contrary to sections 9 and 10 of the Presidential Elections Act, the Electoral Commission nominated President Museveni on the 3rd November, 2015, when he had not yet been sponsored by his party the NRM on whose ticket he purportedly contested.

Mr. Mbabazi relied on his affidavit in support of his Petition to support this allegation.

But the Electoral commission in its defence denied the allegation and contended it properly and duly nominated President Museveni after he had complied with all the requirements of the law.

President Museveni relied on the affidavit of Kasule Lumumba, the Secretary General of the NRM party,



The scene from the March 31, 2016 Amama Mbabazi Presidential Election Petition judgement at the Supreme Court.

who confirmed that President Museveni was endorsed by the NRM Delegates' Conference as the presidential candidate for the NRM party, in accordance with the party's Constitution.

Court's take

Court on deciding this issue, held that they had carefully considered the affidavit evidence adduced by the parties and also studied the provisions of section 9 and 10 of the Presidential Elections Act which govern sponsorship and nomination of presidential candidates.

"We have also carefully considered section 11 of the PEA which provides for the factors on the basis of which the nomination of a person duly nominated can be invalidated. The allegations made

by the petitioner (Mr. Mbabazi) do not fit any of these factors," ruled the court.

b) Illegal extension of nomination deadline

Mr. Mbabazi had alleged that contrary to sections 11 of the PEA, the EC failed to declare President Museveni's nomination papers null and void and instead acted improperly when it extended the deadline to give President Museveni more time after all other candidates had submitted their respective documents.

The lawyers from the EC led by Enos Tumusiime, argued that Counsel for the 2nd respondent acknowledged that the EC extended the deadline for nomination citing section 50 of the ECA empowers the EC to extend the time



for doing any act and that the extension was necessitated by the late passing of electoral law reforms by Parliament. The EC lawyers further argued that the extension was not meant to benefit any of the presidential candidates.

Mr. Mbabazi alleged that the EC illegally and irregularly retired the duly compiled 2011 Voters' Register and purported to create another one, using data compiled by the Ministry of Internal Affairs for purposes of issuing National Identity Cards.

But the EC in its defence, averred that the late delivery of election materials occurred only in some polling stations in two districts out of 112. The EC further in its defence, stated that mitigating factors like extending of the voting time from 4pm to 7pm were put in place.



But the EC had argued that it properly compiled, revised and updated the National Voters' Register in accordance with its constitutional and statutory duties.

Court's take

Court in its decision held that the EC's use of data compiled by the National Identification and Registration Authority to compile the National Voters' Register did not in any way negate the independence of the 2nd respondent which is guaranteed under the Constitution.

d) Use of Biometric Voter Verification Machine (BVVK)

Mbabazi had alleged that contrary to section 35 (1) and (2) of the PEA, the EC failed to identify voters by their respective voters' cards but instead applied an unreliable, slow and suspect biometric identification machines, thereby denying legitimate registered voters their right to vote and 10 creating room for persons not duly registered to vote.

Court's take

The court ruled on that it was its finding that the use of the BVVK did not, in itself, constitute noncompliance under the PEA and it did not disenfranchise voters.

e) Late delivery of polling materials

Mr. Mbabazi had faulted the electoral body for deliberately delivering voting materials late on election day of February 18 in mainly opposition strong holds like Wakiso and Kampala.

Court's take

The court agreed with Mr. Mbabazi that indeed the EC did not comply with its duty under Section 28 of the PEA and that the failure to deliver polling materials to polling stations within such close proximity to the Commission was evidence of incompetence and gross inefficiency by the electoral body.

f) Allowing unauthorised persons to vote

The petitioner Mr. Mbabazi had alleged that contrary to sections 30 (4) and 35 of the PEA when the presiding officers in the course of their duties, allowed people with no valid voters' cards to vote or denied those who had cards from voting.

However, the EC contended that no credible evidence had been adduced by Mr. Mbabazi to support this allegation as well.

Court's take

The court briefly held that no evidence adduced proved that anybody ineligible to vote was allowed to vote.

Issue 02: Whether the said election was conducted in accordance with the principles laid down in the Presidential Elections Act, and the Electoral Commission Act.

In tackling this issue, the court held that there was noncompliance with the principles of free and fair elections in some areas where there was interference with Mr. Mbabazi's consultative meetings, late delivery of polling materials, failure by

Court's take

The court in its ruling, observed that indeed section 50 of the ECA grants powers to the EC to extend the time for doing any act. The justices went on to cite section 50 (2) in particular provides that the provisions of section 50 apply to the whole electoral process, including all steps taken for the purposes of the election which includes nomination.

c) Failure by EC to compile a National Voters' Register

The former premier had alleged that contrary to article 61 (1) e of the constitution, section 12 (f) of the ECA, The EC abdicated its duty of properly compiling and securely maintaining the National Voters' register.



Museveni's lawyer, Kiyowa Kiwanuka (R), talks to Mbabazi's lawyers, Muhammed Mbabazi and Michael Akampurira, during the Presidential Election Petition hearing.

Uganda Broadcasting Corporation (UBC) to give him equal treatment, interference with his electioneering activities by some elements of the police, some Resident District Commissioners and Gombolola Internal Security Officers.

Issue 03: Whether if either issue 1 and 2 or both are answered in the affirmative, such non compliance with the said laws and the principles affected the results of the elections in a substantial manner.

In determining this critical issue, the nine justices of the Supreme Court held that although there was noncompliance on the side of the electoral, commission in issue 1 and 2, the same non compliance did not affect the final result in a substantial manner to over-turn President Museveni's victory.

Issue 04: Whether the alleged illegal practices or any electoral offences in the petition under the PEA, were committed by the 1st respondent personally, or by his agents with his knowledge and consent or approval.

Mbabazi had alleged that President Museveni bribed the voters of West Nile

with hoes so that they refrain from voting other presidential candidates.

Court's take

The court ruled that the evidence on record indicated that the supply of hoes to people in Northern Uganda commenced in 2013/14 Financial Year and therefore it was their finding that Mr. Museveni did not engage in bribery as alleged by Mr. Mbabazi

The other bribery allegation by Mr. Mbabazi against his former boss was that he dished out Shs250,000 to voters in every village twice in order to vote for him.

But Mr. Museveni had in his defence, admitted the payment of the money in question but said the same was paid by the NRM party to its branches to support its party activities but it was not a bribe to influence the minds of the voters.

Court's take

In exonerating Mr. Museveni on this second bribery allegation, court observed that section 64 (3) of the PEA provides that the offence of bribery does not apply in respect of provision of money

to cover expenses of a candidate's organization meetings or campaign planning.

Turning to other electoral malpractices allegedly committed by President Museveni, Mr. Mbabazi had alleged that his former boss made derogatory and reckless statements when stated that he and his supporters had touched the anus of a leopard and that they would see what would happen to them. Mbabazi added these derogatory statements by Museveni scared away his supporters who ran for their dear life

Court's take

The court in exonerating Museveni on this electoral malpractice, stated that Mbabazi failed to adduce evidence to prove the same. The court took notice that Museveni admitted making such words but denied that the allegation as being referred to Mbabazi The court also held that upon considering the words uttered by the President, they did not have the meaning attached to them by Mr. Mbabazi.

Issue 05: Whether the 3rd respondent was correctly added as a respondent in this election petition.

The Attorney General had contended that it is wrongly joined to the petition since the Presidential Elections Act only provide for the person whose election is complained about and the EC and that there is nowhere it states that the AG can be joined as a party to the presidential election petition.

Court's take

The court in its ruling on this issue agreed with the AG that the rules as they now stand, do not envisage the Attorney General as a respondent to a presidential election petition. 



Judiciary, Parliament interface again

Chief Justice Bart Katureebe has asked government to supplement the judiciary efforts to improve the administration of justice in the country by way of addressing unfunded priorities.

He made these remarks during an interface with MPs on the Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee in April.

He said the judiciary needs Shs7.2 billion every year for the next five years to develop and launch a robust case management system to promote modern methods of data management to enhance performance management.

“Currently, the court proceedings in all Magistrates Courts and some High Court circuits are handwritten, this procedure is slow, tedious and prone to all alterations, which works against the core principles of access to justice, which includes the right to a copy of proceedings,” said Justice Katureebe.

While addressing a meeting with the Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee, Justice Katureebe said the judiciary needs an additional Shs5.6 billion per year for

the next five years to provide transport equipment for trial judicial officers especially magistrates for visiting places in land cases in fulfillment of the legal requirement.

Other priority needs for the judiciary according to the Chief Justice, are Shs6 billion for construction of five courts every year to increase the Judiciary-owned buildings from the current 79 out 154 premises; Shs5.6 billion for increasing magisterial areas from 39 to 81 and Shs6 billion to fund introduction of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR).

“...there is need for additional funding in the medium term if we are to clear case backlog using existing justices, judges and magistrates and bring on board on contract acting judges retired to help clear backlogged cases so that justices and judges are left to handle cases that come in,” he said.

The Chief Justice revealed the Judiciary

is in the process of piloting the performance management scheme for all judicial officers to enhance performance, transparency and accountability in the judicial process.

“Civil procedure rules and Court of Appeal and Supreme Court Rules are to be amended to reduce timeliness and costs of adjudicating cases in courts. Soon, we shall ask Parliament to address longstanding amendments to the Trial and Indictment Act and Magistrates Courts Act to provide for plea bargaining and reform of committal proceedings to address pre-trial remands in capital cases,” he said.

According to the Chief Justice, the judiciary has earmarked to receive an additional Shs20 billion under non-wage budget in the next financial year that will be utilised on court operations, case backlog reduction, training and capacity building, legal reference materials and allowances among others. 



Judiciary's senior management team (left) at the April 2016 interface with the Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee members at the High Court in Kampala.



Judicial training calendar

“We are in final stages of completing a Judicial Training Calendar which will be discussed by the Judicial Training Committee before it is forwarded to the Chief Justice for consideration and final approval,” Justice Adonyo said.

Justice Adonyo opines that because of not having a training calendar for some time, training activities became ad hoc and unpredictable, frequently interfering with judicial work. Adonyo believes the JSI should, going forward, focus on having those employed in the Judiciary to perform better at their job and therefore an appropriate responsive calendar is necessary with each training activity developed in such a way that through appropriate conceptualization is then linked to the Judiciary vision and mission.

Research

On the research section of JSI, Adonyo states this aspect will be revamped such that it is able to offer both informed online and physical resources to the Judiciary and to the entire Justice Law and Order Sector.

Virtual classes

Part of Adonyo’s plan is to start on line classes and therefore the Internet access bandwidth at the Institute for the connectivity will have to increase for what is currently available is not only very slow but not sufficient yet online classes when properly structured and delivered can greatly improve job performance. He adds that, therefore, without appropriate IT infrastructure these plans can only remain but a dream.

Curriculum development

Justice Adonyo adds that there is need to revamp the training curriculum to reflect the needs of the Judiciary and its JLOS partners to reflect the twin aspect of capacity development as well as



Judicial Training Committee Chairperson, Dr. Justice Esther Kisakye (L) with the JSI Executive Director, Dr. Justice Henry Peter Adonyo touring JSI offices at Nakawa.

Dr. Justice Adonyo’s plans for the Judicial Studies Institute

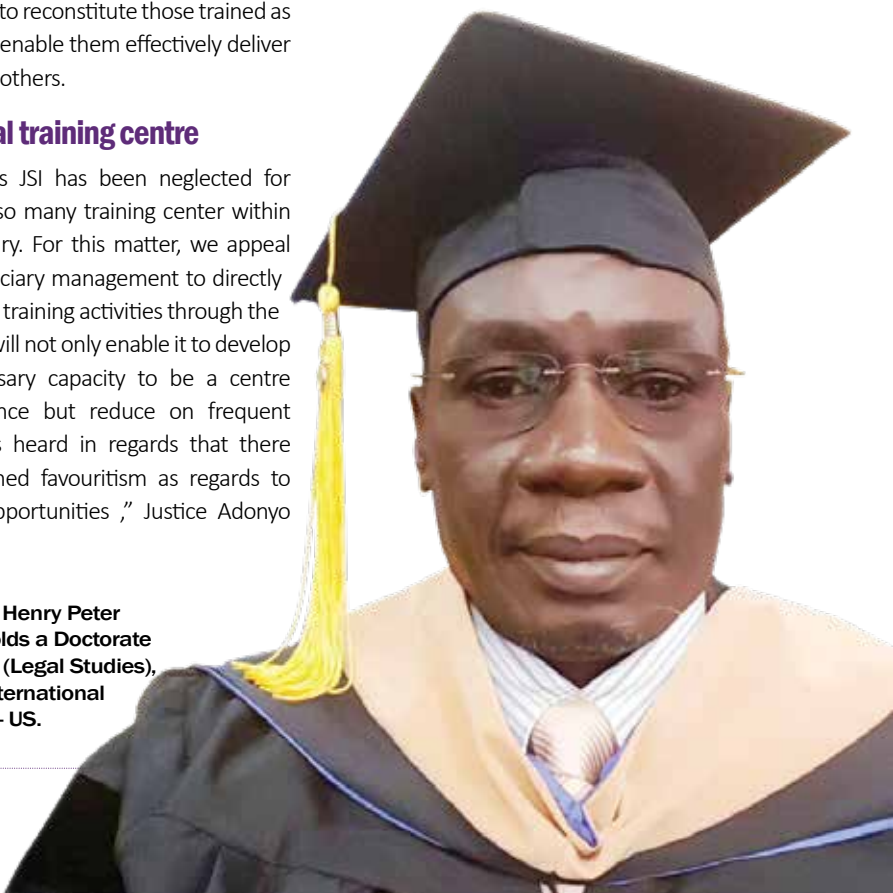
When Dr. Justice Henry Peter Adonyo was appointed Executive Director of Judicial Studies Institute late last year, he was tasked to revamp the institute. Since then, he has come up with several interventions with the major ones being;

individual job satisfaction. He says this will be achieved by reconstituting the JSI faculty. After this is done then there will be need then to reconstitute those trained as trainers to enable them effectively deliver training to others.

One focal training centre

“It appears JSI has been neglected for there are so many training center within the Judiciary. For this matter, we appeal to the Judiciary management to directly channel all training activities through the JSI as this will not only enable it to develop the necessary capacity to be a centre of excellence but reduce on frequent complaints heard in regards that there is established favouritism as regards to training opportunities ,” Justice Adonyo says.

Dr. Justice Henry Peter Adonyo holds a Doctorate in Science (Legal Studies), Atlantic International University - US.





Partnerships

“We are going to engage different partners such as United Nations Commission for Human Rights, UN Women, Danish International Development Agency, United Nations Development Programme, Justice Law and Order Sector, United Nations Children’s Fund, United States Agency for International Development, Foundation for Human Rights Initiative amongst others to create purposeful linkages which will enhance judicial and legal training. This linkage will go hand in hand with appropriate networking with regional and international judicial training institutions.

Decentralised training

Owing to the fact that JSI does not have enough room to take in a large number of participants at once. It is proposed that training activities be carried out where our users are, such as court premises or nearby facilities where the majority of them are, with only occasional relocation of trainees to other places when it is absolutely necessary. Thus, one of the solutions would be in holding regional training activities to ensure that training opportunities are availed to as many employees of the Judiciary as possible.

Reconstitution of Judicial Training Committee

Adonyo states there will certainly be need to reconstitute the current Judicial Training Committee (JTC) to ensure that it is more results oriented and therefore effective. This means that the JTC will have to be trimmed and more hands-on board reflecting a stakeholder membership which enables each member to assume particular role in the activities of the institute.

Case backlog reduction strategy

Adonyo says as of now our system is torn between the processing of old cases and the newly registered ones with the end result that the cry of cases delaying seems to be always constant with no hope in the end for the whole thing seems to continue being a merry go round with no end in sight.

Adonyo states that though we have established timelines for disposal of cases, we do not have in place what is the next step to take in case these timelines are not realised even with a Case Backlog Committee in place, the truth is that we continue to lament about case backlog for it more or less deals with statistics and not timelines.

He adds that his learning on this issue from other jurisdictions is where timelines are set and not met, then the case is automatically transferred to the Case Backlog Committee which then designs appropriate strategy on how to have the same disposed of thereby not only relieving the particular judicial officer of the task on what to do between a delayed case and a new one. Adonyo says such a strategy will be proposed for implementation.

Management finances

Adonyo believes that in order for the JSI to fully implement its activities in an orderly manner, it needs to manage its own finances separate from the mainstream Judiciary. “Therefore, the Judiciary should enable JSI manage its own finances if it is to provide relevant and timely training activities.”

Staffing at JSI

He says each and every person deployed at JSI should reflect the core activities of the Institute and not as the case has been in the past where JSI was “sort of” a dumping ground for non-performers.

Overall goal

Adonyo’s plans are to transform the JSI into a centre for excellence in not only judicial and legal education but one which will be the envy of many. To this end, he has embarked on the process of obtaining various training needs of all those employed in the Judiciary and is working with other instructions to assess their training needs to enable coherent reflection of training and to provide the necessary capacity building process. This system, he believes, will create a database to inform the training needs of different individuals with these changes envisaged to not be instant but rather gradual. 



An induction training session of new magistrates Grade I at JSI.



Performance targets set for Judicial officers

Chief Justice of Uganda Hon. Justice Bart Katureebe once again warned judges and magistrates against involving themselves in bribery and misconduct saying that this does not only hurt victims of offences but it also hurts people's perception of the Judiciary.

While officiating at the launch of the 2016 Law Year at High Court in Kampala, the Chief Justice advised judicial officers who use the low salary as an excuse for soliciting for bribes to resign and join private practice where there is more income.

"We joined the Judiciary not to make money but to serve; all those who are not satisfied with the benefits can step aside. We have seen many magistrates who have resigned their jobs and joined private practice," stressed Hon. Justice Katureebe.

Hon. Justice Katureebe urged the public to report all cases of bribery to the nearest supervisors or directly to his office.

The performance targets

Supreme Court	80 cases
Court of Appeal	600 cases
High court Judge	300 cases
Registrars @	400 cases
Chief Magistrate @	600 cases
Magistrate Grade I (3+ yrs) @	400 cases
Magistrate Grade I @	300 cases
Magistrate Grade II @	300 cases

He however cautioned lawyers against making baseless allegations against Judges, noting that this would act as a roadblock to administration of justice.

"I call upon all members of the bar not to be driven by emotions when filing complaints against judges because on several occasions I have received complaints

from different lawyers accusing Judges of corruption, which often turns out to be bias," he said.

On the issue of the case backlog, the Hon. Chief Justice directed that all Magistrates and Judges at various levels must ensure that they hit the annual target of all cases allocated to them.

The Judiciary has set up modern method of management where officers will be evaluated annually.

The Chief Justice appointed Hon. Justice Augustine Nshimye, the Judge of Supreme Court as inspector of all courts and his role will be to ensure that all courts attain the new targets. 📌



A cross-section of judges at the opening of the New Law Year at the High Court in Kampala.



Only 5% Ugandans use courts – Report

Only five per cent of the Ugandans with real justice need run to courts to solve their issues, reveals a new report. At least 80 per cent of the population in disputes do not report problems to any dispute resolution forum.

The “Justice Needs in Uganda 2016” Report released recently by The Hague Institute for the Innovation of Law, based in (HiIL), a Dutch organisation in partnership with ACORD Uganda, only one out of 10 Ugandans with justice needs resolved it formally in the past four years.

“Some people are more likely to interact with the formal justice system than other,” the Report from a ground breaking research reads in part, adding that issues of employment, social welfare and children are more likely to be left without action.

“For example, men and people with a higher education and income are much more likely to engage with formal justice actors. Men try to solve their problem slightly more often than women. Older people are significantly, less likely than younger people to solve their problem. People with higher incomes above Shs120,000 try to solve their problems more often than people with lower incomes of 60, 000.”

According to Sessanne Spets, the head of Development Cooperation at Swedish Embassy in Uganda, having a justice system that works for the disadvantaged in place “empowers people to seek remedies for injustice and thus contribute to strengthening democratic governance and the rule of law”.

“Justice Institutions enable people to protect their rights against infringement and other human rights abuses. We need

to deepen our understanding of the landscape in which we operate and find ways to make sure our development interventions meet the actual needs of citizens first,” she said at the launch of the Report in Kampala.

Ms. Spets said the Report brings out innovative ways to analyzing and measuring justice needs. The report also shows how ordinary Ugandans appreciate their access to justice, the level of fairness and trust in different parts of the formal and informal justice system.

“The findings of this research is crucial for understanding the gaps we need to bridge and obstacles that need to be reduced in order to ensure access to justice and that important problems are solved in everyday life, that matters to people throughout Uganda,” she said.

She said the Report confirms that the most prevalent justice system problems people face are related to land, family matters and crime. “It is within the communities that conflict resolution is carried out and the Local Council Courts are important arenas despite the fact that they have not been validly constituted,” she said.

The **Principal Judge, Dr. Yorokamu Bamwine (pictured)**, however said the importance of access to justice cannot be



underestimated; “If it does not exist, rule of law becomes nothing more than just a concept, an ideal.”

Dr. Bamwine observed that court users face challenges which include lack of money to pay legal fees, filing fees, delay of disposal of cases by

courts due to understaffing as well as poor distribution of courts throughout the country. He said legal rights and legal obligations cannot be enforced without access to justice.

Justice Bamwine said the Judiciary was on course to put in place several innovations to increase access to justice.

Rachel Odoi, the senior technical advisor at JLOS applauded HiIL’s report saying it could have a tremendous impact on the future of the justice system in Uganda. She said it is a useful baseline on which strategies can be devised for the next five years.

The Justice Needs Report

At least 6,202 Ugandans were interviewed in the course of the research. The Report discusses the difficulties of ordinary Ugandans in accessing justice and receiving fair outcomes for their daily justice problems. It outlines that 30 per cent of the people who receive no justice at all disproportionately comprises the most vulnerable segments of the population: those with low incomes or who are unemployed, women, elderly people and people with low education levels and people from rural areas. 



Bart M. Katureebe's first year as Chief Justice

The date was March 5, 2015 when President Museveni appointed Supreme Court Judge Bart M. Katureebe as the new Chief Justice. Prior to his appointment, the country had gone for two years without a substantive Chief Justice. In his maiden interview as Chief Justice, Katureebe pledged to tackle corruption and case backlog. We assess his achievements.

In acceptance of the fourth top job in the land, Katureebe said he is humbled but was quick to add that he will not be carried away by promising to satisfy the needs of everyone.

"I am most humbled but gratified that most people across the board have supported my nomination. You can't say there is no dissenting voice, that in itself is strength and challenge at the same time. Its strength that I know that I can move forward now I have support generally of the people," Katureebe said.

He added: "It's a challenge because I must try to live up to the expectations of most people but I must say that I will not be carried away that I can satisfy all the expectations of the people."

Basing on the above disclaimer, Katureebe promised to open lines of communication with other arms of the state for support and also from within.

Fighting corruption

Justice Katureebe promised to refer all judicial officers caught in corruption acts to the Judicial Service Commission, a government body mandated to recruit and discipline errant judicial officers for disciplinary measures.

He also promised to have some of the judicial officers criminally prosecuted once caught in acts of corruption.

"I intend to follow up every single matter that is filed against judicial officers but I will urge the general public to stop also corrupting our judicial officers because corruption involves the giver and taker of the bribe. But those caught will be referred to the Judicial Service Commission."

A few months into office, Justice Katureebe wrote to retired Supreme Court judge George Kanyeihamba, senior lawyer Peter Mulira and former Presidential Press Secretary Tamale Mirundi to avail him with names of judicial officers they claimed were corrupt.

However, the list of 12 judicial officers that Justice Kanyeihamba availed, were not backed with any evidence.

Customer feedback lines

The other strategy that Katureebe is using to fight corruption was the introduction of SMS hotlines (**0776709100, 0703707085, 0794702085**) for the public to report any incidents of corruption by judicial officers and their support staff.

The public is responding well by reporting corruption-related incidents in the Judiciary although others report incidents that are not related to corruption.

Late last year, the Judiciary embarked on the installation of CCTV cameras in various court registries to monitor whatever the court clerks do since they are largely used as corruption





conduits yet they are the first contact with the public/litigants.

Some of the city court registries that have been fitted with CCTV cameras include; High Court Criminal Division, Executions Division, Anti Corruption Court, Mengo, Makindye, Nabweru, Buganda Road Courts among others.

Three magistrates were sacked from the Judiciary on recommendation from the JSC with one magistrate being retired in public interest for being involved in

you can find that some report to work at 11am which behaviour is unacceptable” Katureebe said.

To that effect, the Chief Justice recently appointed Supreme Court Justice Augustine Nshimye to head the Inspectorate arm of the Judiciary, a post that had been previously occupied by a registrar.

The move to appoint a Supreme Court Justice to this role was aimed at dealing with protocol issues where a registrar

Many locals have appreciated Justice Katureebe’s outreach strategy.

While making those court tours, Katureebe said his motive is to leave the Judiciary at the end of his five-year term when there is some degree of “public confidence” in the Judiciary.

Tackling case backlog

In a bid to fight the monster of case backlog, the Judiciary carried out a national case file census to establish the actual number of pending cases in the system.

According to the chairperson of the taskforce that carried out the case file census, Dr. Justice Henry Peter Adonyo, the census was intended to establish the right number of pending files in the system so as to plan case and file management.

At the end of the exercise, it was established that 114,512 cases were pending in different courts.

To that effect, the Judiciary management agreed to deploy more judicial officers to stations that have more case files so that they can be fast tracked.

More recruitments

Last year, President Museveni appointed five new justices to the Supreme Court and seven justices to the Court of Appeal, which doubles as the Constitutional Court. On the lower bench, 53 judicial officers were promoted to different ranks including deputy registrars, assistant registrars, chief magistrates, and senior principal magistrate grade ones. This year, 57 magistrates have been appointed. This is one of the remedies the Chief Justice believes will combat case backlog.



The Chief Justice presiding over the opening of the New Law Year 2016.

corruption related incidents especially mismanaging bail money for litigants.

Another strategy that Justice Katureebe has used to combat corruption is to strengthen the Inspectorate arm of the Judiciary that mainly deals with ethical issues regarding judicial officers.

“If I can strengthen the Inspectorate arm of the judiciary to check especially the lower Bench, that will be helpful. Sometimes when magistrates are not well checked,

could find difficulties to approach a Court of Appeal or Supreme Court judge if cases of corruption were to be investigated.

Countrywide court inspections

Since June last year, Justice Katureebe has carried out nationwide tours of courts of judicature to hear views of locals regarding judicial officers.

The Chief Justice has interfaced with locals who shared their concerns on the administration of justice.



What stakeholders say about Katureebe's one year in office

"He has been practical to see that temples of justice live up to their name of justice and not injustice. In this first year, I also see commitment to rout corruption out of the Judiciary. He might have good intentions but some people might want to frustrate him," *Ms. Cissy Kagaba, Executive Director Anti Corruption Coalition Uganda.*



"There is open communication and this is a welcome development. Indeed one year later, he has so far lived up to his promise," *Steven Kavuma, Deputy Chief Justice.*

"His first year has been one of understanding the challenges the institution faces and setting the tone of his leadership; fighting corruption, improving access to justice, improving the way courts work have formed his focus," *Ms. Ruth Sebatindira, President Uganda Law Society.*



"We are hopeful that there are some positive developments. I have seen him transverse the country to hear from the people. He has also come into reality with corruption when some people impersonated him and obtained money," *Justice Mike Chibita, Director of Public Prosecutions*



The Chief Justice during a tour of Jinja Prison last year.

Improved communication

One of the reforms that Justice Katureebe said he will introduce in a bid to transform the judiciary was the policy of open communication within the judiciary and with other arms of the state like the Executive and Legislature.

On September 2, the Chief Justice along with all the judges paid a courtesy visit to President Museveni at State House Entebbe where they discussed a wide range of issues aimed at improving the delivery of justice and their own welfare.

The Deputy Chief Justice Steven Kavuma said Justice Katureebe has opened up communication lines with fellow administrators in the judiciary.

"There is open communication and this is a welcome development. Indeed one year later, he has so far lived up to his promise." Justice Kavuma said, adding: "we usually have informal discussions amongst three of us (Chief Justice, Deputy Chief Justice and Principal Judge)."

During his first year, he has hosted two meetings with members of legal parliamentary committee where various issues have been discussed.

Digital justice

The Chief Justice has introduced the installation of recording equipment that have been fitted in most High Court rooms, elimination of the practice of putting judgments on notice (the practice is exact dates should now be fixed) and use of video evidence in trial, among other reforms.

Number of laws reformed

The Chief Justice has embarked on reforming rules of procedure. Last year, judges met in Kampala to discuss a number of proposed amendments in the criminal and civil justice system aimed at speeding up the delivery of justice. The amendments are to be made in the Magistrates Court Act (MCA), Civil Procedure Act and the Trial on Indictment Act (TIA). All these laws have been in existence for more than 50 years and need to be tailored to suit Uganda's prevailing social-economic circumstances.

Unanimous decision of Supreme Court justices

He is the first judge in the history of Uganda to have a unanimous decision for all the justices in a presidential petition. 



Chief Justice's key priorities for the Judiciary - 2016

1. Strengthening integrity in the Judiciary

Activity	Activity narrative (The 5Ws)	Time Lines
Strengthening of the Inspectorate	Operationalise the inspectorate by appointing all inspectors and administrative staff	February-April
	Reschedule the workload of the CIOC at the Supreme Court	February-April
	Appoint Regional inspectors	February-April
	Train inspectors for capacity building	February-April
	Increase funds and avail vehicles to IOC to carry out its expanded mandates.	
	IOC to develop annual work plan	February
	Implement the Inspection Tool during inspections	Immediate
Installation of CCTV	Install CCTV cameras at Civil, Anti-Corruption, Criminal, Execution and Bailiffs, Land, Family and Commercial—and seven Chief Magistrates Court Registries of Entebbe, Makindye, Nabweru, Nakawa, Buganda Road, Mengo and Law Development Centre Court	February-May

2. Functional Access to Justice by prioritising and developing new products to broaden and deepen access to justice as well as strengthening relations with institutions of Higher Learning

Activity	Activity narrative (The 5Ws)	Time Lines
Implementation of the MoU with Pepperdine University	Carry out capacity building for Plea bargaining	June-July 2016
	Capacity building for Appellate Judges on Mediation	June-July
	Carry out capacity building for Sentencing Guidelines	June-July
	Internship and Externship for Commercial Court, Criminal Division, family Division, Mbale High Court Circuit, Supreme Court.	April & October
	Exchange programme involving Judges and Court staff visiting from Uganda and USA.	TBC
	Meeting to discuss implementation of the MoU and activities flowing from MoU.	March
Proposed MoU with Faculty of Law MUK	Enter into MoU with School of Law, MUK.	March
	Develop common programmes between the Judiciary and the School of Law	March-April
	Meeting with CJ, Vice Chancellor and Principal Law SJ, CR and ED JSI	March
Using Mobile Money for Court Fees Payments	Meet URA to discuss the modalities of paying fees using mobile money.	February
	Review Court fees structure	
On-Line Filing System	Design an on-line filing system (e-filing) for court documents and cases	
E-Judgment Tools Development with a system where evidence is inserted and selected authorities are generated	Development of Software to assist in writing Judgments	



Activity	Activity narrative (The 5Ws)	Time Lines
Real-Time Court Recording and Transcription	Conversion of the current Digital Court Recording and transcription System to a fully Real-Time System.	
Improving access to Justice for Children by saving children from secondary victimization when they physically appear in court to testify in full view of their alleged perpetrators	Installation of closed circuit cameras that are connected to TV Monitors in the High Courts of Kampala, Gulu, Mbale and Fort Portal.	Within next two months

3. Improving the remuneration and working conditions of Judiciary staff

Activity	Activity narrative (The 5Ws)	Time Lines
Setting of Performance Targets Continuous Professional Training for Judicial Officers	Development of a Performance Enhancement System to evaluate and monitor judicial officers performance	April
	Develop Guidelines on Reward for Meritocracy to best performers'	February
	Establish a system to track targets.	
	Conduct a trainings needs assessment for judicial and non judicial staff	
	Develop curriculum on training	February-April
	Conduct mandatory continuous legal education hours for judicial officers	Training to be conducted within two months
	Annual review of Magistrate Grade I and Registrars	December 2016
	Provide funding for supporting the training function	

4. Promoting public engagement in the administration of justice with the view of Institutionalizing a culture of performance and accountability amongst Judicial Officers

Activity	Activity narrative (The 5Ws)	Time Lines
Uganda Legal Information Institute (ULII) Website	Maintenance of an on line portal funding for maintenance of an on-line web portal to provide free legal information to the public.	Immediate
Uganda Legal Information Institute (ULII) Website e-News Letter	Launch of an on-line newsletter highlighting precedented court decisions.	Immediate

5. Design of a case backlog reduction programme focusing more on stemming the growth of case backlog as well as clearing the existing old cases

Activity	Activity narrative (The 5Ws)	Time Lines
Increasing access point	Operationalisation of the establishment of a High Court circuit at Mukono, Iganga, Mpigi, Rukungiri and Mubende.	
	Restructuring of the High Court circuit at Nakawa (Administrative circular)	
Increase of Magisterial Areas from 39 to 81	Issue Instrument by the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs	
	Deploying second Chief Magistrate in areas with high case load such as Mengo, Nakawa, Lira, Gulu and Mpigi.	



Activity	Activity narrative (The 5Ws)	Time Lines
Filling the gap in justice services being created by phasing out of lay Magistrates GII	Make proposals for amendment of the Local Council Courts to allow the courts to handle most of the cases that were handled by Magistrates Grade II Courts.	
Court of Appeal to hold up country sessions	Undertake a pilot programme on holding of daily sessions at the Court of Appeal	
	Holding of sessions by the Court of Appeal in Mbarara, Mbale, Gulu and Fort Portal to ease pressure on the court at Kampala.	
	Decentralizing the court of appeals	
	Developing a cabinet memorandum on increasing Justices of Appeal from 15 to at least 32	
Continuous sitting of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal	Undertake a study and pilot on continuous hearing of cases as opposed to using the session systems.	
Limiting Oral Arguments in Appellate Courts	Proposals for Reform of the Law i.e. CPA, CPR, Supreme Court and Court of appeal Rules	
Summary determination of applications		
Amending the Rules to make ADR mandatory in civil cases		
Elimination of Delivering Judgments on Notice	Issue of administrative Circular	Immediate
Alternative Dispute Resolution	Roll out of ADR to expedite the resolution of cases	February-May
	Continuous training of judicial staff and other JLOS staff in the art of ADR	February-May
	Extending ADR to the Court of Appeal.	February-April
	Develop practice Directions on Case Management	February-April
	Finalization of Report on National Court Case Census	February
Plea Bargaining	Roll out of plea bargaining to all the circuits of the High Court and Magistrates	February-March
	Signing of the Practice Directions on Plea Bargaining	February-March
Expansion of Small Claims Procedure	Roll out of the Small Claims Procedure to all Magisterial Areas	
JLOS to operationalise Cader	Lobbying Ministry of Public Service to approve the structure	Immediate
Administration Bill	CJ to write to the Rt Hon. Prime Minister	Immediate
Mid-term Review of SIP III & Transformation plan	Fast track the consultancy	Immediate



150 lawyers enrol as advocates

After successfully completing their Bachelor of Laws degrees and a post-graduate bar course, at least 150 lawyers have in the past six months joined the roll of Ugandan advocates.

Enrolment of advocates is a function conducted by the chief registrar of the Judiciary. The new attorneys have raised the advocates roll to 2,984 since 2004.

Speaking at the recent enrolment event at the Kampala High Court, the Chief Registrar, Mr. Gadenya Paul Wolimbwa, congratulated the new attorneys upon joining the legal fraternity, but cautioned them to enjoy the privileges and benefits of an advocate with responsibility.

He said: “As an officer of the court, you are expected to assist the court to reach a just decision. You are expected to put aside your clients’ interests for the greater cause of justice. You are supposed to defend the truth.”

Mr. Gadenya cautioned the advocates not to conspire with their clients to subvert the course of justice, saying the courts were looking for honest, competent, diligent, transparent, sober, and advocates with integrity. He urged them to be bold enough to tell their clients the truth, regardless of the short or long-term consequences.

“These heavy responsibilities call for a lawyer with a backbone and capacity to stand on their feet. A lawyer who will say this is the truth and stick by it. A lawyer who is prepared to walk the talk. A lawyer who is prepared sometimes to take risks to defend the truth, especially in human rights cases which may expose him or her to personal harm.



A newly enrolled advocate gets a handshake from the Chief Registrar, Paul Gadenya.



The Chief Registrar addresses new advocates at the High Court in Kampala.

A lawyer, who is confident, alert and knowledgeable.”

Who is an advocate?

In Uganda, the legal profession is not fused; an advocate is an enrolled

lawyer to the bar and can address court whereas a lawyer cannot address the court as he is not enrolled. Only advocates have a right of audience before the court. 

**Esther Asiimwe****Magistrate Grade I, Jinja**

Small Claims Procedure gives swift justice

“About five years ago, I had a tenant who disappeared after paying only the initial two months’ rent. By the sixth month, the rent arrears had accumulated to Shs2.1 million, and I was getting so frustrated by his constant evasiveness.

When he finally called requesting to pick up his property, I was quick to agree, while secretly hatching a master plan to recover my rent arrears. When he came for his property, I was armed with summons scrupulously drafted by a lawyer whom I had paid an initial Shs500,000 (the lawyers had assured me that all these costs and so much more would be recovered from the debtor).

Everything was going as planned. When *Edward showed up, I served him the summons and sternly told him that until he paid the arrears, plus my lawyer fees, his property was grounded. Meekly, he took the pleadings and assured me that his lawyers would get back to me.

A month later, when I still did not hear from him, I went back to my lawyers who then asked for another Shs500,000 to apply for a default judgment. That’s when I woke up! Here I was, spending almost half of the money I was claiming before the defendant had even said a word. So I decided to count my losses by abandoning the suit,” says *David, a Jinja-based landlord.

David’s story represents many other



Luweero Magistrate Grade I, Evelyn Setrina Kyomugisha (with mic) in a Small Claims Procedure skit during a Court Open Day at Luweero Magistrates Court.

creditors that have given up on their claims due to the realisation that they would end up spending more money and time in the lengthy litigation process.

This, however, is not so, for those that have embraced the Small Claims Procedure – an intervention by the Judiciary that expeditiously disposes off cases whose subject matter does not exceed Shs10 million.

“Is that all?” asked an excited *Rashid a judgment creditor in a small claim matter after consent was reached and judgment entered on the first day his matter came

up before court. Two weeks later, his debt of Shs1.6 million had been paid in full by the debtor.

In the short time Small Claims Procedure has been in place, it has proved to offer one of the quickest ends to civil matters. It is, therefore, no doubt that more people are embracing it.

Special thanks go to the Judiciary and all the partners that ensure the smooth running of this scheme. 🙌

**Names of parties have been changed to protect their identities.*

**Dr. Katja Kerschbaumer****Senior Technical Advisor**

Court interpretation and translation – a science of its own

‘We trained 170 court interpreters, translators’

In most European countries and in the US interpretation is considered as a science and universities offer degrees in Theoretical and Applied Interpretation and Translation Science. Court Interpretation is an even more specialised area and in many countries courts only accept interpreters who belong to an interpreter association and who were officially accredited by court.

Given that these safeguard mechanisms to ensure quality which are currently absent in Uganda, and given that universities here do not offer a specialised degree in interpretation science, it is paramount to establish some basic guidelines for interpretation at court so as to ensure that the right to a fair hearing is being implemented in an optimal way.

Article 28 of the Uganda Constitution provides in (3) (f) that “Every person who is charged with a criminal offense shall be afforded, without payment by that person, the assistance of an interpreter if that person cannot understand the language used at the trial.” The right to an interpreter is, therefore, a constitutional right and must be taken seriously by all court officials.

The most common interpretation mode in Ugandan Courts is “consecutive” interpreting (as opposed to “simultaneous” interpretation) where the speaker speaks his message and after a short pause the interpreter makes an interpretation. Speaking and interpreting follow each other consecutively.

DANIDA together with the Judiciary has so far trained more than 170 interpreters at the Judicial Studies Institute in a one week training aiming at equipping Uganda’s court interpreters with basic knowledge on interpretation and translation science. During the training it became apparent that in order to smoothen the interpretation process in courts, and in order for the interpreters to apply their newly acquired knowledge, it is necessary to also sensitise judicial officers on the intricacies of court interpretation. This article, is therefore, a first step towards bringing judicial officers on board.

Below are some recommendations, based on international standards, which could inspire a clear policy on court interpretation in Uganda:

The general principle of court interpretation is that the person who does not understand the language of court has to be put in a position as if he/she actually spoke the language of the court. Actually, international standards would require for everything that is said in court to be interpreted to the person who requires interpretation services. This

means even if the person is not addressed directly, he/she has to be able to follow the events in court, for example, he/she needs to understand what witnesses, prosecutors, advocates and the judicial officer are saying even when they do not directly address him/her. This also means that ideally court interpretation would be offered at all levels of courts, including the Appellate Courts.

Given that in the current Ugandan setting this might lengthen the process, the judicial officer should clearly agree with the interpreters as to which parts of the trial will be interpreted. Also the possibility of simultaneous interpretation through whispering in the interest of saving time during a trial could be considered, e.g. in instances when the accused/witness is not directly addressed.

Interpreters shall use the first person for interpreting since he or she is a medium that facilitates communication in court. In other words the interpreter should interpret questions directly (direct speech using “I” statements), and not use phrases such as “The Judge would like to know...” or “The witness said...”.



Court transcribers during a court session at Mukono Chief Magistrates Court.

Interpreters should not be expected to retain more than 100 words (two to three sentences) before intervening.

Interpreters should always carry paper and a pen and make notes during the speaker's statement so as to ensure accuracy of interpretation. This applies in particular to situations in which the speaker cannot pause after every 2-3 sentences.

The interpreter may interrupt the speaker and ask him/her to repeat, clarify or rephrase so as to ensure accuracy and completeness in the delivery of the message. Whenever the interpreter asks questions for clarification or other reasons, he/she has to ensure that these questions are also interpreted into the respective target language. Furthermore, the interpreter should always go "through" the judicial officers, asking the presiding Judge first whether he can ask the accused/witness to repeat or clarify.

The court interpreter should always keep the "genre" of language that is used by the speaker. This means that even if a witness uses slang language, the interpreter has to find the equivalent slang expression in the target language. In other words,

interpreters should not "beautify" statements of any kind.

The difficulty of the interpreter's work shall be appreciated and he/she shall be facilitated with necessary information about the case before the case starts so as to allow for the preparation of proper terminology. For example, he/she could be handed a copy of the indictment so as to allow for a "sight translation" directly from the copy. In the same vein, he/she could be handed a copy of the judgment before it is read.

Each interpreter shall keep a glossary (a type of self-made dictionary) so as to ensure consistency of terminology.

The interpreter should be treated with respect in court and not ridiculed. If anyone at court wishes to correct the interpreter, this shall be done in a respectful and courteous manner and only where there is a substantial reason for the correction.

Only interpreters who have excellent knowledge in a specific language should be allowed to interpret. Ideally

an interpreter should only work in his first and best vernacular language; at most it can be assumed that he or she is fully proficient in two vernacular languages.

Training in court interpretation shall be encouraged for all court clerks/interpreters.

Summarised interpretations shall only be provided if the judicial officer explicitly asked for a summary of what was said and only when the person (whose message is being interpreted) and the audience were informed that this is a summary of what was said.

Interpreters shall treat their clients (the person for whom they interpret) with utmost respect and shall not ridicule or rush them in any way.

In case the person who does not speak the court's language does not understand a question or statement, it is not upon the interpreter to clarify. Instead, the interpreter should inform the judicial officer that the person needs more explanations which the judicial officer will give, if deemed necessary. 🌀

Dr. Katja Kerschbaumer has been the Danida Senior Advisor to the Judiciary at the Registry for Planning and Development. She holds a PhD in Law specializing in Comparative Constitutional Law, a Masters in Law and two Masters of Science in Theoretical and Applied Interpretation and Translation Science for the languages Russian and French specializing in Court Interpretation. She has been working with the Ugandan Judiciary since 2007 and is the main facilitator of the Court Interpreter training at the Judicial Studies Institute.



Magisterial areas to increase from 38 to 81

The proposed structure

Kampala Magisterial Area (Central & Rubaga Divisions of KCCA)

Chief Magistrate – BUGANDA ROAD
Chief Magistrate – MENGO
Grade I – Buganda Road
Grade I – City Hall
Grade I – LDC
Grade I – Mengo
Grade I – Nateete
Grade I – Ndeeba
Grade I – Rubaga
Grade I – Kasubi

Nakawa Magisterial Area (Nakawa Division of KCCA)

Chief Magistrate – NAKAWA
Grade I – Nakawa
Grade I – Ntinda
Grade I – Luzira
Grade I – Kyambogo

Kira Magisterial Area (Kira Town Council, Kyadondo & Wakiso District)

Chief Magistrate – KIRA
Grade I – Kira
Grade I – Bwengerere

Makindye Magisterial Area (Makindye Division of KCCA & Makindye Ssabagabo Sub – county of Kyadondo, Wakiso District)

Chief Magistrate – MAKINDYE
Grade I – Makindye
Grade I – Ggaba
Grade I – Namuwongo
Grade I – Kabalagala
Grade I – Zaana

Nabweru Magisterial Area (Kawempe Division of KCCA, & Gombe & Kyadondo Sub – Counties of Wakiso District)

Chief Magistrate – NABWERU
Grade I – Nabweru
Grade I – Kawempe
Grade I – Matugga

Kasangati Magisterial Area (Nangabo Sub – county & Busukuma of Kyadondo, Wakiso District)

Chief Magistrate – KASANGATI
Grade I – Kasangati

Wakiso Magisterial Area (Kakiri, Wakiso Town Council, Masulita & Namayumba sub – counties, Wakiso District)

Chief Magistrate – WAKISO
Grade I – Wakiso
Grade I – Nsangi
Grade I – Kakiri
Grade I – Nasana

Mpigi Magisterial Area (Mpigi District)

Chief Magistrate – MPIGI
Grade I – Mpigi
Grade I – Nsangi
Grade I – Buwama
Grade I – Bujuuko
Grade I – Kayabwe

Gomba Magisterial Area (Gomba District)

Chief Magistrate – KANONI
Grade I – Kanoni
Grade I – Maddu
Grade I – Kiriri
Grade I – Kabulasoke

Butambala Magisterial Area (Butambala District)

Chief Magistrate – GOMBE
Grade I – Gombe
Grade I – Kibibi
Grade I – Bulo

Entebbe Magisterial Area (Entebbe Municipality & Katabi sub – county of Wakiso District)

Chief Magistrate – ENTEBBE
Grade I – Entebbe
Grade I – Nkumba

Kajjansi Magisterial Area (Sub counties of Ssisa & Kassanje of Wakiso District)

Chief Magistrate – KAJJANSI
Grade I – Kajjansi
Grade I – Kasanje

Mbale Magisterial Area (Mbale District)

Chief Magistrate – MBALE
Grade I – Mbale
Grade I – Nakaloke
Grade I – Busiu
Grade I – Bungokho
Grade I – Municipal Council
Grade I – Wanale

Bubulo Magisterial Area (Manafwa & Bududa District)

Chief Magistrate – BUBULO
Grade I – Bubulo
Grade I – Bududa
Grade I – Bupoto

Kapchorwa Magisterial Area (Kapchorwa, Bukwa Sub – county & Kween Districts)

Chief Mag. – KAPCHWORWA
Grade I – Kapchorwa
Grade I – Bukwa
Grade I – Kapraron
Grade I – Ngenge

Sironko Magisterial Area (Sironko District)

Chief Magistrate – SIRONKO
Grade I – Sironko
Grade I – Bulambuli
Grade I – Mutufu
Grade I – Buwalasi
Grade I – Kamu

Budaka Magisterial Area (Budaka & Kibuku Districts)

Chief Magistrate – BUDAKA
Grade I – Budaka
Grade I – Iki Iki
Grade I – Kibuku

Pallisa Magisterial Area (Pallisa District)

Chief Magistrate – PALLISA
Grade I – Pallisa
Grade I – Butebo

Tororo Magisterial Area (Tororo & Butaleja Districts)

Chief Magistrate – TORORO
Grade I – Tororo
Grade I – Nagongera
Grade I – Malaba
Grade I – Mukuju
Grade I – Butaleja
Grade I – Mulanda
Grade I – Buteba

Busia Magisterial Area (Busia District)

Chief Magistrate – BUSIA
Grade I – Busia
Grade I – Lumino
Grade I – Majanji

Moroto Magisterial Area (Moroto & Napaka Districts)

Chief Magistrate – MOROTO
Grade I – Moroto
Grade I – Napak
Grade I – Moroto Municipality

Nakapiripirit Magisterial Area (Nakapiripirit & Amudat Districts)

Chief Magistrate – NAKAPIRIPIRIT
Grade I – Nakapiripirit
Grade I – Namalu
Grade I – Amudat

Kotido Magisterial Area (Kotido, Abim & Kabong Districts)

Chief Magistrate – KOTIDO
Grade I – Kotido
Grade I – Bokora
Grade I – Kabong
Grade I – Abim

Mbarara Magisterial Area (Mbarara District)

Chief Magistrate – MBARARA
Grade I – Mbarara
Grade I – Ndaija
Grade I – Bwizibwera
Grade I – Mbarara Municipal Council

Isingiro Magisterial Area (Isingiro District)

Chief Magistrate – ISINGIRO
Grade I – Isingiro
Grade I – Kabingo
Grade I – Kikagate
Grade I – Rugaga
Grade I – Bukanga

Ntungamo Magisterial Area (Ntungamo District)

Chief Magistrate – NTUNGAMO
Grade I – Ntungamo
Grade I – Bwongyera
Grade I – Ruhama
Grade I – Rubaare
Grade I – Rwashamire

Ibanda Magisterial Area (Ibanda District)

Chief Magistrate – IBANDA
Grade I – Ibanda
Grade I – Ishongororo

Kiruhura Magisterial Area (Kiruhura District)

Chief Magistrate – KIRUHURA
Grade I – Kiruhura
Grade I – Kazo
Grade I – Buremba
Grade I – Burunga
Grade I – Sanga
Grade I – Kashongi
Grade I – Kinoni

Bushenyi Magisterial Area (Bushenyi Town Council, Rubirizi, Sheema Districts)

Chief Magistrate – BUSHENYI
Grade I – Bushenyi
Grade I – Kitagata
Grade I – Kagango
Grade I – Ruburizi
Grade I – Kibingo

**Mitoma Magisterial Area (Mitoma District)**

Chief Magistrate – MITOMA
Grade I – Mitoma

Buhweju Magisterial Area (Buhweju District)

Chief Magistrate – BUHWEJU
Grade I – Nsiika

Kabale Magisterial Area (Kabale District)

Chief Magistrate – KABALE
Grade I – Kabale
Grade I – Kaharo
Grade I – Rubaya
Grade I – Kamwezi
Grade I – Muko
Grade I – Rubanda

Kisoro Magisterial Area (Kisoro District)

Chief Magistrate – KISORO
Grade I – Kisoro
Grade I – Kyanika
Grade I – Bunagana

Rukungiri Magisterial Area (Rukungiri District)

Chief Magistrate – RUKUNGIRI
Grade I – Rukungiri
Grade I – Nyarushanje
Grade I – Kebisoni

Kanungu Magisterial Area (Kanungu District)

Chief Magistrate – KANUNGU
Grade I – Kanungu
Grade I – Kihhi

Fort Portal Magisterial Area (Kabare District)

Chief Magistrate – FORT PORTAL
Grade I – Fort Portal
Grade I – Hakibaale
Grade I – Kibiito
Grade I – Rwimi

Kamwenge Magisterial Area (Kamwenge District)

Chief Magistrate – KAMWENG
Grade I – Kamwenge
Grade I – Kahunge
Grade I – Nkoma
Grade I – Kicheche

Kyenjojo Magisterial Area (Kyenjojo & Kyegegwa Districts)

Chief Magistrate – KYENJOJO
Grade I – Kyenjojo
Grade I – Butiti
Grade I – Bufunjo
Grade I – Kyarusoji
Grade I – Kyegegwa
Grade I – Mpara

Bundibugyo Magisterial Area (Bundibugyo District)

Chief Magistrate – BUNDIBUGYO
Grade I – Bundibugyo
Grade I – Bubandi

Ntoroko Magisterial Area (Ntoroko District)

Chief Magistrate – NTOROKO
Grade I – Ntoroko
Grade I – Rwebisengo
Grade I – Karugutu

Kasese Magisterial Area (Kasese District)

Chief Magistrate – KASESE
Grade I – Kasese
Grade I – Lake Katwe
Grade I – Bwera

Mukono Magisterial Area (Mukono District & Koome Islands)

Chief Magistrate – MUKONO
Grade I – Mukono
Grade I – Nakifuma
Grade I – Goma
Grade I – Nakisunga
Grade I – Koome Islands
Grade I – Kasawo

Lugazi Magisterial Area (Buikwe District & Buvuma Islands)

Chief Magistrate – LUGAZI
Grade I – Lugazi
Grade I – Buikwe
Grade I – Njeru
Grade I – Buvuma

Kayunga Magisterial Area (Kayunga District)

Chief Magistrate – KAYUNGA
Grade I – Kayunga
Grade I – Busaana
Grade I – Kangelumira
Grade I – Bbaale
Grade I – Galilaya

Jinja Magisterial Area (Jinja District)

Chief Magistrate – JINJA
Grade I – Jinja
Grade I – Bugembe
Grade I – Kakira
Grade I – Busedde
Grade I – Kagoma
Grade I – Budondo
Grade I – Butagaya

Kamuli Magisterial Area (Kamuli & Buyende Districts)

Chief Magistrate – KAMULI
Grade I – Kamuli
Grade I – Namasagali
Grade I – Namwendwa
Grade I – Bugaya
Grade I – Kagulu
Grade I – Mbulamuti
Grade I – Nawanyago
Grade I – Buyende

Iganga Magisterial Area (Iganga & Luuka Districts)

Chief Magistrate – IGANGA
Grade I – Iganga
Grade I – Busembatia
Grade I – Kiyunga
Grade I – Namungalwe
Grade I – Makutu
Grade I – Kaliro
Grade I – Namutumba

Bugiri Magisterial Area (Bugiri District)

Chief Magistrate – BUGIRI
Grade I – Bugiri
Grade I – Namayingo
Grade I – Lugala
Grade I – Sigulu Island

Mayuge Magisterial Area (Mayuge District)

Chief Magistrate – MAYUGE
Grade I – Mayuge
Grade I – Kityerera
Grade I – Kigandalo
Grade I – Baitambogwe

Buliisa Magisterial Area (Buliisa District)

Chief Magistrate – BULIISA
Grade I – Buliisa
Grade I – Biiso
Grade I – Butyaba
Grade I – Wanseko

Masindi Magisterial Area (Masindi District)

Chief Magistrate – MASINDI
Grade I – Masindi
Grade I – Bwijanga
Grade I – Budongo
Grade I – Kafu River

Kiryandongo Magisterial Area (Kiryandongo District)

Chief Magistrate – KIRYANDONGO
Grade I – Kiryandongo
Grade I – Kigumba
Grade I – Karuma
Grade I – Bweyale

Hoima Magisterial Area (Hoima District)

Chief Magistrate – HOIMA
Grade I – Hoima
Grade I – Buseruka
Grade I – Kigorobya
Grade I – Kyangwali
Grade I – Kabwoya

Kibaale Magisterial Area (Kibaale District)

Chief Magistrate – KIBAAL
Grade I – Kibaale
Grade I – Mabaale
Grade I – Kakumiro
Grade I – Nyalweyo
Grade I – Kagadi
Grade I – Muhoro

Mubende Magisterial Area (Mubende District)

Chief Magistrate – MUDENDE
Grade I – Mubende
Grade I – Kasambya
Grade I – Kassanda
Grade I – Kiganda
Grade I – Madudu
Grade I – Myanzi

Kiboga Magisterial Area (Kiboga & Kyankwanzi Districts)

Chief Magistrate – KIBOGA
Grade I – Kiboga
Grade I – Ntwetwe
Grade I – Kyankwanzi Mulusozi
Grade I – Busunju
Grade I – Butemba
Grade I – Bukomero
Grade I – Bukwiri

Nakasongola Magisterial Area (Nakasongola District)

Chief Magistrate – NAKASONGOLA
Grade I – Nakasongola
Grade I – Kakooge
Grade I – Lwampanga
Grade I – Migyera

Mityana Magisterial Area (Mityana District)

Chief Magistrate – MITYANA
Grade I – Mityana
Grade I – Kakindu
Grade I – Bulera
Grade I – Butayunja

**Kitgum Magisterial Area (Kitgum & Lamwo Districts)**

Chief Magistrate – KITGUM
 Grade I – Kitgum
 Grade I – Kitgum Matid
 Grade I – Namokora
 Grade I – Lamwo
 Grade I – Madi Opei
 Grade I – Palabek
 Grade I – Padibe
 Grade I – Pajule
 Grade I – Atanga

Pader Magisterial Area (Pader & Agago Districts)

Chief Magistrate – PADER
 Grade I – Pader
 Grade I – Corner Kilak
 Grade I – Adilang
 Grade I – Parabong
 Grade I – Agago
 Grade I – Kalongo
 Grade I – Patongo

Gulu Magisterial Area (Gulu District)

Chief Magistrate – GULU
 Grade I – Gulu
 Grade I – Omoro
 Grade I – Aswa
 Grade I – Bobi

Anaka Magisterial Area (Nwoya & Amuru Districts)

Chief Magistrate – NWOYA
 Grade I – Nwoya
 Grade I – Anaka
 Grade I – Koch – Goma
 Grade I – Amuru
 Grade I – Kilak
 Grade I – Atiak
 Grade I – Lamogi

Arua Magisterial Area (Arua District)

Chief Magistrate – ARUA
 Grade I – Arua
 Grade I – Madi – Okolo
 Grade I – Rhino Camp
 Grade I – Okolo
 Grade I – Arivu
 Grade I – Adumi
 Grade I – Logiri
 Grade I – Odravu

Yumbe Magisterial Area (Yumbe District)

Chief Magistrate – YUMBE
 Grade I – Yumbe
 Grade I – Omugo

Koboko Magisterial Area (Koboko & Maracha Districts)

Chief Magistrate – KOBOKO
 Grade I – Koboko
 Grade I – Oraba
 Grade I – Lodonga
 Grade I – Maracha
 Grade I – Nyadri

Nebbi Magisterial Area (Nebbi & Zombo Districts)

Chief Magistrate – NEBBI
 Grade I – Nebbi
 Grade I – Parombo
 Grade I – Phaidha
 Grade I – Zeu
 Grade I – Pakwach
 Grade I – Zombo

Moyo Magisterial Area (Moyo & Adjumani Districts)

Chief Magistrate – MOYO
 Grade I – Moyo
 Grade I – Aliba
 Grade I – Alur
 Grade I – Adjumani
 Grade I – Pakele

Lira Magisterial Area (Lira & Kole Districts)

Chief Magistrate – LIRA
 Grade I – Lira
 Grade I – Ogur
 Grade I – Adekokwok
 Grade I – Amach
 Grade I – Barr
 Grade I – Kole
 Grade I – Ayer
 Grade I – Alito
 Grade I – Bala
 Grade I – Aboke

Apac Magisterial Area (Apac District)

Chief Magistrate – APAC
 Grade I – Apac
 Grade I – Ibuje
 Grade I – Chegere
 Grade I – Aduku
 Grade I – Inomo
 Grade I – Chawente
 Grade I – Nambieso

Oyam Magisterial Area (Oyam District)

Chief Magistrate – OYAM
 Grade I – Oyam
 Grade I – Anyeke
 Grade I – Icheme
 Grade I – Aber
 Grade I – Acaba
 Grade I – Ngai
 Grade I – Otwal

Alebtong Magisterial Area (Alebtong & Otuke Districts)

Chief Magistrate – ALEBTONG
 Grade I – Alebtong
 Grade I – Aloï
 Grade I – Amugo
 Grade I – Abako
 Grade I – Apala
 Grade I – Omoro
 Grade I – Otuke
 Grade I – Orumu
 Grade I – Olilim
 Grade I – Okwang
 Grade I – Adwari

Dokolo Magisterial Area (Dokolo & Amolatar Districts)

Chief Magistrate – DOKOLO
 Grade I – Dokolo
 Grade I – Bata
 Grade I – Agwata
 Grade I – Amolater
 Grade I – Kangai
 Grade I – Muntu
 Grade I – Aputi
 Grade I – Namasale
 Grade I – Awelo
 Grade I – Kwera

Soroti Magisterial Area (Soroti & Serere Districts)

Chief Magistrate – SOROTI
 Grade I – Soroti
 Grade I – Serere
 Grade I – Kyere
 Grade I – Bugondo

Kaberaido Magisterial Area (Kaberaido District)

Chief Magistrate – KABERAMAIKO
 Grade I – Kaberaido
 Grade I – Ocheri
 Grade I – Otuboi
 Grade I – Kalaki

Katakwi Magisterial Area (Katakwi & Amuria Districts)

Chief Magistrate – KATAKWI
 Grade I – Katakwi
 Grade I – Toroma
 Grade I – Acowo
 Grade I – Obalanga
 Grade I – Kapelebyong
 Grade I – Amuria
 Grade I – Orongo
 Grade I – Wera

Kumi Magisterial Area (Kumi, Ngara & Bukedea Districts)

Chief Magistrate – KUMI
 Grade I – Kumi
 Grade I – Kanyum
 Grade I – Ngara
 Grade I – Mukura
 Grade I – Bukedea
 Grade I – Kachumbala

Masaka Magisterial Area (Masaka District)

Chief Magistrate – MASAKA
 Grade I – Masaka
 Grade I – Lwengo
 Grade I – Mbirizi
 Grade I – Kyazanga
 Grade I – Kyanamukaka
 Grade I – Lukaya
 Grade I – Kalungu
 Grade I – Bukomansimbi

Rakai Magisterial Area (Rakai District)

Chief Magistrate – RAKAI
 Grade I – Rakai
 Grade I – Kalisizo
 Grade I – Kyotera
 Grade I – Lyantonde
 Grade I – Kaliilo
 Grade I – Kasagama
 Grade I – Kakuuto
 Grade I – Kifamba
 Grade I – Mutuukula

Kalangala Magisterial Area (Kalangala District)

Chief Magistrate – KALANGALA
 Grade I – Kalangala
 Grade I – Bukasa

Sembabule Magisterial Area (Sembabule District)

Chief Magistrate – SEMBABULE
 Grade I – Sembabule
 Grade I – Mateete
 Grade I – Ntuusi
 Grade I – Lwebitakuli

Luwero Magisterial Area (Luwero & Nakaseke Districts)

Chief Magistrate – LUWERO
 Grade I – Luwero
 Grade I – Wobulenzi
 Grade I – Bombo
 Grade I – Zirowe
 Grade I – Nakaseke
 Grade I – Semuto
 Grade I – Ngoma



L-R: Attorney General, Fred Ruhindi, Director of Public Prosecution, Justice Mike Chibita and Solicitor General, Francis Atoke, with members of the Bar during the opening of the New Law Year, 2016, at the High Court.



The Chief Justice interacts with members of the Bar at the New Law Year event.



The Principal Judge Dr. Yorokamu Bamwine, shares a light moment with participants at a Human Rights Training in Entebbe.



Ms. Susan Muweebwa Ntambi (L), the chairperson of the Equal Opportunities Commission, talks to the Chief Justice shortly after her swearing-in ceremony at the Kampala High Court.



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