

Kabale High Court Circuit Holds Bar-Bench Meeting to Strengthen Collaboration.

The Kabale High Court Circuit, under the leadership of Hon. Justice Ssemogerere Karoli Lwanga held a Bar-Bench meeting aimed at enhancing cooperation and fostering dialogue between the Bench and the Bar.

The meeting, which took place yesterday was attended by advocates practicing in the Circuit led by the Head of Bar, Ms. Ayesiga Rebecca, commenced with a word of prayer and self-introductions from the advocates.



Justice Ssemogerere expressed appreciation to all participants and urged advocates to understand and fulfill the expectations of their profession. He outlined that Kabale High Court prioritizes family matters, children's cases, and bail applications on Mondays and Fridays.

Justice Lwanga underscored the importance of addressing case backlog and encouraged advocates to actively cause-list their cases and avoid adjournments without the consent of judicial officers. He emphasized the value of mutual respect and reconciliation within the legal profession, noting,

"One day, the lawyer you hate may be the one available to stand in brief for you."

The Judge further stressed the need for professionalism both inside and outside the courtroom, urging all advocates to maintain valid practicing licenses. He called for greater use of consent agreements, especially in matters involving clients, and advised advocates handling estate matters to study the law diligently.

Justice Ssemogerere also encouraged advocates engaged in criminal sessions to undertake trial advocacy training to strengthen their skills in examination-in-chief and cross-examination. He called upon the prosecution to present quality witnesses to support the delivery of justice.

The Court's Assistant Registrar, HW Tumwebaze highlighted the shared challenges faced by both the Bar and the Bench, emphasizing that "the issues that affect the Bar also affect the Bench." He called upon advocates to embrace mediation as an effective tool for resolving disputes and reducing case backlog amicably.

HW Tumwebaze encouraged them to submit their names for consideration as court mediators and shared plans to organize a mediation camp to benefit both legal practitioners and court users.

He also acknowledged the vital contributions of advocates on state brief, State Attorneys, and the Justice for Children Coordinator, Mr. Anguzu Jonathan, towards the success of criminal sessions at the Circuit.

Speaking on behalf of the Bar, Ms. Ayesiga Rebecca commended the Judiciary at both High Court and Magistrate levels for their dedication to justice delivery. She, however, expressed concern over legal documents prepared by court staff, noting that these sometimes undermine the work of advocates who later have to defend them in court. She further appealed for leniency in cases where advocates file documents, such as affidavits, shortly before or on the day of hearings.

The Judge advised advocates to be discerning about the cases they accept, cautioning that not every case deserves to be pursued, stating, "Not every case deserves a judgment."

The meeting concluded on a note of shared commitment to continue strengthening cooperation between the Bench and the Bar, with a collective focus on improving service delivery and promoting access to justice for all court users.