

Justice Ssemogerere opens High Court Criminal Session in Kisoro

The Resident Judge of the Kabale High Court Circuit, Justice Karoli Lwanga Ssemogerere, has commenced a High Court criminal session in Kisoro District, a move welcomed as a milestone in enhancing access to justice and expediting the disposal of criminal cases in the region.



Opening the session with a pre-meeting of justice sector stakeholders, Justice Ssemogerere called for efficiency in case management and urged greater embrace of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms to ease case backlog. “Not all cases deserve judgments, and a good judgment clarifies the position of the law,” he remarked, encouraging out-of-court settlements to speed up dispute

resolution and strengthen service delivery in the justice system.

The Justice for Children Coordinator raised concerns about juvenile offenders whose ages are often inaccurately recorded by police officers, sometimes leading to minors being treated as adults and remanded to prison. Justice Ssemogerere acknowledged this as a recurring issue and cautioned police officers to exercise accuracy when recording statements and verifying ages, stressing that the rights of children in conflict with the law must be safeguarded.

Welcoming the Judge to Kisoro, Chief Magistrate HW Komakech Kenneth commended the extension of High Court sessions to the district, noting that it would reduce the costs and inconvenience previously borne by witnesses and litigants who had to travel to Kabale for hearings.

The pre-session meeting was attended by the Principal Chief Administrative Officer of Kisoro, the Resident District Commissioner, the LCV Chairperson, the Head of Bar–Kabale, officers of

the Police and Prisons, Court Assessors, the District Probation Officer, advocates on state brief, and other justice sector stakeholders.