

## Outstanding Judicial Officers of the 2017 Judicial Score Card Report are awarded



The CEPIL team with the Rt. Hon. Chief Justice, the Principal Judge and the outstanding judicial officers at the award ceremony

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## Introduction

The Center for Public Interest Law (CEPIL) is a non-profit, non-partisan, non-religious organization that aims at ensuring every person has equal access to social, economic and political opportunities without discrimination on the basis of their ethnicity, social standing, religion, political opinion, or membership of a political party or organization.

In 2016, CEPIL launched the State of Judiciary Report. This report highlighted the institutional and external weaknesses of the Judiciary that prevent it from effectively dispensing justice. Key amongst these factors that prevented effective delivery of justice was the lack of a proper mechanism to monitor the

performance of the Judiciary. On this basis, a Scorecard was initiated to strengthen the Independence of the Judiciary, It also focuses on advancing issues pertaining to efficiency of the courts and advocates for critical deliverables such as ensuring that the Judiciary enjoys autonomy as prescribed by law and delivers on its constitutional mandate. As a way to improve service delivery, the scorecard also aims at appraising the performance of the judiciary in the delivery of justice. The 1st Scorecard report of 2017 was launched by the Rt. Hon. Chief Justice Bart Katureebe in March 2018 and on 15th August 2018, a recognition gala to award certificates to outstanding judicial officers was held at Mestil Hotel Nsambya.



**Francis Gimara**  
Director CEPIL

The Judiciary is the protector of our rights, it implements and protects Justice.



**Mr Peter Kinobe**  
President ULS

We have a duty to the citizens. We have an obligation to promote and protect Justice



**Chief Justice Bart Katureebe**

To be a Judicial officer requires sacrifice, patience and perseverance



**Lady Justice Stella Arach Amoko**

A judge does not work for recognition, A judge serves the citizens and protects their interests

# Highlights from the CEPIL Judiciary Scorecard Report 2017

**A** pro-people Judiciary needs to have the confidence of all stakeholders in the execution of its mandate. It is in this spirit that CEPIL carried out the Judiciary Performance Scorecard Initiative, to review the performance of the Judiciary and highlight areas for improvement to ensure access to quality and timely judicial services as well as boost public confidence in the judiciary.

The initiative was carried out by CEPIL with support from the Open Society Initiative for Eastern Africa.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> August 2018, CEPIL in collaboration with the members of the Coalition in Support of Independence of the Judiciary (CISTIJ) launched a nationwide dissemination of the Judiciary Performance Scorecard Report 2017. In addition, awards were given to outstanding Judicial Officers for their exemplary performance in the dispensation of Justice. The ceremony was presided over by the Honorable Chief Justice Bart Katureebe and attended by select members from the Judiciary and the civil society organizations.

Other guests who attended include; The Principal Judge, Justices of the Supreme Court, Court of Appeal, High Court, Magistrates Court and other judicial officers.

The report based on a study centered on the performance of the institution of the judiciary from a service delivery perspective.

The performance indicators to gauge the level of service delivery in the Judiciary were centered on the following parameters:

- a) **Fairness in the administration of justice.** This scored the greatest impact of justice served to a consumer or user and **weighted 30%**.
- b) **Impartiality.** This considered non-biased actions or decisions and therefore, strongly supports (a) above and **weighted 25%**.
- c) **Professionalism.** This scored the desired behavior in the administration and delivery of judicial services and **weighted 20%**.
- d) **Certainty.** This reinforces confidence to the consumer or user of the justice system that justice will be served as scheduled and **weighted 10%**.
- e) **Behavior and attitude weighted 8%.**
- f) **Communication weighted 7%.**

The research employed a combination of techniques: Analysis and evaluation of case management data (court statistics) as per the set target per judge / magistrate vis-a-vis the overall strategic plan; Court



**Jacqueline Mukasa**

user satisfaction surveys involving litigants and legal professionals who regularly participate in court proceedings; institutional stakeholders such as the Ministry of Justice (office of the AG), DPP, RCC, DCC, Private Practitioners, Bailiffs, Police, Prison, office of the IGG, Human Rights organizations Religious & District Leaders, CSOs and Legal aid clinics, Courtroom observations using a structured checklist was administered in all the targeted Courts; One-on-one interviews with judges, magistrates, registrars and court clerks. This was to try and establish a buy-in by these members to overcome imminent resistances to the final outcome of the study, enable the participants to candidly talk about some of the issues that may not be captured using other techniques above thus upholding a balanced assessment of the issues at hand while leveraging their experiences in court, plus their observations and recommendations in line with the objective of this study; and 15 Focus group discussions were convened to identify quality indicators for service delivery.

The research was conducted for a period of five months in 10 Courts across Central, Eastern, Northern and Western regions of Uganda. It was a pilot study and it was successfully executed. CEPIL and stakeholders look forward to the next phase of the Scorecard.

## Remarks from the President Uganda Law Society

In his remarks, the President of the Uganda Law Society, congratulated CEPIL on behalf of the Coalition in Support of the Independence of the Judiciary (CISTIJ) for the Scorecard initiative. He stated that this exercise will enable the building of a more accountable Judiciary.

He also noted that, scoring the Performance of Judicial officers is one of the most difficult assessments one can make. Not everyone understands the complexity of the work that judges do. It requires focus, commitment and sacrifice most especially with the current circumstances they work in.

He further stressed the fact that a judge plays a very pivotal role in the enforcement of justice in Uganda. There are not only the third arm of government but protectors of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda and they must be supported in all possible ways.



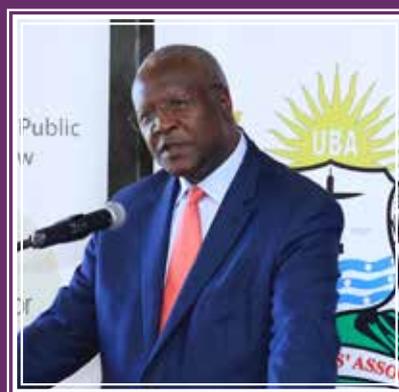
Mr. Peter Simon Kinobe

## Remarks from the RT Hon Chief Justice

The Chief Justice welcomed the initiative by CEPIL and noted that It was rare to do work in the Judiciary and be appreciated.

He noted that most times, Judicial officers are condemned in the execution of their duties. The public usually perceives them as corrupt and puppets to those who are rich, influential and also to the establishment in authority

He further emphasised that he was proud to lead a group of men and women who are committed to serving



Rt. Hon. Bart M. Katureebe

***“There is a need for perseverance amongst the judges. Being posted to a remote area can be very frustrating but we have a duty to the citizens of our nation to serve by enforcing the law and implementing justice”***

their fellow countrymen and giving them justice. He called upon the economic planners of Uganda to plan sufficiently for the Judiciary so as to enable them to extend Justice to all citizens. A lot of processes in the administration of justice are hampered by lack of funding. However, despite the inadequacy of funding and the poor pay, he urged judges to adhere to their professional standards and vision.

He ended by encouraging CEPIL to continue with a Scorecard and to include other areas.

# Outstanding Judicial Officers

**O**n the 15th of August 2018, CEPIL in conjunction with CISTIJ, recognised these Judicial officers for their distinguished service in administration of justice basing on the Scorecard:

**1. Hon. Lady Justice Stella Arach Amoko of the Supreme Court**, ranked highest as an exceptional performer with 97.1%.



Hon. Lady Justice Stella Arach Amoko receiving her award.

**2. Hon. Justice Remmy Kasule** was also recognised as the best performing Justice of the Court of Appeal 2017. He scored 79.7%



Justice Remy Kasule receiving his Award

**3. Hon. Justice Stephen Mubiru** was recognised as the best performing Justice of the High Court 2017. He scored 96.3%



Justice Stephen Mubiru receiving his Award

**4. Her Worship Everest Faith Palodi** was recognised as the best performing Magistrate of 2017. She scored 89.8%



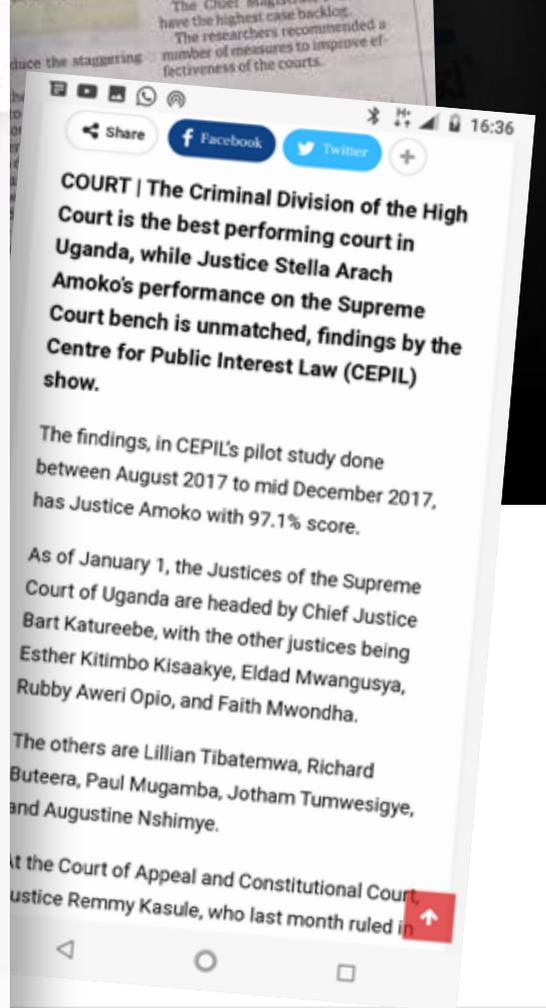
The former Chief Registrar, Paul Gadenya receiving an Award on behalf of Her Worship Everest Faith Palodi

**5. The Criminal Division** was recognised for being the Best Performing Division of the High Court 2017, with 91.4%.



Hon. Lady Justice Jane Frances Abodo receiving an award of excellence on behalf of the criminal division

# The Judiciary Scorecard 2017 in the press



# The Judiciary Scorecard Award Ceremony in pictures



Mr. Francis Gimara welcoming the Chief Justice



Participants interacting after the Award Ceremony



The Principal Judge Hon. Yorokamu Bamwine congratulating the best performing Judges at the event



Guests at the cocktail



Some of the best performing Judges with other participants at the ceremony



Mr. Francis Gimara accompanying the Hon Chief Justice to the Dinner



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