

As of this month, ECCMIS has been rolled out to at least 31 courts across the Greater Kampala region, with the Judiciary expanding it nationwide in phases.

BY ANTHONY WESAKA

All courts across Uganda operating under the Electronic Court Case Management Information System (ECCMIS) will transition to a fully paperless system effective June 1.

In an administrative circular issued on February 17, under Article 133 of the Constitution, Chief Justice Flavien Zeija directed all judicial officers, Judiciary staff, advocates, and court users to implement the new digital directive.

This means that the manual filing of court documents will no longer be permitted in courts using the old system, and physical case files will not be created or maintained except under exceptional circumstances expressly authorised.

"With effect from June 1, 2026, every court with an ECCMIS as a case management and reporting tool, shall go paperless," the CJ's statement read in part.

The directive is aimed at enhancing efficiency, transparency, and accountability in the administration of justice, in line with Article 126 of the Constitution, which mandates courts to deliver justice expeditiously and

without undue technicalities.

The circular notes that the Judiciary of Uganda has, over the years, invested heavily in digital transformation, culminating in the rollout and operationalisation of the ECCMIS as the primary tool for case registration, management, and reporting.

Under the new directive, all courts where ECCMIS is operational will cease manual processes.

"All filings, service, and acknowledgements of court processes shall be done electronically via ECCMIS," the circular states.

Key changes

The new framework introduces several significant changes. They include: all court pleadings and documents must be filed electronically, service of court documents and acknowledgements will be processed through ECCMIS, judicial officers will conduct proceedings, manage cases, and deliver rulings and judgments using the digital platform.

Likewise, monthly performance statistics for courts and judicial officers will be generated directly from ECCMIS by the Registrar responsible for data management.

The Chief Justice also said ECCMIS kiosks at court premises will be reserved strictly for self-represented litigants.

The move is expected to reduce paperwork, minimise case backlog caused by misplaced files, and improve real-time tracking of case progress.

The Chief Justice emphasised that

Courts to go paperless in June



A court worker registers a civil case at the Constitutional Court on March 17, 2022. With a paperless system, all court cases will be filed online and also tracked online. PHOTO/ABUBAKER LUBOWA

will be a violation of the constitution, and the common man will suffer," one of the legal observers said under the condition of anonymity.

The observer added: "They should have left it for the appellate courts (Court of Appeal, and Supreme Court). Also, Commercial Courts, which do not have many peasants. The system is also slow."

The observers also wondered whether or not the rules had been amended to accommodate this shift in operations, and also wondered how the service of sermons would be done effectively using ECCMIS.

The Judiciary has, in recent years, piloted ECCMIS in selected courts before expanding its rollout nationwide.

But Mr James Ereemye Mawanda, the Public Relations Officer of the Judiciary, last evening downplayed the skepticism of the legal observers, saying they will not turn back.

"That does not stop us from implementing, where we have we are good to go. If you have challenges with the internet, the service provider should be contacted. So we can't be stopped for good innovations," Mr Ereemye explained.

He added: "We are addressing issues like power by using solar and generators, so it's a question of making the necessary adjustments. So ECCMIS is the way to go. That is the resolve of the new Chief Justice. We are aware that infrastructure is dependent on other factors, but we are determined to have it implemented."

As of February 2026, ECCMIS had been rolled out to at least 31 courts across the Greater Kampala region. The Judiciary is currently expanding this nationwide in a phased "cluster" approach, as they race towards a paperless institution starting June 1 this year.

Some of the courts with ECCMIS include: the Supreme Court, Court of Appeal, and Commercial Court, all

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PURPOSE

The new court system allows for 24/7 electronic case filing online

compliance with the circular is mandatory.

Judicial officers and court staff are required to ensure strict adherence to the directive and to keep statistical data within the system up to date at all times.

"It is the duty of the Judicial Officer to ensure that the statistical data in the EC-