

given notice of non-compliance of hav-

about health and dignity. Overcrowding in sanitation facilities increases the risk

and learners are preparing to sit for end of term exams. We have allowed this

"We have 57... ers and many have not completed...

...schools.

Supreme Court holds special sitting to honour ex-Chief Justice Dollo

BY ANTHONY WESAKA

KAMPALA. The Supreme Court of Uganda has held a special sitting to honour the distinguished service of former Chief Justice Alfonse Owiny-Dollo, whose tenure ended earlier this year upon reaching the constitutional retirement age.

During the session held on Friday, a panel of judges led by Chief Justice Flavian Zeija granted an application seeking to formally recognise Justice Dollo's contribution to the Judiciary.

The motion was presented by Solicitor General Pius Biribonohwa, who asked the court to allow judicial officers, members of the Bar, family, and friends to commemorate the retired jurist's legacy.

In a ruling delivered by Justice Lillian Tibatemwa Ekirikubinza, the court said Justice Dollo's tenure was marked by significant institutional transforma-

tion, including expansion of judicial infrastructure, increased staff recruitment, and adoption of information and communication technology, hence the need to honour him.

"The court is satisfied that this is a fit and proper application to commemorate the distinguished service rendered by Justice Dollo to the people of Uganda," Justice Tibatemwa ruled.

Tributes

The court further directed that all speeches and tributes delivered during the sitting be recorded as part of the permanent record of the apex court.

Speakers at the ceremony described Justice Dollo as a "consultative leader" whose tenure saw major reforms within the Judiciary, including expansion of court buildings, creation of regional High Court circuits, and improvement in staff welfare.

Justice Tibatemwa, speaking on behalf of her colleagues, commended the

former Chief Justice for strengthening the institution and fostering an inclusive leadership style.

"I must speak about the Twin Towers. During your tenure, the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal acquired permanent homes. This is a milestone worth celebrating," she said.

Justice Dollo was also praised for his open-door policy and efforts to build on the work of his predecessors.

Personal tributes

Justice and Constitutional Affairs Minister Norbert Mao recalled his personal encounter with Justice Dollo during his university days at Makerere University, where he received legal guidance from him following a student strike, and he was not expelled alongside the late former Speaker of Parliament Jacob Oulanyah.

He also noted that the retired Chief Justice plans to focus on promoting coffee growing in northern Uganda during his retirement.

Chief Justice Zeija described his predecessor as a "titan of the law" whose leadership shaped the modern Judiciary.

"He led with mentorship, consultation, and integrity, demonstrating that judicial independence is safeguarded through hard work and commitment to the rule of law," Justice Zeija said.

He pledged to preserve and build on

the gains made during Justice Dollo's tenure, including a strengthened Bench, improved service delivery, and a growing Judiciary budget.

Justice Dollo officially retired on January 18 upon attaining the age of 70, as stipulated under the Constitution. He remained in office for an additional three months to conclude pending matters, a period that has now lapsed.

In his remarks, Chief Justice Zeija assured the gathering that the Judiciary would continue to uphold the values and reforms championed by his predecessor.

"As you transition into retirement, you leave behind a legacy of transformation and strength. The Judiciary will always remain your home," he said.

The special sitting marked a rare ceremonial session dedicated to recognising the contribution of a retiring head of the Judiciary, underscoring Justice Dollo's impact on Uganda's legal landscape.

RETIREMENT

Justice Alfonse Owiny-Dollo officially retired on January 18 upon attaining the age of 70, as stipulated under the Constitution.

He remained in office for an additional three months to conclude pending matters, a period that has now lapsed.