

Court of Appeal to clear 26 dormant criminal appeals

BY ANTHONY WESAKA

KAMPALA. The Court of Appeal will today conduct a one-day weed-out session to remove dormant criminal appeals from its system. This is part of wider efforts to reduce case backlog and improve the timely delivery of justice.

The session will handle 26 criminal matters that can no longer proceed because of changes in the status of the appellants.

According to the cause list signed by the Registrar of the Court of Appeal, Ms Allen Rukundo Owembabazi, the cases have accumulated over time, with some dating back to 2010 (the oldest) with the most recent filed in 2022.

Court records indicate that three of the appeals involve appellants who reportedly escaped from prison, while 13 relate to individuals who have since served and completed their sentences and been released.

Eight other appeals concern appellants who have since died, while two matters have already been formally withdrawn.

The exercise is intended to streamline the court's docket by formally determining the status of each file and striking out matters that can no longer be heard.

"The move is part of continuing efforts to strengthen case management and ensure judicial time is devoted to live matters that are capable of determination,"

judicial officials said.

The proceedings will be presided over by a panel of three justices comprising Justice Geoffrey Kiryabwire, Justice Moses Kazibwe Kawumi and Justice Stella Alibateese.

The session is also expected to bring to-



Purpose.

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Rukundo Allen Owembabazi, the Registrar of the Court of Appeal

together key actors in the justice sector, including representatives from the Uganda Prisons Service, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, members of the Bar, and affected appellants, where applicable.

According to the cause list, aggravated defilement accounts for the highest number of cases scheduled for consideration, with 13 appeals.

Murder and aggravated robbery each account for six appeals, while one appeal stems from a rape conviction.

The Judiciary has in recent years increasingly adopted special sessions and administrative reviews to remove inactive matters from the court system hence create room for active cases.