

National News

Who is new Deputy CJ Kazibwe?

Once vetted and approved by Parliament, Justice Kazibwe will formally assume office as Deputy Chief Justice, becoming the head of the Court of Appeal and Constitutional Court, while deputising the Chief Justice in overseeing the administration of the Judiciary.

BY ANTHONY WESAKA

President Yoweri Museveni has appointed Moses Kazibwe Kawumi as the new Deputy Chief Justice, ending a five-month vacuum in one of the Judiciary's top leadership positions.

Justice Kazibwe, currently a justice of the Court of Appeal and Constitutional Court, replaces Flavian Zeija, who in January this year was elevated to the position of Chief Justice following the retirement of Alfonse Owiny-Dollo.

In a statement released yesterday, the Presidential Press Unit confirmed the appointment.

"The Presidential Press Unit would like to inform the general public that His Excellency President of the Republic of Uganda, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, has appointed Moses Kazibwe Kawumi as the new Deputy Chief Justice," the statement read in part.

Under Uganda's judicial structure, the Deputy Chief Justice is second in command in the administration of the Judiciary and also heads the Court of Appeal/Constitutional Court.

The State House statement said Justice Kazibwe's name has already been forwarded to Parliament for vetting before his formal assumption of office.

President Museveni also appointed Ms Agnes Alum as the new Chief Registrar of the Judiciary.

The office of Chief Registrar, which is in-charge of the day-to-day running of the Judiciary, fell vacant after Ms Sarah

Langa Siu was appointed a High Court judge last year. Since then, Ms Pamela Lamunu Ocaya has been serving in an acting capacity for more than a year.

Who is the new Deputy Chief Justice?

Justice Kazibwe is a seasoned judicial officer and legal practitioner, whose career spans more than three decades across private practice, public service, academia and the Judiciary.

Born on August 22, 1963, the 63-year-old was called to the Bar in 1989 after obtaining a bachelor of laws degree from Makerere University and a post-graduate diploma in legal practice from the Law Development Centre.

He later pursued further studies in management, earning both a postgraduate diploma in management and a master's degree in management studies from the Uganda Management Institute.

Justice Kazibwe began his legal career in private practice at Kawanga & Kasule Advocates, where he handled litigation, legal advisory work and drafting legal instruments for both individual and institutional clients.

Between 1992 and 1998, he worked with the Legal Aid Project of the Uganda Law Society, first as project advocate and later as senior project advocate and deputy director. During that period, he represented indigent clients, participated in Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) and conducted legal and human rights education programmes.



The newly-appointed Deputy Chief Justice, Moses Kazibwe Kawumi

He later joined the Uganda Revenue Authority (URA), where he served in several senior legal positions between 1998 and 2011.

At URA, Justice Kazibwe rose from principal revenue officer (legal) to assistant commissioner—litigation. In that role, he supervised in-house lawyers, acted as commissioner for legal services and board affairs when required, and served as legal counsel to the Authority's management disciplinary committee.

He also led the litigation division of the tax body to a 75 percent success rate and spearheaded ADR mechanisms

that reportedly saved the institution significant litigation costs.

After leaving URA in 2011, Justice Kazibwe returned to private legal practice as managing partner at Kazibwe-Kawumi & Company Advocates, where he specialised in commercial law, land law, and taxation.

In April 2016, he was appointed a judge of the High Court and deployed to Kabale High Court Circuit as Resident Judge.

During his tenure in Kabale, he supervised the migration of files and the establishment of the Rukungiri High Court Circuit.

WORK AND EDUCATION

Justice Kazibwe is a seasoned judicial officer and legal practitioner, whose career spans more than three decades across private practice, public service, academia and the Judiciary.

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From October 2022 to April 2024, he served as Resident Judge of the Mubende High Court Circuit, where he prepared a report that informed the Judiciary's decision to establish a High Court circuit in Kiboga.

Justice Kazibwe was elevated to Court of Appeal in April 2024 and currently serves as a Justice of Appeal.

He is also a member of the Judiciary Law Reform Committee and an accredited court annexed mediator involved in mediation proceedings.

Beyond the courtroom, Justice Kazibwe has contributed to legal education. He served as an assistant lecturer at the Law Development Centre from 1989 to 1996 and later taught at Uganda Christian University between 2003 and 2012.

His professional training includes courses in management, communication, tax policy, trade law, legislative drafting, personnel management, development law, and social justice.

Outside legal practice, Justice Kazibwe is involved in community and faith-based work. He serves as an advisor to Grace Villa Limited, a Kabale-based non-profit organisation that supports disadvantaged girls through education, sponsorship and shelter.

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