

CONCEPT NOTE

# ONLINE SYMPOSIUM AND REPORT ON ECCMIS

**Assessing the Readiness for  
Uganda's Transition to a  
Fully Paperless Judiciary: A  
Stakeholder-Centered Study  
on ECCMIS Implementation**

## 1. Background and Context

On 17 February 2026, His Lordship Hon Dr Flavian Zeija, the Chief Justice of Uganda, issued an administrative circular directing all courts to transition to fully paperless operations by 01 July 2026.<sup>1</sup> This directive marks a decisive shift toward a digital justice system powered by technology, including artificial intelligence, with the Judiciary adopting the Electronic Court Case Management Information System (ECCMIS) as its primary platform.

This milestone is the culmination of a long institutional journey. In 1995, the Court Case Administration System (CCAS) was introduced as a basic system for recording case metadata such as case numbers, categories, court stations, and procedural stages. However, its functionality was limited and access was restricted to court staff. A 2010 review exposed these limitations and underscored the need for a more robust, user-oriented system incorporating features such as e-filing, e-payments, public and advocate access, and integration across justice sector institutions.<sup>2</sup>

This led to the broader vision of an Integrated Justice Management Information System (IJMIS), designed to connect all stakeholders within the justice ecosystem. Development of ECCMIS began in 2010, and following extensive studies, design, and testing, the system was commissioned in October 2021 and officially launched on 01 March 2022.<sup>3</sup>

Since then, ECCMIS has been rolled out in phases across courts nationwide, with full implementation expected by 01 July 2026 deadline. The system<sup>4</sup> has significantly improved court processes, enhanced efficiency, and accelerated the digitisation of judicial services. User adoption has steadily increased, supported by continuous stakeholder training—particularly targeting advocates—as reflected in Judiciary implementation reports.

Notably, the transition has not been without legal and practical challenges. A body of court jurisprudence has emerged around ECCMIS usage, addressing issues such as the validation of hearing dates,<sup>4</sup> the legal validity of summons issued through the system,<sup>5</sup> delays in judicial validation,<sup>6</sup> and the adequacy of electronic notifications.<sup>7</sup> These cases not only highlight early implementation difficulties but also demonstrate the system's growing entrenchment in judicial practice.

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1. Administrative Circular No.1 of 2026: Paperless Court System Implementation dated February 17, 2026.

2. Electronic Court Case Management Information System (ECCMIS) Monthly (March, 2022) Implementation Review Report. Presented by the ECCMIS Technical Committee. Judicial Training Institute (JTI), Nakawa Kampala Thursday 21 April, 2022. Available [https://judiciary.go.ug/files/downloads/ECCMIS%20Implementation%20Review%20ReportMarch%202022\\_compressed.pdf](https://judiciary.go.ug/files/downloads/ECCMIS%20Implementation%20Review%20ReportMarch%202022_compressed.pdf) accessed on 31 March 2026

3. Transition From Manual To Digitalised Court Processes: The Migration To ECCMIS. Paper Presented at the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Judges Conference; 30<sup>th</sup> January - 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2023 at Mestil Hotel, Kampala. Presented By: Hon. Mr. Justice Fredrick Martin Stephen Egonda-Ntende Justice of the Court of Appeal/Constitutional Court, and Chair - ECCMIS Steering Committee. Available at <https://judiciary.go.ug/files/downloads/Transition%20from%20Manual%20to%20Digitalized%20Court%20Processes%20by%20Fredrick%20Egonda-Ntende.pdf> accessed on 31 March 2026.

4. Mulago Hill Diagnostics Limited v Lydia Turyahumura, High Court Misc. Application No. 1754 of 2025

5. Kasangaki v Financial Access Trade Service, High Court Misc. Application No. 1101 of 2022

6. David Micheal O'connell v. Nakawooza Catherine, High Court Misc. Application No. 3314 of 2023

7. Mwesigye v. P & A Credit Investments, High Court Misc. Application No. 1677 of 2022.

While the journey toward digital transformation has yielded significant progress, a pressing question remains: whether the judiciary is truly prepared for a complete transition to a paperless system within the limited time remaining; whether all court users—particularly self-represented litigants and those in rural areas—will have meaningful and equitable access to the digital tools required to engage with ECCMIS; whether judicial officers, advocates, court staff, and litigants have received sufficient training and support to use the system competently and confidently; and whether the judiciary has adequately addressed resistance to change and secured the institutional buy-in necessary to sustain a full and irreversible departure from paper-based processes.



## 2. Rationale for the Study

The transition to a fully paperless Judiciary is a bold and necessary reform. However, its success depends not only on technological infrastructure but also on user readiness, accessibility, and institutional acceptance.

This stakeholders consultation is designed to:

- Capture real-time experiences of court users interacting with ECCMIS;
- Identify systemic, technical, and practical challenges affecting usage;
- Assess the level of preparedness across different stakeholder groups;
- Provide evidence-based recommendations to support a smooth and inclusive transition.

By centering the voices of court users including advocates, judicial officers, court staff, and self-represented litigants this consultation seeks to bridge the gap between policy ambition and practical implementation.

### 3. Objectives

#### 3.1 General Objective

To assess the readiness of Uganda's Judiciary and its stakeholders for the transition to a fully paperless system through ECCMIS.

#### 3.2 Specific Objectives

- To evaluate user experiences with ECCMIS across different categories of court users;
- To identify key challenges and limitations in the current system;
- To assess the level of digital literacy, training, and support available to users;
- To examine issues of accessibility, particularly for rural and self-represented litigants;
- To analyse stakeholder perceptions of the upcoming full transition to paperless operations;
- To develop practical, user-informed recommendations for improving ECCMIS implementation.

### 4. Scope and Methodology

#### 4.1 Study Design

The consultation will adopt a qualitative and quantitative approach through an online survey.

#### 4.2 Data Collection Method

An online questionnaire will be developed and disseminated via a shareable link.

The survey will target a broad range of court users, including:

- i. Advocates
- ii. Judicial officers
- iii. Court staff
- iv. Litigants (including self-represented individuals)

#### 4.3 Data Collection Period: 1st April – 30th April 2026

### 5. Key Areas of Inquiry

- User experience with ECCMIS
- Accessibility and ease of use
- Technical and operational challenges
- Training and support received
- Confidence in a fully paperless system
- Recommendations for improvement

## 6. Expected Outputs

### 1. Stakeholders' Consultative Report

A comprehensive report that will:

- Present findings from the online Stakeholders consultation;
- Highlight successes and challenges;
- Assess readiness for the July 2026 transition;
- Provide actionable recommendations.

### 2. Online Symposium

- Official launch of the consultative report;
- Presentation of key findings;
- Stakeholder engagement and dialogue.

### 3. Panel Discussion

Featuring representatives from:

- The Judiciary (ECCMIS Technical Committee)
- The Bar (Advocates)
- The Bench (Judicial Officers)
- Other court users

The panel will:

- Discuss the findings of the report;
- Share perspectives on the transition to a paperless Judiciary;
- Provide insights on practical implementation and sustainability.

## 6. Implementation Roadmap

Activity	Timeline
Development of survey tool	28th - 31st March 2026
Dissemination of survey	1st April 2026
Data collection	1st - 30th April 2026
Data analysis	1st - 10th May 2026
Report drafting	10th - 20th May 2026
Report finalisation	21st - 25th May 2026
Online symposium & report launch	<b>29th May 2026</b>

## 8. Target Audience

- Judiciary leadership and technical teams
- Legal practitioners (advocates)
- Judicial officers and court staff
- Policy makers and justice sector stakeholders
- Civil society organisations
- Academia and legal researchers

## 9. Conclusion

This study by PM Digital Law Hub seeks to provide a timely, evidence-based assessment to guide the Judiciary and its stakeholders toward a more efficient, inclusive, and sustainable digital justice system.

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### PREPARED BY:

**Paul Mukiibi**, Executive Director, PM Digital Law Hub

**Patience Ayesigye**, Head, Programmes and Administration, PM Digital Law Hub

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**DIGITAL  
LAW HUB**

**CONTACT US:**

+256 701 689 299

[info@pmlawhub.com](mailto:info@pmlawhub.com)

Plot 54d, Apollo Nsibambi Road, Kampala