



Chambers of the Principal Judge

HIGH COURT OF UGANDA

Plot 2, The Square High Court Building
P. O. Box 7085, Kampala Uganda

IN ANY CORRESPONDENCE ON
THIS SUBJECT PLEASE QUOTE NO.

HIGH COURT OF UGANDA

ADMINISTRATIVE CIRCULAR NO.2 OF 2020 ON HANDLING OF INTER - COUNTRY ADOPTION APPLICATIONS AT THE HIGH COURT

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Pursuant to Section 20 of the Judicature Act CAP 13 and in consultation with the Hon. Ag. Chief Justice, this Administrative Circular is hereby issued this 3rd day of August 2020 to offer guidance to the High Court when handling Inter-country Adoption matters.

The objective of the Circular is to address the numerous concerns raised by key stakeholders on the manner in which some Judicial Officers have handled Inter-country Adoption matters. Adherence to this guidance will promote uniformity and consistency in the handling of Inter-country Adoption matters and thus restore stakeholder confidence.

2.0 CIRCULAR INSTRUCTIONS

- 1) All Inter-country Adoption matters shall be handled by the Family Division of the High Court.
- 2) All High Court Circuits shall immediately cease handling Inter- country adoption applications and transfer the files to the Family Division of the High Court.
- 3) The Circuit Registrars shall keep a record of the transferred applications to the Family Division.
- 4) The Head of the Family Division in consultation with the Principal Judge shall assign two Judges at the Division, with the responsibility of handling Inter-country Adoption applications.
- 5) The Court shall take into consideration the Report of the Alternative Care Panel before granting any adoption order.

"Justice for All"

- 6) The Registrar of the Division shall maintain an inventory and archive of all Inter-country Adoption applications and decisions.
- 7) The Division shall submit quarterly reports on Inter-country Adoption to the Hon. The Principal Judge.

Dr. Flavian Zeija

PRINCIPAL JUDGE

Copy: *The Hon. The Ag. Chief Justice*
" *The Head, Family Division*
" *The Permanent Secretary/Secretary Judiciary*
" *The Chief Registrar*
" *The President Uganda Law Society*