

community Heads of State, Evariste Ndayishimiye, yesterday officiated over the swearing in ceremony of the newly appointed Judge of the East African Court

joined in a solemn during 21st Extra Ordinary Summit of EAC Heads of State that was held in Bujumbura, Burundi on 31st May 2023.

cordance with Section 3 of the East African Community Oaths Act of 2019.

Justice Makungu, who cur-

June 19, 2023.

Upon taking his Judicial Oath and Oath of Allegiance to the East African Community,

NPS launches electronic system to ease operations

From **PILLY NASHON**
in Dodoma

THE National Prosecuting Services (NPS) has launched an electronic system for collecting, processing and handling criminal cases (Case Management Information System-CMIS) as well as its website with the aim of simplifying its operations.

The system is expected to enhance transparency and reduce public complaints in delivering justice.

The launch of the CMIS is implementation of President Samia Suluhu Hassan's directive issued in January this year at the launch of the Commission to look at how to improve the country's Criminal Justice Institutions, where in her speech she highlighted the importance of an Integrated Criminal Justice System as well as integration of the government systems.

Speaking in Dodoma yesterday at the launch of CMIS and the NPS Website, Minister of State, President's Office, Public Service Management and Good Governance, George Simbachawene said the launch of the system is very important at this time when the president is insisting on going into Digital Government System.

"Today the launch of CMIS is the primary bridge in criminal justice, one side has investigative instruments and the other side has the Courts and the NPS, now the electronic bridge that is CMIS is built so the criminal charges will be going without hesitation," he said.

Simbachawene said that completion of the system is a major achievement in the making, including imple-

mentation of the National Development Vision 2025 and the five years National Development Plan of 2021/22 and 2025/26, which recognises IT role in achieving national goals and emphasises the proper use of IT in implementation of government activities and public service delivery.

He noted that the use of IT helps institutions to resolve operational challenges to manage government collections and revenues, build and improve capacity, strengthen relationships among government stakeholders and reduce human contact and time to address public challenges.

"I believe that through this system NPS is now there for the public and justice, justice for our people will be undiminished as CMIS will facilitate the work of the NPS in handling cases, management and operation of criminal cases and to expose and dispel public complaints about the various decisions made by the courts," he said.

He said the system would also help provide accurate information to citizens related to activities conducted by NPS as well as the case flow management.

Simbachawene also called on other public institutions to make sure they are working to increase IT performance and to put in place strategies to ensure they benefit from the use of IT systems.

"The government has started the process of having One Stop Centres in each region, where we will start with Dar es Salaam with two centres and Dodoma one centre, this is to help citizens access quality services on time and easily as well as reduce the time for serving people," he said.

On her part, Deputy Minister for Constitutional and Legal Affairs, Pauline Gekul said that President Samia has been stressing the use of IT in government institutions so as to improve work performance and to ensure quality provision of services and justice for citizens.

"Justice is an important issue and should be delivered on time, through digital systems, we will ensure all rights are delivered on time, CMIS is a very important link to the implementation of the NPS obligations and all stakeholders in the justice provision chain," she said.

She said that through CMIS information of various cases being handled and the decision reached that will be taken by NPS will be available, as the system is also connected to the Government Information Exchange System (Government Enterprise Service Bus-GoVESB) and so far, it is exchanging information with the Police, Court and the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) systems.

The Director of Public Prosecutions, Sylvester Mwakitalu said that 17,411 cases have already been registered in CMIS where a total of more than 7,300 cases have been resolved and 10,050 cases are in the various stages of decision-making.

He added that currently NPS oversees the facilitation of Criminal Justice Prosecutions in all Courts in the country except the Military Courts, but it has not been able to reach 47 districts in the country due to budget shortfalls, staff shortages and shortage of IT equipment.